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Friday, September 26, 1919.

Catholic Press Sunday

Rt. Rev. Thomas S. Byrne has heartily indorsed the proposition of the Catholic Press Association for the institution of a "Catholic Press Sunday" and gives the following strong argument to supplement his approval:—

The enemy must be fought with his own weapons, minus slander and misrepresentation. Catholics must be awakened to the importance, the vital necessity of using the press to defend and inculcate Catholic truth, to correct error, and to refute misrepresentation and slander against the Church, her doctrines and institutions. This awakening should pervade all classes, the young and the old, men and women—aye, and the boys and girls in the schools.

Centuries ago when we were few and weak, the enemy took the offensive and has carried on the campaign down through generations; and now that we of the English tongue have become more numerous and better equipped to do so, we shall be cowardly and craven, if we do not stand forth in defense of the faith that is dearer to us than life, and of the sanctity of our Catholic practices and traditions, which have been so long and persistently, so gratuitously and wantonly assailed. The enemy uses the press as his most formidable weapon against us, and has been using it for centuries. Through its agency he has evoked, built up and crystallized a great, all-pervading anti-Catholic tradition, that has colored English literature, distorted English history, and poisoned the springs of information.

The tradition can be broken down and its harm counteracted only by an agency equally effective, ubiquitous and powerful as that which called it into being; an agency, that will carry its message and influence into every avenue of human life and thought, into the sacred precincts of home and into the sanctuaries of religion. This can and will be done when the cry goes up one Sunday each year as they go by from every pulpit in the land, calling upon all Catholics to regard the Catholic Press as an essential part, in this age of their religious and controversial armory, and when they respond to this cry by making the reading and diffusion of Catholic literature, especially the newspaper, and its generous support a duty of honor and conscientious obligation.

Why not a Catholic Press Sunday?

Alton B. Parker will not assist in his resurrection from "the dead ones" by telling English audiences that the American people are dead crazy to have a close alliance with Great Britain and that they do not care how England governs Ireland! Shades of William F. Sheehan!

Blessing The Graves.

Catholics of this city, and non-Catholics as well, will journey to Holy Sepulcher cemetery Sunday to witness and participate in the beautiful ceremony of blessing the graves, conducted by Rt. Rev. Bishop Hickey, assisted by the priests of this city and the students of St. Bernard's Seminary. Thousands of worshippers will be there to offer up prayers for the eternal repose of the souls of their loved ones who have gone before and those who have no loved ones resting in Holy Sepulcher will breath a prayer for the Poor Souls in Purgatory who have no loved ones on earth to remember them.

What a consolation it is to us to know that when we have left this world behind we shall be remembered and that supplications for the eternal rest of our souls will go up to the throne of grace and that the Blessed Mother and the Saints will also be interceding for us. And what a sublime communion it is to us that we can pray for our departed friends, that we feel and know that Death does not end all but that we can, as it were, commune with our departed ones and by prayer and supplication insure them eternal peace in the world beyond the grave.

And so if we have loved ones buried there it is our duty to go to Holy Sepulcher cemetery Sunday and join in the prayers for their eternal rest. If we have none there, it will do us good to go there, too, and offer up our prayers for the Poor Souls in Purgatory.

Well-Known Convert.

Western New Yorkers are particularly interested in the news announced in the August issue of "The Lamp" that Rev. Robert E. Wood is to enter the Catholic Church from the fact that he was born in Batavia and many members of his family still reside there. For more than twenty years Mr. Wood has been a missionary of the Protestant Episcopal Church in China. Mr. Wood was born in Batavia and was ordained as Episcopal minister at St. James Church there in 1897, leaving for China in 1898. He visited Batavia in 1918, prior to leaving for France to do Y. M. C. A. war work among the Chinese labor corps. Mr. Wood's two brothers, the Messrs. Frank S. and John H. Wood, are prominent members of St. James' Episcopal Church, and a sister, Miss Elizabeth Wood, is at the present time a missionary in China. It is intimated in one of his letters that Mr. Wood will seek admission to the novitiate at Maryknoll to prepare for the priesthood.

Outsiders!

The opinion so often expressed that it is outsiders, not Irishmen, who are making the trouble in Ulster is borne out by the following extracts from a speech delivered in Belfast the other day by Hon. Joseph Devlin, member of Parliament:—"Sir Edward Carson has said that all Ulster wants is to be let alone. Then the best thing for him to do is to let Ulster alone. If he did this, then our present difficulties could be easily settled, and the men who have to live out their lives in Ulster would soon come together and realize that in the common task of securing a noble peace they would find the same spirit of union which inspired and moved them in the time of the war. The Curse of Ulster is that outsiders who are not Ulstermen are the chief cause of dissension and disunion amongst our people whose interests and aims are and ought to be identical. Ulster does want to be left alone, and that also is what Ireland wants. We want Ireland for all her people of every sect and creed and class, working in harmony for that peace and progress which alone can spring from free institutions,

broad-based upon the people's will.... Ireland is not only a nation, but at heart she is an undivided nation, and it is for this undivided nation and indivisible Irish nation that we claim the fullest measure of self-government and freedom."

Rather Mistaken.

The amiable Senator from Nebraska—the Hon. Mr. Hitchcock, may be a splendid Journalist but he is not helping President Wilson by some of the "breaks" he makes. He did all he could to prevent the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate from giving any hearing on the Irish question; when it was held, he did not attend, although a member of the Committee and since it was held, he made the break that President Wilson's administration "believed that only Irishmen of the radical agitator type were in any way opposed to the League of Nations." It would appear as if Senator Hitchcock deserved the castigation administered by Daniel T. O'Connell, director of the Irish National Bureau: "If Senator Hitchcock is correctly quoted he has indulged in a slurring insult to 20,000,000 Americans of Irish blood.

If Senator Hitchcock, as the minority leader of the foreign affairs committee, had not abjured himself, with practically all his democratic colleagues, from the hearing, his offensive characterization of millions of his fellow-citizens might not have been uttered. The absence from the hearing indicated an unwillingness to hear the evidence and judge the cause on its merits. To condemn without hearing is un-American. It is a policy, that has led many to disaster, and Senator Hitchcock is directing his path toward disaster, when he indulges in attempts to ridicule 20,000,000 Americans.

"When American citizens of the type of Judge Daniel F. Co-halan, ex-Governor Edward F. Dunne, Hon. Frank P. Walsh, Hon. Michael J. Ryan, Hon. W. Burke Cockran, Cardinal O'Connell of Boston, Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore, archbishops, and bishops, presidents of universities, governors, mayors, members of both houses of congress, and hosts of other distinguished citizens have spoken on behalf of Ireland, and joined the Americans of Irish blood in protesting against ratification of a league of nations, that would forever make it possible for a small nation to obtain freedom by application of the principle of "self-determination," it comes with poor grace from Senator Hitchcock to engage in sneers.

It is not necessary to urge persons to attend the blessing of the graves. There's always a crowd, sometimes there are too many mere sightseers, it would seem.

Lloyd George boasts that through his labors in the Peace Conference 800,000 square miles of territory has been added to the British Empire.

"Americanization" is good but it should not and must not be made a means to the end of proselytizing on foreign population. We have heard peculiar rumors so this may serve as a warning to some busybodies who cannot find time to mind their own business.

It is a peculiar commentary that the English government sends as its military representative into Ireland the military officer it was compelled to withdraw from Flanders because of moral delinquencies!

It is to be hoped that Governor Smith will meet with success in his plan to settle strikes with a new state board. The Industrial Commission's Bureau of Mediation and Arbitration has done great work in settling strikes but its personnel, of course, was not composed of "miracle men."

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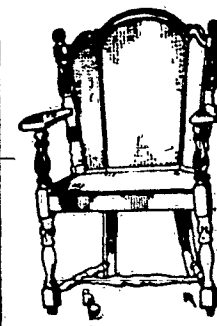
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