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Work in Japan

In connection with the discussion about Japan now in progress in East and West, an article by Rev. Mark J. McNeal in the current "Columbian" is of interest. Father McNeal, in graphic language tells about the sainted Xavier in 1549 entered Japan. He stayed there two years and 3,000 converts to the faith was the net result of his labors. Inside of 40 years the Catholics in Japan numbered over two millions of souls. Then came the storm. Catholic maidens refused to enter the Mikado's harem. English and Dutch traders fanned the flame by slanders of the Spaniards and the Spanish missionaries. The priests and nuns were hunted out of Japan. Catholics were persecuted and tortured. Catholicity ebbed and, apparently died out. But faith is never extinguished or exterminated.

Let Father McNeal tell the story of the rejuvenation of Catholicity in Japan:-

In 1854 our American Commodore Perry opened the gates of Japan. Catholic missionaries soon followed and erected in the Treaty Port of Nagasaki a Church for the accommodation of foreign visitors only. They were forbidden to preach to the Japanese, and the latter were still forbidden to practice the Catholic faith. On the 17th of March, 1865, two and a quarter centuries after the Edict of Exclusion, the Pastor of this Church noticed a group of fifteen Japanese peasants daring to approach the sacred building. Encouraged by him they entered the vestibule and examined all they could see. Convinced that they were alone with the priest they said: "Our hearts are the same as yours." The priest realized that there stood before him those who had kept some memory of the ancient teaching. He questioned them to find what vestige had survived. He marveled to hear them recite without error the doctrine of the Catechism. Then they questioned him; for they knew that with the new influx of foreigners there had come strange teachers with new doctrines unknown to their Christian ancestors. "Where is the image of the Lady Mary?" The priest took them into the Church and they knelt before Our Lady's altar. "Do you know the great King of Doctrine in Rome?" The priest told them the reigning Pope's name and made protestations of loyalty to the Roman pontiff. "Where are your wife and children?" The priest assures them that his only spouse is the Church, and his children are the faithful. Then they broke forth: "Our hearts and yours are indeed the same, and back here in the Valley of the Mountains there are fifty thousand who, for more than two centuries without a priest, without a Church or chapel, without a shrine, without a

crucifix or sacred image, without a Bible or book of prayer, without a rosary or so much as a little medal, which our enemies could use as evidence against us, have kept the Catholic faith." A thing unequalled and unparalleled in all Catholic history.

They came out from their hiding places. They returned to the open practice of Catholic piety and the reception of the sacraments. They suffered renewed persecutions until Liberty of Worship was granted by the late Emperor Meiji. They were duly organized according to the Constitution of the Church. They have now an Archbishop with several Bishops under him. There are Japanese priests and brothers and sisters. There are Catholic schools for little ones, excellent High Schools for boys and Academies for girls, few indeed, but all in good standing. There is a hospital and a Leprosy Asylum. There are all the activities and devotions of a full Catholic life. Active and contemplative orders, old and new, for men and for women, are well represented. An Apostolic Delegate has just been appointed. In a word, there is a well-organized Church.

Yet how small it is. The Catholic Japanese number some 75,000 souls. Their non-Christian fellow countrymen total 60,000,000. Every Japanese Catholic is standing up for the Faith of his ancestors and of ours, with the odds against him eight hundred to one. We American Catholics know what it is to be in a minority, but not against such odds as that.

All Rot

The Catholic Journal is informed that there is in circulation chiefly among members of the Masonic order in Rochester and then only passed from hand to hand—an alleged quotation from an alleged Catholic paper, in which a vigorous plea is made for the restoration of the temporal power of the Papacy, coupled with a very superlative appreciation of the great benefit the Catholic Church in the United States has derived from the presence in and around the White House of Joseph P. Tumulty, private secretary to President Woodrow Wilson.

We have not been able to secure a copy of the screeled referred to but there is no such Catholic paper published in the city where our informant says the clipping shown him alleged it was published and we know of personal knowledge that the paper named—published in an entirely different city—never was foolish enough to indulge in any such foolish stuff as we have detailed. What possible argument in favor of the restoration of the temporal power to the Pope, "Joe" Tumulty as private secretary to President Wilson can be credited with, we cannot see for the life of us. There are as many Catholic critics of Mr. Tumulty as there are non-Catholics who dislike him. By far too much importance is attached to Mr. Tumulty who is a devoted friend to his chief and a conscientious secretary.

Those who know Woodrow Wilson well and intimately laugh at the idea that Joe Tumulty or anybody else controls the President, dictates his policy or bosses him in any way. No one knows this better than Colonel Edward M. House, Colonel George H. Harvey, William Jennings Bryan or Robert H. Lansing.

Now that it is all over, we fancy the alleged quotation from an alleged Catholic paper was just a crudely conceived clumsily designed and bunglingly managed piece of political propaganda.

Those Michigan bigots must feel cheap over their defeat in the attempt to put the parochial schools out of business.

Good reading matter is an essential in every home. And in a Catholic family, a Catholic paper is included in the supply.

Lyons Amenities

We are reminded when we glance over the Lyons "Republican" these days of the good days in Rochester when William Purcell and Charles E. Fitch used to berate each other in choice, vitriolic phrases. Here is a choice morsel from editor Charles Betts the week after election:-

Every community has a pest. Lyons is not exempt. We have one perpetual pest, without conscience, without manhood, without honor, without principle and without allegiance to any party. We court his opposition and welcome his abuse. He has been back of every move to misrepresent and slander the editor of this paper and the time has come when we have made up our mind to pull the mask off this political-moral degenerate.

Everybody remembers when he was active in politics and when he was at the head of the local Republican organization, how the bribery of voters was an accepted practice, when ballot-box stuffing disgraced the village of Lyons and when corruption was the only fixed principle of the Republican organization. Since that time conditions have been cleaned up and politics have been run on an honest, intelligent and clean basis. This is the reason that he has been eliminated from the Republican party and from the politics of Lyons.

His influence has been reduced to his own family and everybody sympathizes with his family. He occupies his time in these days running around the county, where he is not known, and making attacks and uttering falsehoods about Lyons candidates. There has not been a Lyons candidate for any office in recent years who has not had the abuse and enmity of this unbalanced, political crook and crank.

Such a man is entitled to the contempt of all honest men and women for he is nothing more nor less than a dishonest political knave.

Our Part in Things

It is well that we as Catholics are represented in the civic, social and philanthropic activities of the nation, the state and the city. We learn the mental viewpoint of our non-Catholic neighbors and often we are able to set the fair-minded men and women right in their viewpoint of matters Catholic. They, in turn, are impelled to realize that we are ordinary human beings and that while we may worship in a manner different from them, we are not different in our conception of temporal matters unless, perchance, we are fairer than they because of our religious principles and because our Church was founded by the Father of Truth and the Divine exponent on earth of the Golden Rule.

When our non-Catholic friends come to understand our position and viewpoint they will be more than glad to meet us on common ground where we can agree on non-essentials and pool issues for civic justice and righteousness.

If you are really interested in the success of your favorite Catholic newspaper, patronize the Catholic Journal's advertisers.

The Catholic Journal's Americanization number attracted widespread attention and commendation.

No better real Americanization agency exists in the United States than the Catholic Churches and societies. The better Catholic a man is, the better American citizen he must necessarily be.

Now that election is over what will Jay Forrest and his bold band of Washingtonian Buccaneers do for a living? Al. Smith is out. Miller and his Catholic family will have none of him and George Thompson is in oblivion.

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As many as 10,000 called at his Pittsburgh home in a single day during his life time. His famous herb tea was one of his favorite prescriptions. Any man who knows Western Pennsylvania history 40 years back can recall results reported in the daily newspapers of Father Mollinger's amazing medical career.

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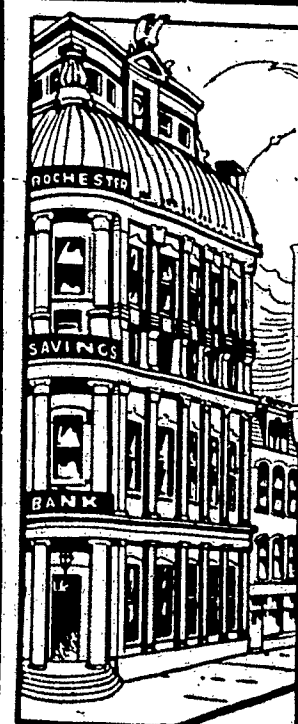
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