

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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All Saints—All Souls

November, in the ordinary march of the calendar, is a month of gloom. Summer has gone its way. The general beauty of early Fall has passed away. Leaves have fallen from the trees; verdure has gone from the shrubbery; the flowers are wilted. Jack Frost has made the house chilly and quickened the step outdoors. Rain and slush may be expected, also the first fall of snow. Days are shortening, nights are lengthening and the sun's rays—when the sun shines—are far less in heating strength.

With rare intuition, the Church has set apart November as the month to pray for and remember the souls in Purgatory. The month's devotion opens with a day devoted to honoring all the Saints who have passed to the world beyond. The next day is especially devoted to prayer for all the poor souls and the other days are set apart for individual remembrance of departed loved ones and for all the Poor Souls.

The Poor Souls need our prayers. Let us not forget them during November and they surely will not fail us in hour of need.

Ready For The Polls

By the time our readers have gone over this issue of the Catholic Journal, the polls will be opening for election day, 1922.

The candidates have made their pleas to the voters; the state committees have sent out their campaign literature; the ward and town leaders have laid their plans to get the voters to the polls.

In other words, all is over but the polling and counting of the votes.

It has been a peculiarly listless campaign, up to the last ten days. Candidates, for governor, both well known and entertaining orators, were greeted at first with audiences not as large as might have been expected for headliners in the state campaign programme. Probably, the American voter, outside Indiana and Ohio, have been worked up to fever heat so often in the last four or five years on Liberty Loan, Red Cross Hospital, Community Chest and other drives that it is difficult to make them enthuse in a mere state campaign especially when we all know that the destinies of the Empire State are perfectly safe for the next two years no matter which of the two candidates for governor is successful at the polls next Tuesday.

But every citizen should vote next Tuesday.

Just for the sake of the record, John P. Cobalan who is running as an independent candidate for surrogate of New York county after being turned down by the primary ball is not the Cobalan who inspired the sanity of former Governor Wilson. That was the brother of John.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Miller soon will be through making faces at each other.

Irene Castle seems to have succeeded the late Elbert Hubbard as the most successful American self-advertiser.

Our Schools Win

Let us read well and ponder over the following news article sent out by the National Catholic Welfare Council; it may explain why there is such a persistent drive to exterminate Catholic schools in the United States:—

New York Catholic parochial and high schools made an impressive showing in the essay contest on "Fire Prevention" arranged as a feature of Fire Prevention Week, winning more than 70 per cent of the 234 gold and silver medals awarded by the bureau of fire prevention.

President Murray Hulbert of the board of aldermen announced the awards of the committee, which showed that 178 prizes had been won by Catholic school students and 76 by pupils of public elementary and high schools.

In many instances the Catholic schools won all the prizes given in their particular classes and sections. At the formal presentation of the prizes the winners were assembled on the plaza in front of the city hall, where President Hulbert made a congratulatory speech and pinned a medal on each winner. Gold medals were given to high school winners, of whom 23 out of 29 were from Catholic schools, and silver medals were given to grammar school students.

Our Catholic schools take care of the spiritual welfare of the pupils. That is count Number One against us say the unbelievers who would eliminate God and Religion altogether, if they could. Then we are able to compete with and win from the non-Catholic schools in the point of excellence in secular studies. That is count Number Two. If the Catholic schools were abolished it would be easy for the instructors to hold back Catholic pupils in the public schools.

Shall we permit the plot to go through?

Will He Win?

After something like seven years of well-nigh unlimited power, "the Greatest Opportunist of an Age", as some of his enemies have styled him, Lloyd George has been forced to resign as Premier of Great Britain. Perhaps, it may turn out that he resigned like Samson, of old, to pull down the pillars of the Temple and engulf his opponents as well as himself, because Mr. George has placed himself at the head of a new coalition and he may win back his power at the general election called for November 15.

Whether one admires or believes in him, Lloyd George is a man to be reckoned with. Tireless in action, keen in debate, a veritable human dynamo, Lloyd George is the British counterpart of our own Theodore Roosevelt. It may yet happen that Lloyd George who saved the English monarchy by winning the World's War may yet be the instrument whereby monarchy and its attendant expense to the English Nation, may be eliminated as a national institution.

But this will not come right away if Bonar Law captures a majority of the House of Commons at the coming election.

It is well to honor the memory of Theodore Roosevelt. No matter how we may have differed from his interpretation of political and other mooted questions, we all concede he was one of the finest examples of one hundred per cent American citizen. "Oh for a Theodore Roosevelt today" is the expression of the feeling of very many average citizens.

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Effect Lives

Probably, nothing in recent years in the way of Catholic literature or information has been read more generally or had more far reaching effect than Cardinal Gibbons' "Faith of Our Fathers". No one can estimate the number of converts to the Faith who were led to study the Truth from perusal of Cardinal Gibbons' book.

Not alone in the way of converts but in softening prejudice against the Church held by our non-Catholic friends has the book wielded far reaching influence as may be seen from the following extract from an article in the "Atlantic" from the pen of Rev. Joseph Fort Newton, pastor of the Church of the Divine Pater, New York:—

"As a lad, I knew nothing of Catholicism, save as a strange superstition called Popery, which I heard denounced as Antichrist, and every kind of ugly name. So, reading in the paper about Cardinal Gibbons, I made bold to write him a long letter, telling him of my case and the awful things I had heard about his Church. In closing I asked him to learn what the Church really taught, and something of his history. In due time came a letter, two pages long, written with his own hand, gentle and wise of spirit; and a few days later an autographed copy of his little book, The Faith of Our Fathers. Today I attended the service in his memory at the Cathedral on Fifth Avenue, drawn equally by a noble character and a great man who took time to answer the scrawled letter of a little boy eleven years old. Once more I felt the power of the Church, opening its arms alike to rich and poor, to the learned and the unlearned, flinging across their troubled lives the mantle of an august memory and an eternal hope—flooding the mortal scene with music and color and the romance of holiness!"

Just include the employer as well in the following editorial paragraph from an esteemed contemporary and the suggestion made is worth while:—"It appears to many that the workers in some cases lose sight of the fact that wages higher in figures do not always mean wages actually higher in proportion to the cost of living. A man was better off, so far as coal is concerned, when the price was \$4.50 a ton, when his wages were \$15 a week than he is now, with coal at \$13.85 a ton, even though his wages are \$35 a week. Until economists are given a voice in labor councils, strikes will continue to be the weapon of labor. When better business sense is injected into the deliberations of the workers, negotiation and arbitration will take the place of the strike."

New homes seem to be the order of the day in local fraternal organizations.

If the Masonic welfare programme is to uplift the entire community, why confine its presentation to the members' exclusive lodge rooms?

Various public officials will have to take a decided and decisive stand on some public questions ere long.

William E. Borah may be the Theodore Roosevelt of 1924. Remember what the late lamented Teddy did in 1912?

Henry Ford for President? Where and when did we hear that before?

James L. Hotchkiss seems to have stepped into Mr. Aldridge's place as Republican leader. Who is the Democratic leader?

Mr. P. H. Galvin as organizer and senatorial candidate seem to fit well in both roles.

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