

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Friday, July 21, 1922.

Decadence

Nicholas Murray Butler's experience and research in connection with American assistance in rebuilding Louvain University Library has had its effect on his conception of the value of the present system of American education. He sees nothing but decadence in continuance of our present method. Here is what he says in a statement for the press a few days ago:—

"The last quarter century, especially in the United States," he says, "has been a period of educational experimentation, and those upon whom the experiments have been worked have suffered grievously in the process. They have been treated too much as subjects of scientific interest and not enough as young human beings with immense powers for good or evil, with a wealth of enthusiasm and vast energy.... The methods so often followed in our present day education are as foolish as would be the attempt to aid a thirsty man by hauling up an empty bucket from a bottomless well."

So much for methods. What about results? Dr. Butler goes on: "We very largely have destroyed the common body of knowledge, once given in schools and colleges, particularly that which used to hold men and women together in intellectual and moral sympathy and understanding."

"A host of varied and special trainings have displaced that one fundamental training which was and must always be essential to any education that is worthy of the name and not mere mechanical vocational preparation."

"Even among college graduates all knowledge of ancient civilizations and literatures and of the ancient heroes of our race has disappeared."

"An allusion to the classics or a classical quotation is as little likely to be understood as an allusion to the social customs of the ancient Aztecs."

"This means that our youth are now cut off from and deprived of any knowledge of the largest and richest area of human experience which history records."

"Moreover, they know no mathematics beyond elementary algebra and geometry and so are without the practical assistance and joy which even a modest knowledge of the higher mathematics is certain to carry with it."

"The Bible society reports more copies of the Bible put into circulation than ever was the case before, but it is rare indeed to find a school or college graduate who reads the Bible or who can grasp any allusion to its teachings or its literature."

"Precisely the same ignorance exists with regard to the great poets of the past, even Shakespeare and Milton."

"The situation little if any better with regard to geography and the histories of, say, France, Italy and Italy."

"What young person will you find who will appear to be intelligent if you question him or her concerning South America?"

"One well may ask, almost in despair, what, then, do these young people know?"

"The answer is that they have a smattering of many unrelated knowledges, with here and there some real understandings of a particular kind of knowledge."

"Their heads are cumbered with a host of indefinite impressions or opinions about mathematics, literature, politics, sociology, and economics. They are in that stage which takes H. G. Wells seriously as a historian."

"A study of school and college programs since 1890 would show that our American youth have been pretty badly treated."

Could a stronger defense of the Catholic educational system and methods be penned by a non-Catholic?

Just For Campaign?

Mention has been made very often in these columns of the fact that neither Catholics nor Jews, nor Universalists, nor Unitarians can hold office in the Young Men's Christian Association. They may hold membership, may pay dues but not hold office. This is no secret. Any one of the Catholic men who have affiliated with the "Y" could find this out for the asking.

This is not the fault of any local Y. M. C. A. official. He may not be in sympathy. Indeed he may be in the same boat as the drive manager in Welimantic, Conn., who discovered that fully 65 per cent of the residents of the town were Catholics and many of them were well informed of this restriction; obviously, it would be difficult task to raise a record-breaking fund for the "Y" under such conditions.

Mr. Manager called the local "Y" board together and explained the situation. It was soon voted to eliminate all the restrictions and then invite the Catholics to contribute and be represented in the governing board.

Theodore Roosevelt before his death came out against the restrictions and asked a national convention of the "Y" to raise the ban so that any believer in the existence of a God could hold any office in the organization which boasts its non-partisan, non-sectarian character. Led, we believe, by William Jennings Bryan, the national body voted by large majority to retain the restrictions.

Possibly, after the drive is over and the Catholics have contributed liberally, the Willimantic local of the Y. M. C. A. will be told by the National governing body that they had no right to do as they did and that the restrictions must stand.

Be Prepared

The many fatalities reported daily by auto collision; forgetting to wait for the release signal to cross railroad tracks, and by many other causes impels reiteration of the warning repeated so often in these columns: Be prepared at all times because one never knows when Death is hovering near.

Especially is it well to repeat the advice to be specially inquisitive when selecting a vacation location as to how near is a Catholic Church, how often is Mass celebrated?

Vacation accidents are terrible in themselves but how much is added to the worry of those interested if it happens that the one injured or killed is going to or from the vacation resort he or she has been for possibly four or eight weeks without assisting at mass?

Be prepared all around! The Rochester Herald thinks Vice-President Coolidge could qualify as a humorist. May be.

So Rochester is the bootleggers' paradise!

Sir Henry Wilson

Assassination is a terrible thing. Generally, it accomplishes nothing in the way of reform.

The world stood aghast at the assassination of Field Marshal Wilson, the English member of parliament but, of the following from the Roscommon "Herald" be correct, Sir Henry furnished provocation for the killing:—

He was the chief military adviser of the Craig and Carson party in Northeast Ulster. It was on his advice that the horrible policy of reprisals against Catholics, innocent or guilty, was put in force by the cutthroat gang of cowardly butchers, who masquerade as "Special B" police. For the murders and burnings that these men commit they are paid directly by the English treasury as well as by the foul brood of ascendancy bigots who pose as "the Government of Northern Ireland." In no part of the world today would Catholics be treated as they are in Belfast. Men, women and children are dragged from their homes, and asked "Are you a Catholic?" and when they reply "Yes," they are shot dead at once. We have to go back to the martyrs of the early Christian faith for the same horrors of martyrdom as these Catholics in our own day are suffering in Belfast. Amongst the vilest Turks or barbarous Zulus, such atrocities would not be possible. Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson, now lying dead in London, was the military brain that advised these atrocities, and laid the plans for their perpetration. The shooting down of him in London will fasten the eyes of the world on the horrors of the religious vendetta waged under the protection of the English flag in Belfast. The former Sultan of Turkey, called by England "Abdul the Damned," had his hands freer from the blood of helpless, innocent victims than this Field Marshal of England now gone to his last account. England, that howled at Turkey's former despot, had under her own wing and in her own pay, one just as reprehensible. If there are to be reprisals for the horrors of Belfast, it is far better that they should fall on an evil plottor like Wilson in imperial London than that they should take the shape of attacks on poor, defenseless Protestants in the South and West.

We would look with more favor upon an invitation to enter the League of Nations if European countries manifested any marked desire to rehabilitate themselves.

A correspondent of a contemporary asks why the theater managers do not give us in Rochester more grand opera? In the first place grand opera is expensive and in the second place there are not so many grand opera companies on tour. And only Mr. Eastman could afford to have an opera company make Rochester exclusively.

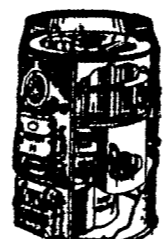
We heartily agree with the "Post Express" that postage rates on newspapers and magazines are too high. These prohibitive rates are a tariff on intelligence.

Does the American Designers Association imagine men can be driven into wearing any freakier clothes than they have been for the last few years?

Do you read the advertising pages of the Catholic Journal? Of course you do. If so, patronize our advertisers. They are all reputable dealers, their goods are as represented and they are located near your home—convenient for personal inspection. Pick out your own goods and supplies. Patronize the neighborhood store and cultivate the true Rochester community spirit.

Many taxpayers are with Senator Berah when he says political revolution impends unless Governmental expenditures are not curtailed.

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