

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Friday, Oct. 21, 1921

Right Note

No one who attended the Columbus Day banquet of Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus, and listened to the eloquent address on "Catholic Patriotism" by Rev. Father McCreary, of Syracuse, never again will lack ammunition with which to combat the bigot who preaches that the Catholic American citizen has not demonstrated his full measure of patriotism from the discovery of this new hemisphere by Christopher Columbus and his gallant crew of Catholic sailors.

Following Columbus, Amerigo Vespucci, DeSoto, Marquette, and other early missionary explorers; the Carrolls and Jack Barrys, the Catholic patriots of 1812, the heroic figure of Arch Bishop Hughes, the Catholic generals and soldiers in the Civil War, the Spanish American War and last of all, the great World's war. Catholic American citizens, both cleric and lay, demonstrated their love of country, their admiration and devotion to the Stars and Stripes and their fealty to the Constitution and the duly constituted authority of the Government.

And the priceless gift to all American citizens—religious liberty—was brought here and imbedded in the very foundation stones of the Republic by the Catholic Lord Baltimore. And today, in Catholic Quebec in the Dominion of Canada, the descendants of Laval guarantee and preserve to the non-Catholics in that Province a far greater measure of religious liberty, although the Catholics are greatly in the majority, than the non-Catholics in Protestant Ontario, grant to their Catholic co-patriots in that Province.

There can be and is no denial of the proposition that the Catholic must be and is the very best type of American citizen because he is taught in Church and school, at his mother's knee that he must respect and yield obedience to duly constituted authority as represented by the officers of the nation, state or municipality.

And this is amply capable of full demonstration by him who cares to read or study the history of the United States.

It is well that we keep close watch on the new school text books that appear from time to time especially in history. There is a well defined plot to discredit our national heroes and to bring about a return of the United States to allegiance to Great Britain.

John J. McInerney starts his Grand Knightship in a burst of glory. If his fellow Knights are with him the K. of C. ought to progress this year.

The real Southern gentlemen and ladies are not the backers of the Ku Klux Klan. It flourishes in the States where "white trash" predominate and dominate.

Ku Klux Klan

Apparently, the much talked about Ku Klux Klan, had its inception in the South, whence are emanating today the most lurid press agent yarns of "easy money".

A crew of financial pirates, with elastic consciences and insatiate greed for gold, especially if it were acquired without any investment of real money or expenditure of real mental or physical energy, turned their attention to the problem of preying upon the vanity, and innate bigotry of the non-Catholic natives of the Carolinas, Floridas and Georgia as well as the stunted intellects and energies of the Northerner sojourning in the well-nigh, at least to him by comparison with whence he came, tropical climate in these States.

The game proved so profitable that it was extended to other states where gullible men and women, the same or ancestors of whom, were the ones who supplied the Forrests and the rest who built up the A. P. A., the Units, Guardians of Liberty and the erop of societies that swelled the coffers of the aforesaid Forrest and his co-organizers, who were willing to stir up religious animosity at so much per member. As one of Forrests crew told a friend who remonstrated with him upon his actions: "Shucks its for the mazzuma. I'd go organizing for the Pope at 75 cents a head."

If this Ku Klux Klan is not taken too seriously; if its promoters are not persecuted into the martyr class but are proceeded against as plain swindlers who are in the three card monte, confidence shark class, its members will desert it like rats leave a sinking ship because nobody likes to admit he has been gulled into being a meal ticket for lazy loafers who are ashamed to beg outright and have an unconquerable aversion to manual or mental effort.

"Imperial Wizards" may go on if unexposed. But make them the butt of ridicule and the game is over.

Strange!

After charging that an unnaturalized Englishman is an admiral in the United States navy and has been president of our Naval College, the "Union and Times" goes on to say:—

Is it not strange again that, in spite of fanatical prohibitionists and sanctimonious legislators, bacchanalian orgies can still be held in the respectable hotels of our large cities? It is even more strange that a voluptuary who caused the death of one of his own guests, should be defended by society dames and by an evangelist like Billy Sunday. That is exceeding strange.

It is passing strange that a legislature which passed a bill to increase the pay of firemen and policemen should appoint a committee to investigate the increase of salaries in Greater New York. It is more than strange—it is astonishing and astounding that ex-convicts should be employed to collect evidence against honest men. And lastly it is no less astounding that the press of the metropolis, with the exception of the Hearst papers, are unanimous in supporting such a farce.

It is strangely strange that men of German descent or others, who refused to fight from conscientious scruples, should be branded as slackers, while profiteers who made millions in food-stuffs and war materials are still regarded as 100 per cent. Americans!

It is strange that the Red Cross, which is charged with so many forms of iniquity, should be allowed to go on without official investigation and judicial punishment. It is no less strange and marvelous that the presidential robe of our foremost citizen should be used as a cloak to cover a multitude of sins.

Register! Vote

Every Catholic citizen should heed and follow this advice given by the National Council of Catholic Men:—The loyal and devoted citizen has still another duty to perform. Even if it is evident that he will not be able to take part in the election, he ought, nevertheless to register. As part of the government of the nation, the citizen has not only the right to utter his mind by means of the ballot on the fitness of the candidates and on the general issues at an election; he has also the right to advise his representative of his views concerning pending legislation and to protest whenever he feels an injustice is being done either to himself or to his fellow-citizens. The very idea of representative government presupposes this. Thus we sometimes find those who have been elected to office appealing to their constituents for an expression of their views. But the representative of the people must know whether the one who thus expresses his views has the rights of citizenship. If that name appears on the list of registered voters, the claim to recognition is established.

Under this head a thought occurs. Our holiest right under the constitution is that of worshiping God according to the dictates of our conscience. As religious bigotry still prevails, although diametrically opposed to both the letter and the spirit of the constitution, it is necessary for us to be on the alert to defend this, our holiest and highest interest. We may not be called upon to do this on an election day, though such an emergency may arise, but it is not unlikely that at some time, perhaps rather unexpectedly, we may have to advise our representatives of our rights in matters of religion. To be able to do this effectively, our names must appear on the lists of registered voters.

The Difference

Rev. A. Z. Conrad, pastor of Park street, (Protestant) church in Boston answering questions which had been sent to him, explained the difference between the Ku Klux Klan and the Knights of Columbus. The question proposed to Dr. Conrad was as follows:—

"If the Ku Klux Klan is an outlaw, as you say, what have you to say about the Knights of Columbus?" His answer was:—

"The two questions have no relation except antagonism. The Klan is vicious, infamous, pernicious; a very arrow aimed at the heart of liberty, while the knights are a patriotic religious organization which, however we may differ in policies, we cannot but respect as a factor for good in the nation."

We had an idea William A. Prendergast had not had his ear to the ground in Rochester when he voted for metered telephone service. Bill is a heap canny politician.

Let us hope the Community Board makes permanent peace in Rochester's building industries.

Let us mingle with our non-Catholic neighbors but do not let us obliterate and annihilate our own Catholic societies to do so.

Admiral Sims says he will free his mind when he retires from the Navy. Why not retire him now and have it over with?

Dismissal of officials adds to the army of the unemployed—which, perhaps, is why there are so many officeholders in Washington, Albany and Rochester.

Writing of the Irish, Sir Walter Scott said: "Their poverty was not exaggerated; neither is their wit, nor their good humor. There is perpetual kindness in the Irish cabin."

Governor Miller has that rare trait, in latter day politicians, of possessing convictions and living up to them.

A. O. H. ELECT OFFICERS

The biennial convention of the Monroe County Ancient Order of Hibernians was held on Thursday evening, October 13th, at the Hibernian hall, West Main St.

The activities of the past two years were reviewed by the retiring-county president, Michael T. Ryan, and a detailed report of the state convention of the A. O. H. recently held in Buffalo, was submitted by him with recommendation to the incoming county board to take under advisement the attitude of the state board, who favored holding the next state convention in Rochester.

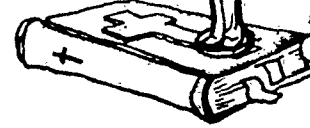
The election of officers for the ensuing two years, was then proceeded with and the following were elected:—County President, Martin K. Fenelon; county vice-president, Daniel J. Crowley; recording secretary, Patrick J. O'Hara; financial secretary, John T. Powers and treasurer, Martin Walsh.

The new officers were then formally installed by the outgoing county president.

MADE CANON IN BELGIUM



CANON NOTEBAERT, as he appeared in his canonical robes at the ceremony of installation in Bruges, Belgium.



Rev. A. A. Notebaert, pastor of the Church of Our Lady of Victory, has returned home from Europe where he has been traveling since July. He returned with the S. S. Kroonland from Antwerp and yesterday resumed his parochial duties. While abroad Father Notebaert was installed as a canon of the Cathedral of Bruges, the first priest from Rochester and one of the few in the United States to be so honored. In addition he has a medal from King Albert as a souvenir of gratitude from Belgium.

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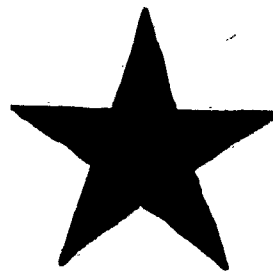
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