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Profanity

It cannot be denied that there is a great deal of profanity indulged in by the average American man and even the women are indulging in rather forceful expletives. Yes, the younger generation is far more given to cursing and swearing in public than was the rule a generation ago.

It is argued in some quarters that the war veterans are responsible in great measure for the rather noticeable increase in profanity in public places, in the street cars, in hotel lobbies, in the railroad trains, but we doubt this.

Whatever the cause, there is no gainsaying the presence of an epidemic of profanity. It is not creditable to us. And it is the more discredit when the offenders are Catholics. We are constantly reminded in our daily devotions, in our church services, in all we do of our Creator and His Divine Son, The Catholic, above all others, should pronounce the names of God and Jesus only in spirit of reverence and prayer, never in terms of blasphemy and cursing.

In the year to come let us resolve to pray constantly that the swearers may stop their cursing and that we ourselves, if we have offended in this respect, may be given grace to refrain from profanity and to make reparation for past offenses.

If we can remember not to swear in the presence of ladies, we can remember that we are constantly in the presence of God and that we insult Him whenever we take His name in vain. Let "Thou shalt not curse or swear" be added to our daily reminder calendar.

Governor Miller

Nathan L. Miller has succeeded Alfred E. Smith as Governor of New York state. Not only has a Republican succeeded a Democrat, politically speaking, but an up-state man has succeeded a New Yorker with the New York frame of mind. Governor Miller really is the first up-state governor since Frank W. Higgins. John A. Dix, Democrat, was from Albany and Benjamin B. Odell, Republican, was from Newburg but the New York atmosphere extended as far as Albany.

It is a peculiar fact that the New Yorker thinks only in terms of New York city. To him the sun rises and sets at Harlem River.

He understands the bustling, bustling, feverish activity of the cave dwellers of the Metropolis, many of whom never set foot on Mother earth, some never see the sun shine, from one year's end to another but he cannot understand the less feverish, almost placid life of the rural New Yorker or the less placid but not so feverish life of the urban up-stater. The New Yorker cannot understand that the up-stater really prefers "Way Down East" to Charlie Chaplin slapstick stuff or a Mozart symphony to a jazz whirlwind. The New Yorker imagines that up-state is peopled with Puritan witch burners and Cromwell Round heads because we object to open stores, theaters in full blast, Coney Island blare on the Four Corners and cannot grasp the idea that we tolerate summer resorts away from the Four Corners just as the New Yorkers tolerate Coney Island where it is and would not stand for it on Fifth avenue or around Wall street.

The New Yorker is apt to fail to comprehend the fact that by far the greater domain comprised in the great Empire State lies outside the confines of New York city or that Rochester's corporate limits contain practically as much square miles of area as are comprised in the great metropolis. Or that the metropolis would be had off were it not for the products of up-state, agricultural and industrial.

Even Charles Evans Hughes, big a man as he was, never fully grasped the up state frame of mind nor was able to co-ordinate in a harmonious whole a political and legislative programme flexible enough to satisfy the liberal New York man and the rather stiffer code of ethics of the up-stater.

Probably Governor Miller will not be able to solve this problem either but he may do better than his predecessors, as he has lived in New York considerably; just as Governor Smith might have been able to do, because he was a typical New Yorker but understood up-state viewpoint better than Hughes or Whitman, if he had a Legislature politically friendly to him.

One thing may be expected: The Republican majorities, day in and day out, come from the up-state counties. The present chairman of the Republican state committee is from up-state. So is the Governor. So are the legislative leaders. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that the programme at Albany for the next two years will be formulated and carried into execution with an eye to satisfying up-state viewpoint. As a consequence many of the so-called "paternalistic beneficences" which have been attached to the body politic by the persistent insistence of New York city "uplift organizations" are likely to come in for reduced appropriations if, indeed, they are not detached altogether from the state budget. There may be a vigorous protest from New York but if the rural taxpayers who are prudent and saving men, applaud, it is altogether unlikely that Governor Miller and his associates will falter in their expressed determination to "cut out any unnecessary state activities".

After all, it may not be a bad thing for the State to have "an up-state governor" for two years! Why should railroad employees be transported free if the Government is to guarantee return upon the stock or where the service is to be at cost to the public plus a fair return to the stock holders and bond holders? Why should the free fares be assessed against the public in an inventory of receipts and expenditures?

The good wishes of a host of friends go with "Al." Smith as he retires from the executive Chamber at Albany to private life—temporarily.

Clean Pictures!

The position of the National Catholic Welfare Council on motion pictures on Sunday was well stated by Charles F. McMahon, chairman of the motion picture committee of the Council, in answer to an appeal from the New York city motion picture producers to join in a protest against suppression altogether of Sunday movies, as proposed by Dr. Crafts' reform alliance. Said Mr. McMahon: "The attitude of the Catholic Church on the proper observance of Sunday, is a sane and wholesome attitude. She believes in temperance. She believes that Sunday is a holy day and should be kept as a holy day. But it is not to be a day of sadness, dedicated to the blues, wherein no wholesome recreation is allowed to enter.

"It is not, therefore, a question of blue laws or of red laws. To my mind, it is a question of the great white law of public decency, which should first be championed. Clean the moving picture industry, surround the exhibition of motion pictures with proper moral standards for the young, and there will be no valid protest against their being shown on Sunday.

"The lure of sex has obsessed the entire theatrical and moving picture industry. Scarcely a play is presented in which adultery, unfaithfulness, moral laxity, indecent dressing or undressing are not featured. The rottenness is eating into our body social. And the Catholic Church will do, is doing all in its power to root that cancer out.

"If it comes to a question as to whether the Catholic body would favor the entire abolition of moving pictures on Sundays, or the showing of moving pictures as they are now presented the Catholic body would instantly answer: let them be abolished. That is not a judgment for or against blue laws. That is a judgment in favor of public decency, in which every self-respecting Catholic, Protestant or Jew would heartily and cordially join. So we hope we have made our position clear—the moving picture industry must be purified, must be cleaned. When those at the head of it will take effective measures to do this, then they may with cleansed hands present their plea for Sunday exhibitions."

If you are in the habit of getting angry on slight provocation, one good New Year resolution would be to try and hold your temper. Displays of anger are a waste of nerve energy; they stamp you as ill-bred and lacking stamina.

Why should Catholics waste their time over spiritism and similar cults. Our religion teaches us how to live in order to enjoy eternity and we can safely leave the future—and the past, as well, to God.

Rochester Knights of Columbus are extending congratulations to John Lyons of New York City upon his inauguration as Secretary of State.

There is more than mere politics or sentiment mixed up in the Irish question, why is Ireland not entitled to present her claims as a free nation as well as Poland, as Serbia, as Roumania, as any other of the European peoples who seek relief from the oppression of a stronger nation?

Why should a corporation advertise for a "Protestant employment manager: Are only Protestant employees wanted? And is it a case of 'no Catholics need apply?' And only Catholic customers desired?"

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Weekly Calendar of Feast Days

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Sunday, Jan. 9.—St. Julian and St. Basilissa, who though married, lived by mutual consent in perfect chastity. They converted their house into a sort of hospital and sometimes entertained one thousand poor people. Basilissa died in peace; Julian received the crown of martyrdom.

Monday, Jan. 10.—St. William Berruyer, Archbishop of Bourges. He was educated by Peter the Hermit, his uncle, and led a life of great austerity. He constantly wore a hair-shirt and never indulged in flesh meat. He died in 1209.

Tuesday, Jan. 11.—St. Theodosius, the cenobiarh, who who was born in Cappadocia. He eventually became superior of the religious communities of Palestine and famed for his meekness and charity. He opposed the Eutychian heresy. He died at the age of 106.

Wednesday, Jan. 12.—St. Aelred, Abbot, when God called from the court of a royal saint, David of Scotland, to the silence of the cloister. He was founder and first abbot of the Monastery of Rievaulx, where he died in 1167.

Thursday, Jan. 13.—St. Veronica, of Milan, the daughter of a peasant family, who was favored with special visions by the Blessed Virgin. She was received as a lay sister at the Convent of St. Martha, where she spent thirty years. She died in 1496 on the day she had foretold.

Friday, Jan. 14.—St. Hilary of Poitiers, was born and educated a pagan and did not embrace Christianity until his middle age. He converted his wife and daughter and later entering Holy Orders was made bishop. He opposed Arianism on many notable occasions and did much missionary work. He died in 368.

Saturday, Jan. 15.—St. Paul, the first hermit, was born in Upper Egypt in 230. He was rich and highly educated, but fearing temptations against his faith he retired to the desert where he remained ninety years in prayer, penance and meditation. He was miraculously fed by God, who at his death sent to him St. Antony, who saw his body rise glorious to heaven.

Death of Gertrude R. Concannon

Miss Gertrude R. Concannon, daughter of the late Martin and Ellen Concannon of South Livonia died in Jersey City after a very brief illness on Sunday, December 26th, 1920.

Miss Concannon received her early education in the rural school of her native village and graduated with honors from the Academic Course at Nazareth Academy, Rochester, New York. After teaching a few years in the district schools of Livingston County, she continued her education in various institutions of higher learning in New York city. For a number of years and up to the date of her death she was teaching at No. 19 school in Jersey City.

The esteem in which Miss Concannon was held by all who knew her has been expressed with the following words of Father Kelly of St. Patrick's Church, Jersey City, after blessing her remains before they were taken to her brother's residence in Livonia:—"I deeply regret the loss of this beautiful woman. She was unassuming, unaffected, intelligent and a model girl of the parish—an ideal Catholic woman. Every day she paid a visit to the Blessed Sacrament and kept her soul pure and immaculate before God. I shall miss her very much from the church as I did her mother, the dearest woman that ever lived. God bless you my child.

If you make New Year resolutions, try and keep them.

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Waterpower in China. China's great commercial water highway, the Yang-tse Kiang, is to be put to work. To keep the river always at flood level, and, incidentally, to get rid of rapids which interfere with navigation, seven dams will be constructed. The project contemplates the development of 31,000,000 electric horsepower, and will cost \$40,000,000. This is the first important waterpower development undertaken in China, whose industrial future has a wonderful outlook in that direction. For, thanks to its lofty mountain ranges, the Flowery Land has far greater waterways available than any other country in the world.—Kansas City Star.

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Where He Might Be. She looked in the pantry. She looked in the larder. She looked in the kitchen. She looked in the cupboard. Where was that mischievous boy? She looked in the hall. She looked in the bedroom. She looked in the nursery. She looked in the garden. She even looked in the hen-coop and the rabbit hutch. All in vain. At last she climbed to the top of the house till she came to the little trapdoor leading to the loft. "Willie! Willie!" she called. "Are you up there?" "No, mother," replied a shrill voice. "Have you tried the cellar?"

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