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"THE PASSING OF THE SAINT."

A Reply to an Attack on the Church's Position on Sainthood

Written for the Press Bulletins of the Central BureaubyF.H.

Saul among the Prophets! This exclamation is called forth by the strange appearance of Mr. Meeklin on the stage of the American Journal of Sociology in its January debut. The performance bears the title "The Passing of the Saint." It is a curious bit of apodictic dogmatism, dished out by a member of the Faculty of the University of Pittsburgh How this gentleman got to write on this subject, and how the Journal, published by the University of Chicago, happened to accept this contribution, to print it and to regale its readers with this curiosity, is certainly a mystery.

The Passing of the Saint, i. e. Saints do not exist any has disdained to even reachout for more Saints cannot exist. "For the traditional idea of Saint this extensive source of authenis strangely out of place in a democratic age. The term "Saint" is not in harmony with our scientific naturalism or he works out from his disordered of sympathy with the family and our militant industrialism." This statement represents the brain a picture of "the Saint" startling thesis of Mr. Meeklin. Besides, -and this seems to be the principal thesis-the Roman Catholic Church is blamed openly for her attitude towards the Saint, "a strange and al- fault-finding at his distorted promost pathetic disregard for its lack of harmony with the duction and at the Roman Cathochanged conditions of modern life."

What Constitutes a Saint in the Catholic Church?

Fairness would demand that the author conceive and state clearly what this Church means by "a Saint." The answer is obvious to the Catholic. Even for the non-Catholic a simple book, Question Box by Rev. Bertrand L. Conway, would offer the following concise definition (p. 538.):

"A Saint is one whose extraordinary holiness of life and heroic virtues have attracted the notice of the Universal Church, and who after the most exact scrutiny into every detail of his life, writings, etc., has been placed on the approved list of God's chosen followers. Except in the case of martyrs. their holiness must be proved conclusively by evident miracles before they are canonized. Of course there are many men and women who live and die unknown to the world, but whose lives are just as holy in God's sight,"

The possession of Saints at all times is claimed by the Roman Catholic Church, because she claims that, as the true Church, she must and does possess the mark of Holiness. This works of charity and education mark of heliness consists in this that the true Church, having in a hundred and one forms and Christ for its Holy author, with His saving doctrine and means of grace must produce members of extraordinary holiness of who were our Popes, bishops, life and that the great deeds and miraculous manifestations which Christ has promised His Church must continue to the end of the world.

Veneration of the Saints is not Idolatry.

The Church honors and venerates the Saints notwith any idolatrous worship, but with a respect that is due to the friends and servants of God. The Church has always honored the Saints from the early times of Christianity, but it required the official pronouncement of the Church before such honor could be bestowed in public. Whilst in the beginning such pronouncement was made and could be made by the single bishop, later on all official pronoun cements were reserved to the Pope. The Beatification and Canonization is a most complicated, but interesting part of Church legislation. A summary of the rules which insure the extreme care in such an important affair may be read in the Catholic Encyclopedia, article: Beatification and Canonization.

who are the subjects of biographical and historical research. How vast this field is may be gathered from a cursory glance at the Index, the 16th volume of the Catholic Encyclopedia. No less than 22 pages of 4 columns each in heads and manifold subdivisions and Miss A. Broderick. Youghal small print exhibit the general of this study of the Saints, Besides there are found references to longer and thorough articles on Beatification, Canonization, Hagiography, Relics, Bollandiats, etc., Martyrs, Martyrology etc. It is evident that the professor of the University of Pittsburg

tic information. Instead of this puts up a straw man and then a '67 veteran; with the family a record one, as we had eleven flings his mud of sarcasm and lie Church.

Saints in all Ages, and Stations of Life.

Nothing is so familiar to the Catholic as the fact that the Saints venerated by the Church have lived in all ages, in all climes and in all positions and stations of bert, and Tarbert Island, Co.Kerlife. There are Saints who have ry, to Mary E. Walsh, third practiced exalted sanctity as her. daughter of John Walsh, R.D.C. mits in the deserts, as coenobites Ballydonohoe, Liselton, Listowel. in communion, as monks like Benedictines, as ,mendicants like the mare a deputation, consisting of Dominicans and Franciscans, as members of new religious orders and congregations, which since the time of the reformation have adopted the apostolic life and the ways. But there are also Saints mer on the occasion of his appriests, others who were emperors, kings, empresses, or queens, men and women who in the humble position of farmers, workmen, widows and servant maids, have obtained the high degree of sanctity on which God has set this

LateNews of Ireland The Propagation of the Faith Society, 848 Lexington Ave., New York City. Cork Youghal (No. 2) Co. passed a SOME OLD PEOPLE COME INTO

THE CHURCH.

Poona District. "The last year

was the worst one I ever exper-

war, which, happily, is now over,

we had a terrible epidemic, and

"But I am glad to inform you

ministrations, have touched their

OFFICIALS.

Rev. Nicholas Walter, head of

"Our school continues with 800

vote of sympathy with relatives of the late S. J. Merrick, J. P. Another missionary to speak of guardians passed a similar resothe dreadful condition now prelution of sympathy with their colvailing in India, is our corresponleague, William Broderick. dent, Fr. I. Cotta, of Kuna, in the

Rev. M. McGrath, P. P., Ring, died somewhat suddenly. He had labored many years in the parish. in which he was held in affectionate regard. There were 35 priests at the obsequies and funeral, and a famine, too, which is still press, a large attendance of the laity.

Midleton, U.D. C. passed votes get a decent harvest. relatives of the late James Moore. that the last Christmas here was and relatives of the late Mr. Mc baptisms among the old people Coughlan, U. D. C.; with Patrick who had given their children to O'Sullivan and family on the our Holy Mother, the Church, with the widow and family of tism, for some excuse or other. the late Denis Egan. Now the grace of God, with our

Kerry

Married-February 19, at St. hearts and they, the old folks, John's, Limerick. T.M.O'Connor, | too, are of the Fold." J. P., of Leslie Arms Hotel, Tar-CATHOLICS AMONG JAPANESE the very successful "Bright Star On behalf of the people of Ken-School" of Osaka, Japan, seems to think that the menace of Shin-Messrs, D. Sullivan, Co. C.; S. toism is not quite so apparent at O'B. Corkey, J. P., and Rev. J. present. Hear what he says: Brennan, C. C., Kenmare, presented illuminated addresses to the Very Rev. Dean O'Leary, P. whom are Catholics, the rest pa-P., V.G., Tralee, and the Rev. B. gans, but good pagang in the M. Daly, C. B., Listowel, the forsense that they retain few prejupointment as pastor of Tralee and dices against our Holy Church. Dean of the Chapter, and the lat- Many "are already friendly __but ter on the occasion of his trans- few feel the need of adopting the fer to Listowel. Faith.

Mayo

"Worldly indifference still pre-Very Rev. J. D. Nolan, Prior, vails among them; that is quite died at the O. S.A. Convent, Bal- natural in a pagan atmosphere, lyhaunis. He was born in Carlow like that of Osaka, where there in 1851, and was 44 years in the are only 1,200 Catholics amidst now has a neatly typewritten let Order. From 1876 to 1893 he was 2,000,000 pagans.

ored by the Church and her faith in Queensland, and was after. "Sometime agowe had to fear wards at Rathfarnham, New a recrudescence of Shintoism; I

Foreign Mission News K. of C. Girls Secretaries For Wounded.

In their war work overseas the Knights of Columbus have rigidly followed the rule of employing men to do the work requiring physical stamina and of employing women to look after their office details. Over in Paris the Knights have one of the most competent corps of girl-workers. in any American office overseas. ienced in my life. Besides the These girls are experienced stenographers, many of them relinquished responsible positions an secretaries to the executives of ing on us, and it will do so till we large concerns in order to do their bit oversees.

As the K. of C.overseen organization comprises a thousand workers and the handling of millions of dollars worth of supplies and orders to and reports from sone directors supervising 250 death of Mrs. O'Sullivan, and They were always refusing bap- K-C establishments in France, Italy, England, Scotland, Belgium and Germany, the immene amount of routine work necessi tates can readily be imagned. Conditions on the other side demand elaborate clerical work in connection with the routing e personnel. This is all attended to by the K. of C. women workers. In their spare time they help to sheer up the wounded man in the hospitals of Paris, Londo and other places. It was while visiting hospitals that one of t girls, struck by the belolas students, only about a dozen of of some of the wounded min. gested to Chairman WD Mulligan of the K. of C. tivities committee, that it be a good thing to take from the men who were to write themselves. Mr. M

at once encouraged the tion, with the result that in home in this country that mig otherwise receive only perfu tory notice of a soldier's progr ter from the wounded man and the satisfaction of knowing that he was probably chewing good K-C candy or enjoying a g

Honor Bestowed on the Relics of the Saints.

The Chutch honors the memory of her Saints by honoring their images and relics. If we treat with respect the abode of George Washington or his sword, the pen of the signing of the Declaration of Indepence, Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. the insignia and distinctions which our war heroes have received and which will be kept in highesteem after their death by their admiring sons and daughters, and if the writer of the strange contribution preserves with reverence the portrait or a lock of hair of his beloved mother or wife, why should the Church be blamed for paying proper respect to the images and relics of her Saints? The Church is most careful in examining the genuine relics and in putting a stop to the veneration of relics which are not authenticated. Equal care is exhibited by the Church in not approving or in rejecting stories on the lives of the Saints which cannot bear the light of modern correct criticism.

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This is a brief summary of what the Roman Catholic Church teaches and practises, regarding the Veneration of the Saints. The children, even of the lowest grades in our Catholic schools would readily give this information. We do not accord to the Saints the worship which is due to God alone. But Mr. Meeklin most apodictically states that the "relic worship restored in Christian form almost all the peculiarities of pagan polytheism." Is the writer so densely ignorant or is he penning this statement with malice aforethought? Veneration of the Saints is very dear to the Christian. It

is deeply implanted in human nature and elevated into the sublime atmosphere of religious veneration because the honored Saints excel by their high position as servants of the Lord, by reason of their baneficient influence during their They were indifferent to the life time and of their powerful intercession at the throne of state. Property was justified only God. Their merits and their example of exalted Christian virtue and their continued interest in their brethren who are still pilgrims on earth, constitute what was called the communion of Saints, an article of the Apostolic Creed.

The Field of Christian Hagiography.

the history of the Church. presents besides underlying prin- the element of Weltverneinung, ciples, a vast field of biography, much vaster than the field of any history of any particular . nation and any nation's heroes mortification.

sors. All these facts ought to be familiar to any one who attempts to write on the Saint. But Mr. Meeklin with a supreme diareconsideration demanded in such an important question, sets up his pet idea of a Saint, and that with an air of infallibilty which provokes indignation and disgust. A Maze of Distortion.

seal of approval and who are hon-

ful people as powerful interces-

It is disgusting and tiresome to follow the writer through his maze of distorted history. In offering a longstring of statements, views, interpretations, garbled quotations, covering twenty pages, the professor inflicts upon the reader who is patientenough to follow him, a picture of asceticism, monasticism, Church policy, that is reflected in very odd and ridiculous forms on the con- sister of Sir Michael O'Dwyer, vex or concave mirror of Mr. Meeklin mind. Let the following and of Dr. J. O'Dwyer and John extracts suffice: He starts with the assertion that the early Christian community was little more than a Jewish sect dominated by two things, viz. the eschatogical ideas of the Jews and the opposition to morality of paganism, These Christians practised only passive virtues. They turned to an invisible order and thus they had no interest in civic affairs. as a means for the support of life from day to day until the coming of the new order. The family, he opines, was looked upon more or less as an interim Ethics, for in

the divine consummation there This entire article of the Catholic faith, as developed in would be neither marriage nor giving in marriage. Honce always 'other-worldliness", self-demial, F. H.

Ross, and Limerick, whence he hope that effervescence is cooling went to Ballyhaunis. Father No. down; the present cabinet is a lan was an able preacher and democratic one. Mr. Hara, the theologian. While in Ballyhaunis prime minister, used to be formces and with complete absence of he carried out extensive improve- erly in the service of Rev. Father ments in the abbey. Sligo

> pointed Adm. of Kilmactigue in Church. Still he remains an earnsuccession to Rev. T. H. Quinn, est protector of our Catholic now P.P. of Bunninadden.

> Married-At Rathcabin Catho-"Mr. Motono, former Minister lic Church, by the Rev. Father of Foreign Affairs, under the Ter-Grawe, assisted by Rev. Fathers auchi Cabinet, was baptized be-Spain and Kennedy. Patrick J. fore his death, by his own son, a Sammon, Derry, Rathcabin, to good Catholic, and graduate of Annie M. O'Meara, third daugh- our Tokyo Morning Star School."

ter of the late Edward O'Mears. Roughha, Ratheabin.

Tipperary

The death has occurred of Mrs. Cleary, Hymonstown, New Inn,a in India, tells of a novel device ed to day, Wednesday, in St Lieut Governor of the Panjaub, O'Dwyer.

corn merchant, owner of the by another neighboring mission-Brewery Stores Thurles, has died ary, whom I invited to help me for suddenly. About 12 months ago his wife died suddenly.

Philip McGrath, an Irish labor- confessionals were like? er, resident for twelve years in Dundee, has become heir to the name. So making the best £10,000 through the death in use of what was available, we tied Australia of his brother, the Ven-Archdeacon McGrath. A brother of my shed, and placed our seats who went to New York and two near them. The position was rathsisters would share the fortune er uncomfortable, as we had to bishop coadjutor of the dioce if found. They were born in Bell- support our elbows on the proinham, Tipperary.

tle street, Nenagh, an old mem- perforated grating, and, thus prober of the U.D.C., and one of the vided, we heard the confessions directors of the "Nenagh Guar- of the men on the side near our Springfield, Man seats and the women conferred secrating bishor. dian," died at St. Vincent's Hos- from the other side through this pital, Dublin. comical grating: 4

K-C smoke as he dictated the letter. The Knights are very tous for the care of their wom workers, cosy guarters bein Evard, the Vicar General of Tokobtained for every girl overse yo, and as such he was baptized, Rev. C. Gilden has been ap- but later fell away from the Indicating the growth on membership of the

> Knights of Columbus, due per schools, and I hope God will grant haps to their war relief activities, him the grace of making a good it is announced that in Detroit. confession before death.

Michigan, thirty days ago, the members numbered three th and. Today there are six the and members of the Knigh there.

Bishop Turnoris Formally In

READ THIS.

Fr. Pereira, who is a missionary which the priests were forced to adopt during a retreat given in a sixth bishop of the dide very poor village:

"The last day was announced as a day of general confession, and Edward Ryan, a well known till late in the evening I, assisted the last day of the mission, had to hear patiently the confess all. And what do you imagine our

> "We had none which deserve some cadjan leaves to the two windows which were in the walls jecting parapet which was too place in the Cathedral of St. Pe high: The cudjan leaves with and St. Paul and was atte

Buffalo, April 9.-The Righ Rev. William Turner was install Joseph's new Cathedral as the Buffalo, N. Y. Archbiohop Patrick J. Hay

of New York, presided monitor. The Right Rev mund F. Gibbons, a bishop of Albany a few ago, officiated at the m op Thomas J. Walsh. of Tr presented the sermon

Rev.Wm. A. Hickoy is Co **Conductor Bishop of Provid**

Providence, R. L. April 10. Rev. William A. Hickey, until au cently pastor of St. John's church Clinton, Mass., was con Providence. The core iony p hundreds of elergymen from astern part of the country. Rt. Rev. Thomas D. Beav L. Vas the by B 0 Hickey,

Jersmiah O'Brien, P.L.G., Cas- their natural holes served as a