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Lent

In a few days the Lenten season will be upon us again. In both spiritual and physical sense, Lent is a benefit to all of us if properly observed and treated.

It is well, spiritually, to pause in this mad whirl of pleasure and money-making and take observation as to just whither we are drifting—to take spiritual inventory as it were. If we have allowed pleasure and pursuit of money, or power, or social ambition, the forty days of Lent permit us to lay aside these worldly cares and turn our thoughts to higher things, to preparation of the soul for the life hereafter. Even as a preparation for renewed mental effort the Lenten abstinence will prove beneficial.

Turning to the physical side purely there is no denial that the Lenten abstinence followed as prescribed is splendidly beneficial. We in the Northern countries are prone to eat and drink far too much—and this is not written with any reference to the indulgence popularly supposed to have been greatly circumscribed if not entirely prohibited since January 16th. It is well for a period to cut down on one's eating and to change one's dietary allowance. As a rule Americans are large meat eaters and the Lenten abstinence from meat works for the man's betterment, physically speaking.

And then, as Catholics, we are blessed with the privilege of coming closer to our Creator for forty days and of making special examination of conscience to see wherein we have fallen short. To be sure we are supposed to do this every day but we are prone to grow careless and what is supposed to be a general rule often is forgotten or postponed until tomorrow or a more propitious time. And then comes along a special occasion and we are more likely to take advantage of it. And so if we practice extra devotion, attend more strictly to religious duties, pray more fervently and perform more works of charity and mercy we are spiritually benefited.

And so we reiterate the Lenten season, if properly observed, will yield us spiritual and physical dividends.

Newspapers today cost three times what they did when the war broke out, yet the people buy them without a murmur and it cannot be argued that they are three times better than at one cent. The average Catholic paper has not increased its rates at all, yet its cost has mounted just as high proportionately as the dailies, but the average man complains as to the quality of the Catholic paper—which he does not support either by advertising or circulation patronage.

The Lenten rest will do many persons good even if the drought nearly satisfied with January, 1920.

The Sacred College.

There are at present 64 members of the College of Cardinals. Thirty-three are Italians and thirty-one foreign. Of the latter, eight are French, five Spanish, four British Empire (two English, one Irish, one Canadian); four Austro-Hungarian, (three of Austria, one of Hungary), two from the United States, two Portuguese, two Poles, one Brazilian, one Belgian, one Dutch, one German. (The elevation of Cardinal Romero of Saragossa, has been balanced by the death of Cardinal Cos y Macho of Valladolid). There is still the old great disproportion between Italian and foreign Cardinal in Curia, the former numbering 22, the latter 5, viz.: Cardinals Merry del Val (Spanish by birth), Van Rossum (Dutch), Fruhwirth (Austrian), though he might be, and indeed sometimes is, considered German, Billot (French), and Gasquet (English). Cardinal Gibbons still comes second on the list, both according to age and to creation. On the first count Cardinal de Calreres is first, being born Aug. 30, 1830; on the second, Cardinal Netto, created March 24, 1884. Twelve Cardinals were created by Leo XIII, thirty by Pius X and twenty-two by Benedict XV. Twenty-three Cardinals have died during the present pontificate.

One Way To Do It.

Rev. John F. Noll, of "Our Sunday Visitor" plans to raise funds to pay off the parish debt, to raise the necessary parish quota for the diocesan assessments, etc., by pledging his parishioners, especially the young men and women workers, say one month's income, payments to be distributed over say one or two years, in weekly payments divided proportionately to total amount pledged.

Father Noll argues as follows: The weakness of the Catholic system has been that the young men and women wage-earners have never done their share. My discovery was that the young people are making more than the heads of families; and when they are approached at the right time, they will give more liberally, particularly if they have a couple of years to redeem their pledge. There is hardly a parish which would not be able to liquidate a big debt in a couple of years by securing contributions on the basis of one day's income each month for a limited period. Then, if this plan were followed, it would be a very easy matter to have pastors continue a bi-monthly one day's income collection, retaining five of them for regular church support, and giving one of them for the general interests of the Church, to be divided into two equal parts, one to be devoted to diocesan needs and other to the needs of the Church National and Universal, such as home and foreign missions, Pete's Pence, the university, etc.

From conversations I have had with pastors, I am certain that they would gladly take care of all extra parish wants by one collection in order to be relieved of the annoyance of collecting seven or eight times a year for such needs.

Honestly, now, is the postal service any better than it used to be? Would it not have been as well to leave postage at 3 cents? This is not a parallel argument to six cent car fare. If the present service were costing six cents we would not advocate reduction. But we have observed both sides of the postage proposition. As to the street car proposition, why don't Mr. Hamilton try giving the people real decent street car service for a month? We'll wager they'd fall for any proposition he'd make!

Well, well, the "old fashioned winter friend" must be pretty nearly satisfied with January, 1920.

Farmers Advertise.

Here's a hint from the "Big Stone Headlight", of South Dakota that might well be emulated by farmers of Irondequoit, Sodus, Orleans, and other points in this vicinity:—

"There is something now in The Headlight this week. M. L. Hyatt came down from his home ten miles up the lake and inquired what our rate would be on a certain amount of advertising space by the year. We told him and he said he would take it. He said he always had something to sell or trade, or else wanted something, and he believed that a regular space in The Headlight in which he could put anything he pleased at any time would be just the thing to get results. So there you are. We have done a good deal of advertising for farmers in the last twenty years, but this is the first time we ever sold a farmer a year's space.

"A good many farmers put up bulletin boards in front of their farms, and put on a notice of whatever they have to sell from time to time, which is a good idea, though in these days of automobiles the traveler doesn't always stop to read a bulletin.

"If you could put up a bulletin and then have a guarantee that 2,000 people would go past it every week for fifty-two weeks in the year, and that they would all be going slow enough to read it, it would be worth more, wouldn't it?"

"Well, that is what Mr. Hyatt has done."

Laughable

Laughable indeed, are the devious ways and wiles and opportunistic devices of the partisan politician.

When it was first thought that the popular feeling was against the Socialists, how loudly all the partisans applauded Speaker Sweet's arbitrary tactics toward the Socialists. As soon as popular disapproval was at all apparent and seemed to spell any appreciable loss of votes to that political party, then Speaker Sweet was a political fool, a personal aggrandizement seeker and what not.

Politicians who privately decry prohibition and admit they are not for it personally, inspired by a fear that they or their party may lose a few votes, turn turtle and shout loudly for prohibition as the universal sociological panacea. To be sure, we may look upon them as inconsistent but what do they care if they retain an assembly seat at \$1,500 a year or a congressman's frank at \$7,500 a year?

There is a hint for all of us in this attitude of the partisan politicians. Were we to make the politicians to believe they would lose votes if they voted otherwise, we could easily pass laws curtailing or abolishing the divorce evil, absolutely prohibiting these anti-religious organizations and publications. There are other reform laws we could place upon the statute books if we set out to convince the partisan and professional politicians they would lose their jobs if they defeated our purposes.

General Wood, General Pershing, Governor Lowder, Governor Coolidge, Senator Harding, Senator Johnson and Senator Poinsett are the Republican candidates who are bothering Woodrow Wilson, William Jennings Bryan and Homer Cummings while Herbert Hoover seems to bother them all.

Just plan to attend church service instead of the movies during Lent. Substitution of bridge for theaters and dancing parties is not the most profitable Lenten observance.

During Lent a course of good reading would instruct, amuse and improve.

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