

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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If paper is not received Saturday morning the office... Report without any delay change of address giving both old and new.

Friday, December 29, 1923. TELEPHONE MAIN 15-47. Entered as second class mail matter.

Rt. Rev. D. J. Curran. To all Catholics in Rochester, the Christmas joy was lessened by the news that flashed over the city on Christmas eve "The Vicar General is dead."

Rt. Rev. Dennis J. Curran was one of the best known Catholic priests in the Diocese. He had reached one of the high official stations in the Church. His parish was one of the flourishing churches in the city.

Father Curran was a splendid example of the American gentleman. A churchman always, but none the less an active participant in all movements for civic betterment.

Happy New Year. This is the time honored salutation between friends and some, too, who wish the world to think they are bosom friends.

But, between Catholics, the salutation means much. It means that we are beginning another year at peace with ourselves, our God and our neighbors.

We Catholics in America feel each year is a Happy New Year because we are here in a country undevastated by war and carnage and ruin.

The "First Lady." Very aptly the "Catholic Columbian" describes "the First Lady of the Land" as follows:— We have "first ladies of the land," and in fact, "first ladies" of everything—but the home.

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So it is that Ohio, that fruitful mother of Presidents, great men and women, presents to the nation a real "first lady." The wife of the Governor-elect of Ohio, Mrs. Donahey, has been but little in the public eye, despite the swift political career of her talented husband.

Governor-elect Donahey and his good will are the parents of twelve children—two being dead.

The Reason. United States Senator Pepper, of Pennsylvania, finds fault because leaders in business, social and professional circles do not take interest in public affairs or mix in politics.

There is a sufficient reason, in fact there are several reasons. In the first place, taking any part in politics costs money and many a man who would like to play a part in the public life of his community feels he cannot afford it as a side issue and he has no liking for politics or public life as a life's work.

Secondly: Men and women, under the present system must affiliate with or tag themselves with the brand of one or other of the political parties. This must be done a year in advance of the primaries, when issues generally are not defined or candidates made known.

If widespread and general interest in public affairs is desired or desirable then the present primary system must be changed so that anybody may enroll with a given party on primary day and then take part with that party in the ensuing campaign.

Which Way? Our contemporary, the "Union and Times", is perfectly justified in the following rant at our Anglo-American Admiral:—

There are times when, in explaining a term or describing a difference, one's meaning may best be conveyed by an apt illustration. Thus "The Rambler" in the New York American says that Admiral Sims' of jackass memory being asked on one occasion to define the difference between an Englishman and an American, replied: "When an Englishman enters an office he walks in as if he owned the place. When an American enters an office he walks in as if he didn't care who owned the place."

Vandalism, pure and simple, let alone the act of a bigot, is the destruction of the wonderful Notre Dame Cathedral in Quebec, with its priceless art treasures and wealth of traditions.

To subscribe to and read a Catholic paper during 1923 would be as good New Year resolution. Wet and dry advocates are both making big claims—to satisfy subscribers to the fund.

It will soon be Governor Smith.

From The Shoulder.

The "Rev." Fowler, possibly he is what Dr. Straton of New York styled "a lame duck preacher who could never hold a parish of any size—coolly admits he organized a branch of the Ku Klux Klan in Rochester and just as coolly finds fault with Rev. Clinton Wunder of the Rochester Baptist Temple because he did not respond to the invitation to join the Klan and is reported as hostile to the masked combine.

But in Rev. Mr. Wunder, "Rev." Fowler caught a Tartar. Mr. Wunder asks in return if the Klan is such a beneficent institution, if it is such an American organization why it is that its members are afraid to appear in public in its regalia without hiding their faces and concealing their identity? Also, if the Klansmen, like the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, the Knights of Columbus, Moose, Red Men, Elks and other fraternal organizations wear a button or other insignia on their coat lapel so that all their fellows may know their affiliation?

Then Mr. Wunder sails into the Klan itself as a combination un-American in aims, and purpose. He flays its sponsors as bigots and guilty of treason to the country in that they are breeding sectional prejudice, religious strife and local hatreds. He suggests that if it is permissible for the Baptists to go out masked and in secret to slay and main their Catholic neighbors, it is equally permissible for Catholics to plot against Jews, Gentiles against Christians, Negroes against whites, foreigners against natives, etc.

We congratulate Mr. Wunder on his manly stand. At the same time we call upon Mr. Fowler to make public his list of "several hundred of Rochester's prominent citizens who believe Catholics should not be allowed to live in Rochester, do business in Rochester; that Jews should be driven out of the city and that foreigners should be flogged and assassinated?"

Christmas spirit seemed to pervade all of Rochester this year. It is a healthy sign.

No one will begrudge fair salaries to the District Attorney and his staff.

Will the Ku Klux Klan lobby lists at Washington and Albany be registered under correct names?

Governor General Tim Healy would please more than old time Irishman were he alive to see the day.

Let us strive to do some good thing for somebody each day for the coming year.

"Blossom Time." "Blossom Time," the delightful operetta which the Messrs. Schubert will present at the Lyceum Theater for a return engagement of one week, beginning New Year's afternoon, is a musical treat of the finest calibre. It is now in its second year in New York. The story, based on the incidents in the life of Franz Schubert, is full of love, laughter and tears. Most of the musical numbers are Schubert's, adapted by Sigmund Romberg, who took great care to preserve all of the charm and exquisite melody of the famous composer's graceful "Serenade," "Songs of Love," "Ave Maria" and the "Moment Musical." With these and a few others Sigmund Romberg has encased "Blossom Time" in a rich and vibrant score. Seats now on sale.

Christmas Cheer.

The nurses at St. Mary's Hospital provided much of the Christmas entertainment for the patients. The Knights of St. John's

band provided a concert Saturday night. Christmas eve, the nurses' choir sang Christmas carols. Midnight mass followed. Gifts were provided by the Flower League.

At St. Ann's home, the Victorian circle was in charge of the day's programme. There was a Christmas tree with suitable remembrances for every one, special religious services and an appropriate Christmas dinner.

Masses on New Year's day will be the same as on Sundays at:— 6, 7, 8:15, 9:30 and high mass at 10:45 o'clock.

A solemn high mass was celebrated on Christmas eve at midnight by Rev. J. E. Gefell assisted by Howard Geck of St. Bernard's Seminary as deacon and Rev. George Kaib as subdeacon. The sermon on the "Nativity of Christ the Saviour", was delivered by Rev. Arthur Florack. The church has been tastefully decorated for the holidays and a new Christmas crib has been erected at the Sacred Heart altar where it will remain until Sunday, January 7th. The musical program was under the direction of Professor Weber. During the procession to the crib Holy Night was sung by Miss Effie Yawman.

The regular meeting of Branch 62, L.C. B. A., will take place on Thursday evening, January 4th. The members of this branch held their annual Christmas party after their last meeting when Santa Claus presented every member with a gift, also a gift from the Christmas tree. Mrs. Christina Geck who was Santa surely made every one happy and then came a good lunch to finish up the evening's pleasure.

The installation of officers of Ladies' Auxiliary, No. 44, Knights of St. John, will take place on Wednesday evening, January 3rd, on account of New Year's falling on Monday the regular meeting night of the Auxiliary. All members are invited. There will be a supper served after the meeting, so come and bring your appetite with you as there will be plenty for all.

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