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Thanksgiving

Notwithstanding the apparent increase in arrogant boldness by the Klan-bigots, we as Catholics have reason to thank Almighty God for many blessings and mercies.

We are in a free country. We are free men in a free country, in a free world. We have no King or potentate with power to plunge us into war. We are free to worship God as our conscience dictates and we concede to our brother who differs with us the right to differ.

Not yet 150 years old, this Republic in the heaven of rest for the oppressed of the world. We have prospered immeasurably. We have built up a system of laws; we have inaugurated and carried to completion industries now and old, especially steel.

And we have the room and the equipment for thousands more. The Stars-and-Stripes is brave enough to cheer the downtrodden of the world and to proclaim a new nation destined to be the melting pot of the world, not merely an Anglo-Saxon recrudescence.

In all these blessings we have reason to be thankful.

NERVOUS AGE

In reading our exchanges we ran across two opinions in papers published hundreds of miles apart that rightly illustrate the "nervousness" so to speak of this day and age.

Says "Church Progress" of St. Louis:—

With the intimate information which comes from personal contact not pleasing, but necessitated by the duty of directing and protecting its clientele, Catholic journalism is persistently issuing its warning against the literature of the times. This is one of its major obligations and, it may be truthfully said, one which it has always met completely and commendably. Yet, strange to say, there are those who do not realize the danger in the morally tainted book, the salacious story of the widely circulating magazine, or in the polluting plot of the surreptitiously popular novel. There is a reason, of course. Briefly, that reason is a corrupted moral sensibility.

Away off on the storm tossed shores of New Brunswick, Canada, the "New Freeman" points out that "The modern spirit conceives truth and justice as changeable from day to day. And it seems to hold that the more change there is, the more progress. It is the gripping fallacy of a nervous age."

When we relax from the post-war hysteria we may have a better conception of values and see that change is not necessarily progress, either in literature or governmental policies or in religious relations.

The political sportsman would displace all officials of high and low degree whether they have anything to do with politics or not or whether or not they won their positions in open competition, civil service examination.

If you have not been approached by a subscription to the new Aquinas Institute ask your parish priest for particulars. You have two years to pay and you will be aiding Bishop Sheen, the prelate, the Diocese and the Catholic boys and girls in one of the most important Catholic undertakings of the decade.

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How About It

Some enterprising figure compiler has discovered that one out of every 12,000 of our people is murderously attacked every year while but one to every 634,000 is the European average.

The American Bar Association makes these comparative figures to declare to the American people that our average of crime prevention is low while the percentage of violent crimes is very high.

Gilbert Cosulich, in an article printed in Good Housekeeping, has some interesting things to say about this. Here is a part of his opinion:—

"When a prospective assassin in America is about to pull the trigger, he knows that he will have three powerful friends, if he commits the deed. These three friends are Sentimentality, the New Psychology and Technicality. So he pulls the trigger and takes his chances. At that moment he becomes an enemy to society. And society means not a vague, impersonal identity, that includes no one in particular, but it means you, and me, and every individual in the community who does not relish being shot at as he walks the streets."

The Democrat and Chronicle is more inclined to introspection and plain speech as the days go on. Commenting on Mr. Cosulich's statement, the D. and C. goes on to say:—

It is so far as this is a true interpretation of "finger-on-trigger thoughts" in this land, and in so far we are contributory to such thinking, we certainly had best mend our ways.

Court practice is part of our ways that it needs mending our experts are unanimous in stating; sentimentality, the New Psychology and technicality are all beclouding of principle in our thinking about crime is probably true of us in considerable measure; the New Psychology is certainly true of us.

We do well to search out causes for criminal motives and practice, and to try to get rid of them; we do well to temper justice with mercy in light of what we know. But we are foolish when we fail to deal with crime as a fact. In Europe the man with his finger on the trigger realizes that he is about to become an outlaw, whose penalty will be promptly, severely administered by authority; with us he is not so sure. And he ought to be sure.

Reckless

It is shocking to read every morning of killings by auto—either the motorist himself was careless or intoxicated and failed to watch for railroad trains at the grade crossings, or a fellow motorist speeded into the careful driver with resultant loss of life, limb and damage to property.

In a recent statement, Corner David H. Atwater, whose professional experience has taught him to speak with reserve and in moderation, announced in emphatic language that he and other officers of the city and county were done with temporizing in the matter of reckless driving. According to the Coroner, the time has come for stern measures in dealing with those persons who so far forget the rules of the road as to endanger human life. Henceforth, there is to be no leniency shown by law enforcement officers to drivers caught disregarding highway regulations and thereby imperiling their own safety and that of others.

Any campaign to make safe the increasing crowded highways of this part of the state will be received with unanimous approval by all law-abiding motorists. No element of the population realizes more keenly than do drivers of automobiles the utter folly of reckless driving. The recent census of automobile drivers at grade crossings, made by the Pennsylvania Railroad, in which it was shown that only three per cent of all motorists observed were careless, is an excellent indication of how small is the class from which reckless drivers are drawn.

Then why not amend the law so that power to suspend or revoke the license of the careless driver be given the Courts.

That would be more efficacious than fine or imprisonment.

In The Open

In New York State, in New Jersey, in Indiana and in Georgia the Ku Klux Klan is coming into the open. Its devotees are laying aside mask and hood, showing their faces, letting names be known and telling the world they are against Catholics, Jews and Negroes. Parochial schools must be abolished, exterminated, burned to the ground.

These atheists want no child instructed in Religion especially by Catholic Priest, Brother or Sister.

Lets us be on guard, up and doing.

Social and fraternal organizations that fly high over their houses the Stars and Stripes should see to it that the laws of the nation are observed in the edifice over which that flag flies.

FUSSY

The Record of London, Ont., hits the nail on the head respecting the United States as well as Canada when it says:—

We live in an age which boasts of its liberty; yet perhaps in no period of known history was the sphere of liberty, civil, political, personal, so much invaded, so restricted by meddling, fussy legislation as our own. Very good but narrow and intolerant people by dint of agitation so play on the petroonery and selfishness of politicians, and on the credulity and ignorance of a section of the electorate, that personal freedom and personal responsibility are almost left out of consideration altogether. And yet freedom and responsibility are the father and mother of character development. Without freedom and responsibility, personal and national, character, personal and national, will be weak, servile, sullen and rebellious, or undeveloped.

The Klan wants the Catholic Schools abolished. Are the Klansmen ready to be assessed proportionately to provide school accommodations for the thousands of pupils now in the Catholic schools which we are maintaining out of our own pockets at the same time paying our proportionate share for maintenance of the state schools for the education of our non-Catholic neighbors children.

There may be difference of opinion as to the quality of this or that local secular paper. There is no argument to the proposition that every practical Catholic should have on his list, the Diocesan Catholic paper, and also a representative Catholic magazine to balance the flood of papers and magazines that stand for nothing in the way of moral uplift.

France fears a rejuvenated German empire. The French people will oust any government that eases up on Germany. France has the largest army, the largest available resources of any country in Europe. She is in position to dictate terms if she so chooses. That is the situation in a nutshell.

Shakespeare's plays came out 300 years ago and are still popular. That is more than can be predicted for some of the light-weight authors of today.

Like the defeated lawyer swears at the court, the defeated politicians find it convenient to lay blame on the "villainous" voting machines.

RELIEF FOR GERMANY FROM HIS HOLINESS AND FROM MEXICO

By Rev. Dr. Wilhelm Baron von Capitaine

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Cologne, Oct. 29.—Donations totaling \$50,000 Italian lire have been recently received from the Pope for the relief of the poor of Germany.

The Holy Father sent 150,000 lire each to Cardinal Schulte, Archbishop of Cologne and Cardinal Bertram, Prince-Bishop of Breslau; and 50,000 lire to the Bishop of Fulda for relief work in their respective dioceses.

Large donations for relief work have been received recently from the Catholics of Mexico. These contributions have been due in a large measure to the appeal sent to that country by the Rt. Rev. Wilhelm Berning, Bishop of Osnabruck. Under the leadership of Archbishop Mora, of Mexico City, an organization has been formed to raise funds for relief work in Germany. Many of the women of the upper classes of Mexican society are cooperating with members of the German colony there in this work.

VALUABLE HISTORICAL RECORDS PUBLISHED

(By N. C. W. C. News Service). Dublin, Nov. 5.—Valuable Irish historical documents have been published in the "English Historical Review." They include a series of confidential opinions regarding the financial and industrial crisis which led to the movement for Free Trade in the latter quarter of the eighteenth century.

The documents had never been published before. In some instances the originals were burned in the Record office of the Four Courts last year. Luckily before they were destroyed copies had been made by Dr. George O'Brien, the eminent Catholic economist and author. They were edited by him for publication in the "English Historical Review."

CHINESE FLY FLAG IN HONOR OF THE "LITTLE FLOWER"

(By N. C. W. C. News Service). Yunnanfu, China, Oct. 20.—The national flag of China was among those displayed during the Beatification of the "Little Flower." Chinese Catholics all over China responded generously to the appeal sent out by the Vicar Apostolic of Yunnan. The funds gathered amounted to far more

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Sunday, November 18.—St. Odo of Cluny, was the son of a noble of Aquitaine. His father wished to see him distinguished at Court but the call of the religious life was too strong. He took the habit of St. Benedict at Baume and later became abbot of the great abbey of Cluny. The Pope sent him often as a peace-maker on missions to princes. On one of these missions he was taken ill at Rome and, at his urgent request, carried back to Tours where he died in 942.

Monday, November 19.—St. Elizabeth of Hungary, was the daughter of a King of Hungary and the niece of St. Hedwige. She was betrothed in infancy to Louis, Landgrave of Thuringia and brought up in his father's court. While her husband lived she devoted her wealth and influence to charitable purposes. When he died she was driven from the palace and forced to wander the streets with her children. She died in 1231 at the age of twenty-four.

Tuesday, November 20.—St. Felix of Valois was the son of the Count of Valois. An unjust divorce between his parents led him to take the Cistercian habit at Clairvaux. After living for a time as a hermit in Italy he returned to France where after another period of solitude he and St. John of Matha formed the Order of the Holy Trinity for the redemption of Christian captives. The order was confirmed by Pope Innocent III. The Saint died in 1213.

Wednesday, November 21.—The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is an ancient tradition that the Blessed Virgin Mary was solemnly offered to God in the Temple in her infancy. The tender soul of Mary was then adorned with the most precious graces, an object of astonishment and praise to the angels and of the highest complacency to the adorable Trinity, the Father looking upon her as His beloved daughter, the Son as one chosen and prepared to become His mother, and the Holy Ghost as His darling spouse.

Thursday, November 22.—St. Cecilia, virgin, who was martyred in 177, was a rich, beautiful and noble Roman maiden. On her wedding, evening she renewed the vow by which she had consecrated her virginity to Christ. Her husband was converted by her words and a few days later was martyred. Cecilia herself was placed in a hot air bath heated to seven times its customary temperature but was unharmed after a day and a night. She was dispatched with the sword, although she remained with head half severed for two days and nights.

Friday, November 23.—St. Clement of Rome, was consecrated Bishop by St. Peter himself and was among the first of those who have held the place and power of Peter. His famous epistle to the Corinthian Church which was torn with schism and rebellion. Shortly afterwards St. Clement sealed with his Blood the Faith which he had learned from Peter and taught to the nations.

Saturday, November 24.—St. John of the Cross, became the first prior of the Barefooted Carmelites. His reform though approved by the General was rejected by the elder friar. Three times he was shamefully persecuted by his brethren and publicly disgraced. But his complete abandonment by creatures only deepened his interior peace and devout longing for Heaven.

DR. MAURICE F. EGAN CONTINUES TO GAIN

(By N. C. W. C. News Service). Brooklyn, Nov. 9.—Maurice Francis Egan, former United States Minister to Denmark, is improving rapidly. He is now resting well in the home of his daughter, Mrs. G. A. O'Reilly, following his removal here from the Skene Sanitarium.

240 AT LOS ANGELES SCHOOLS FOR JAPANESE

(By N. C. W. C. News Service). Los Angeles, Nov. 7.—The school conducted for Japanese children in this city by the Maryknoll Sisters under the direction of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America opened this year with 240 pupils.

The school building was erected largely through funds gathered among the Japanese, and is an attractive building, well-staffed and highly appreciated.

than the price of the flag and the surplus was sent to the Carmel at Lisieux.

AS DIOGENES, the ancient Greek philosopher, passed through the department stores and trinket shops on Main Street, Athens, he is said to have remarked: "How many things there are for which DIOGENES has no need!" Different with us moderns. We say, "How many things we need," which, being interpreted, means "We must have 'em." And so the money dribbles away. If we could hang on to more of it we could buy a lot of good things, bye and bye, with the interest on our investments.

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