

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Friday, December 31st, 1920.

New Years

Another calendar year has passed into eternity, another twelvemonth has gone by and we are at the threshold of another year.

Whatever of joy, of sorrow, of good, of ill, the last year held for us is indelibly carved on the milestones of 1920 and the milestones of 1921 are in place for us to inscribe the next year's record upon.

New Years day has ever been the day dedicated to good resolutions. Let us all resolve that if we have been lax in our spiritual duties in the year that is just closing we will do better in 1921...

To each and all of its readers and friends the Catholic Journal wishes a Happy New Year.

One Needs The Other

We have commented time and time again on the peculiar mental twist that enables the shoemaker to demand the highest possible wage for himself and yet rail and rant at the high price exacted for the hat he has to buy, the clothes he has to wear, the cigars he likes to smoke and the house he has to rent...

It is of course absurd, to read such a wail as this from Principal Savage, of the Ontario Agricultural College in Canada: "The fostering of exotic, of needless, useless industries by city promoters and company promoters, has enormously increased the number of men who draw wages for producing articles which the nation would very well do without..."

Just what would Mr. Savage do? Would he close the automobile plants so as to force everybody to drive horses and so rehabilitate the horse breeding industry for the farmer? Would he close the glass and photograph factories...

and so take a little more of the joy out of life? Would he abolish the rural free delivery routes? Possibly not, but if the factories shut down and the mail order houses were closed and the newspapers shut out, there would be no need for the rural free delivery?

But go on with the inevitable endless chain. If industries were curtailed and city dwellers driven back to the land, where would the farmer get his market? And without a city market where would he dispose of his produce? And without a market, where would his high prices come in?

It takes co-operation and correlation to make a satisfied and contented community or nation.

Not Heeded Probably

Because we are each more prone to see quite clearly the mote in our brother's eye than to suspect, even, the beam within our own eye, it is quite probable that the well-meant advice, here, with republished from the "Post Express" will fall on heedless ears...

Curiously, vehicle drivers who set such a fantastic valuation on their own time, seeming to consider every second golden, appear to regard pedestrians as having no end of time to waste. On this theory one man in a car will hold up a dozen citizens on foot. Some drivers show also a passionate preference for the most frequented streets and appear to go out of their way to avoid uncrowded thoroughfares.

Heart or Intellect?

It is an old argument -- that brains vs. heart is the fundamental requirement for education and every-day life. Even Herbert Spencer took cognizance of it in his essay on "Feeling vs. Intellect" in "Facts and Comments" as follows: "Everywhere the cry is--educate, educate, educate! Everywhere the belief is that by fostering of exotic, of needless, such culture as schools furnish, children, and therefore adults, can be molded into the desired shapes. It is assumed that, when men are taught what is right, they will do what is right--that a proposition intellectually accepted will be morally operative. And yet this conviction, contradicted as well as trades and occupations by every-day experience, is at variance with an every-day axiom--the axiom that each faculty is strengthened by exercise of it--intellectual power by intellectual action, and moral power by moral action."

Applying the test to latter day education Mr. Spencer in the same essay goes on: "Though in presence of multitudinous schools, high and low, we have the rowdies and hopli-

ans, the savage disturbers of meetings, the adulterators of food, the givers of bribes and the receivers of corrupt commission, the fraudulent solicitors, the bubble companies, yet the current belief continues unweakened; and recently, in America, an outcry respecting the yearly increase of crime was joined with an avowed determination not to draw any inference adverse to their educational system."

Parents Duty

In view of the battle between the bigots and the fair-minded citizens of Michigan and other Western states over the abolition or retention of the parochial schools, there is much discussion over the question "Why Separate Schools?" In the "Northwest Review", Rev. George Daly, C. S. R., defines the rights of parents in the education of their children as follows: "It is the right and duty of the parents to educate his child. This right is founded on nature. The child is the offspring of the parents, the continuation as it were of their own life. They are therefore, the natural educators of their children. When they commit them to the care of others for instruction it is their right to have them educated as they wish. Just as by the supreme and sacred right of conscience man is free to give to his life its moral direction, so also does the same principle apply to the education of a child for whose conscience, as for whose life, the parent is responsible. The moral right of the child in that period of life is fundamental. It constitutes the bed-rock on which rests all other rights in matters of education. To deny that principle, to deflect it from its proper meaning, to only partially recognize it, is to blast at the very foundation of human nature. No reason of common good, of citizenship can overthrow this right; on the contrary, it presupposes it. For, the State can only interfere to protect and help this right. It can never suppress it, and only supplement it, when the parents are deficient and fall short of this sacred duty they owe their offspring."

President Harding is an enigma according to the correspondents who simply must write pieces for their papers. In all probability he will turn out a human being and "a regular organization politician of the old school."

Good morning Governor Miller! Happy New Year!

The best wishes of a host of friends will go with Governor Alfred E. Smith as he retires from the care of the Executive Chamber to return to private life as a New York City business man.

Prayer goes up all over the country that his Eminence, Cardinal Gibbons, may be spared many years to come.

If the Holy Father has issued a warning against proselytizing by the Y. M. C. A., the officers and managers of that quasi-religious corporation need blame only themselves if they feel aggrieved which we are not convinced they do. The Y. M. C. A. refused the suggestion of the late Theodore Roosevelt that the restriction that only active evangelical Protestant Christians may hold office in the organization be eliminated.

The weather man took the position that Rochester would have a green Christmas. Just to prove the futility of man's predictions, God sent a snow storm and snug cold weather for Christmas day.

Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis is a peculiar chap. But he's so human, withal, that one can't help liking him.

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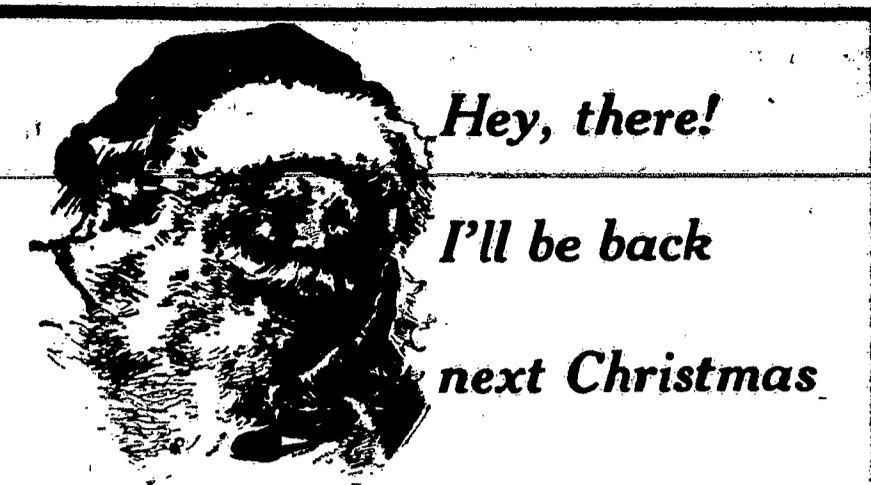
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