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As To Societies

In a recent issue of the Union and Times we find the following: Catholic societies and societies of Catholics are different. The bond of union of a Catholic society is some principle of Catholic faith or ethics or devotion. The object, therefore, of a Catholic society is the furtherance of God's kingdom on earth in some one of its various modes of manifestations—the revival of faith, the sustainment of hope, the working of charity, the increase of piety or devotion. Catholic societies have either been inaugurated directly by competent ecclesiastical authority, or if established by private individuals, have been recognized by the Church as branches of the true vine and received her blessing and encouragement.

Societies of Catholics, on the other hand, are nothing but clubs, and have no right to assume to be more. Such an organization has not the right to proclaim that it acts in the name or with the sanction of the Church, no matter how worthy may be its endeavors. We are curious as to just who our contemporary hints at. The C. M. B. A. is a society of Catholics but it has a Bishop as spiritual adviser and it operates by "Parish Branches." The C. R. & B. A. is similar. The Knights of Columbus is a society of Catholics and it has been assumed in its war activities it acted in the name of and as the representative of the American Catholic Hierarchy, while several of its national officers have been specially decorated and honored by the Holy Father. We are still curious.

Mr. Lansing

While there is sure to be sympathy extended to Robert Lansing over his sudden and accelerated exit from the Secretary of State's Department, nevertheless it must be conceded that President Wilson acted within his rights as Cabinet officers are not officials with a fixed tenure of office, they are merely advisers to the President selected by him and serve during his pleasure. Manifestly when the President and a Cabinet officer are not in accord it is better for all concerned that the relations be sundered. However, it is unfortunate that President Wilson should have allowed personal pique and resentment to become apparent in the letter by which he dismissed his Secretary of State. It mars a splendid record of finely phrased and expressed letters, essays and public documents. In spite of Colonel Harvey's splenetic characterization of the letters to Secretary Lansing as distinctly Wilsonian in incline to the opinion that the letter was signed by the President without careful reading and correction.

Intolerance

In the course of his series of addresses in Buffalo, Rev. Thomas O'Hern had this to say of intolerance, apropos of the so-called Inquisition:—

In the popular mind intolerance is associated only with Catholicism, and yet nothing could be farther from the truth. The learned Dr. Schaff declares in his History of the Christian Church: To the great humiliation of the Protestant churches, religious intolerance and even persecution unto death were continued long after the reformation. In Geneva the pernicious theory was put into practice by State and Church, even to the use of torture and the admission of the testimony of children against their parents and with the sanction of Calvin. Bullinger, in the second Helvetic confession, announced the principle that heresy could be punished like murder or treason. Again no one can deny the penal laws in England and Ireland. The spirit of intolerance against Catholics in our own country in the colonies should forever silence Protestants from criticizing the Catholic Church. Do Catholics blame the Protestant religion for the deaths of thousands suffered in the name of religion? No one who is just and fairminded would maintain anything so absurd. Persecution has been the result of deep religious conviction used in many cases by politicians to further their own interests. "Why should the intolerance of the past, which we all deeply regret, be the mother of intolerance in our own day? Should not these regrettable facts of history teach us to hate and shun intolerance in every form? We may have honest differences of opinion and at the same time hearts filled with brotherly love. It is proper to show intolerance toward error, but never toward the erring."

What Remedy?

In the Herald a few days ago appeared this paragraph:— The discovery that an old couple who have long been supported by the poor department of this city have more than \$20,000 on deposit in various banks is an illustration of the shiftless manner in which that branch of our civil government is conducted. Apparently the revelations of the Bureau of Municipal Research, giving some similar instances, had no effect upon the local administration. How long are taxpayers going to tolerate these conditions? Just how would the Herald set about to correct such a condition and prevent its recurrence? Of course, if the banks were compelled to furnish to the City Poor department lists of their depositors just as dealers in second-hand goods and pawnbrokers are required to report to the police daily certain sales and articles pledged might help but does anybody believe the law could be made to conform to such a condition without the loveliest sort of a ruction. But we would like to have the Herald's suggestion as to other specific remedies. Probably, one suggestion would be to turn relief over to private charity agencies. We do not believe the people at large are ready for such radical change.

There was a wonderful response to the request of the Hierarchy that Catholics receive Holy Communion last Sunday for the intention of the Holy Father, and the intention of the Hierarchy and for restoration of peace and tranquility to our loved country. Surely, such an outpouring of fervent supplication to Almighty God will outbalance the machinations of those who would blot out God and Religion.

Eamon de Valera has reason to be proud of his reception in this the home city of his loved mother.

Reliance on God.

Recalling that February is the month of Washington and Lincoln, the "Columbiad" says editorially:—

Both Washington and Lincoln displayed in high order their grasp of the fundamentals of citizenship. Their service, their sacrifices, were made to build and maintain a nation that in its chosen agents had appealed "to the Supreme Judge of the world for the recitade of our intentions" and pledged all "with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence." This is a land of law and order primarily because of that recognition. As His Holiness Pope Benedict XV but recently said, "There is no order without an acknowledgment of the dominion of God over His creatures."

This land, this land of Lincoln and Washington, has through the generations, since the blessing of democracy fell upon it, maintained that order; it is the part of every citizen to see to it that no deviation shall come from that course through his acts or through his indifference. If any good derives from commemorating the names of our great leaders, it is the inspiration their service and their sacrifice give to us. Mere hero worship is an empty vanity.

May it not be possible that the selection of Representative Thomas B. Dunn to be alternate-at-large to the Chicago national convention presages the possibility that he will be the Republican nominee for Vice-President?

The "third term bogey" seems to fade into impossibility.

It rather invites pleasant prospects to read that concessions for the Industrial Exposition next September are to be awarded on March 3rd.

In selecting Cyrus W. Phillips to be state industrial commissioner. Governor Smith has made a wise choice and promoted a deserving official.

Just who would the Times-Union support for President? Herbert Hoover? Perhaps.

While it is fitting, probably, that Rochester should pay tribute to Susan B. Anthony's memory; while it is not to be wondered at that we should observe "Roosevelt Day" in Rochester; these celebrations or tributes should not have supplanted the memory of Abraham Lincoln? Why was not Lincoln's Birthday observed in the schools of Rochester? Surely, the Southern grip has not extended from Washington into Rochester?

In the death of Andrew J. Townson, Rochester's business world loses one of its most striking figures. He was a useful citizen, albeit a modest man, and he will be missed in several circles.

Vice-President Thomas R. Marshall appears to be of presidential stature.

It is not amiss to reiterate early and often that the better Catholic man is the better American citizen he must needs be.

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