

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

Published Every Friday At 113 North Water Street By The Catholic Journal Publishing Company, Rochester, N. Y.

If paper is not received promptly notify the office. Report without delay change of address giving both old and new.

Communications solicited from all Catholics accompanied in every instance by the name of the author. Name of contributor withheld if desired.

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Friday, January 11, 1924

TELEPHONE MAIN 1567

Entered as second class mail matter.

Think It Over!

In two recent "drives" for big money, the Catholic laity of Rochester demonstrated fully and conclusively that they could hold up the hands of the Bishop and clergy and plan and put through successfully a campaign to raise the necessary funds.

We went away over the top for St. Mary's Hospital.

Inside of twenty-four months we repeated on a still larger scale the drive for the new Aquinas Institute.

While we deserve and expect to continue in harmonious co-operation with our non-Catholic friends and neighbors in all general philanthropic and charitable and benevolent undertakings these must continue to be conducted along absolutely non-sectarian lines and merely as a clearing house not by an autocratic bureaucracy with individual initiative and control eliminated and the "non-sectarian" spelling only "non-Catholic."

Otherwise we may ask to conduct our own campaigns, raise our own funds, spend our own money on ourselves.

Bulwark

In conversation with the writer not so long since, a well known public man who is familiar with national and state matters, remarked very impressively:

"The greatest bulwark against absolute anarchy in this country and in fact in the entire world is the Catholic Church. Notwithstanding force onslaughts and the most specious arguments in favor of what I call spurious progress, she never changes, never swerves from the straight path. Withdrawn the staunch support of law and order by the Catholic Church the forces of anarchy would soon overturn our Government at Washington."

This gentleman, who is not a Catholic, confounds the Church with the Faith. It is the faith that has been handed down to us by Christ Himself, exemplified by the living Church, that never has changed. Truth is immutable—it cannot be alloyed. And this is why the Catholic Church waxes strong and mighty and overcomes her adversaries. She teaches Truth and Truth undiluted and unadulterated. She stands squarely on the Master's teachings. She sets her face against divorce and for the preservation of the sanctity of the marriage tie and the continuity of the home.

The Faith and its exponent, the Church has continued for centuries and will continue to the end of time.

It does look as if our non-Catholic friends want to believe as little as possible and so leave no excuse for any person to stay outside the Church. But if there's nothing to believe, nothing more than ordinary brotherhood in the Church, why is not affiliation with any decent fraternity enough? Wherein does the ordinary non-Catholic cult appeal to the average man more than the average fraternity? The fraternity preaches the brotherhood of man, the fatherhood of God, Charity to neighbor and service to brother. When the divinity of Christ is denied and the truth of Scripture scouted and the Resurrection classed as a symbolic myth, wherein does the Church hope to attract and hold the average man in competition with a mere fraternal lodge.

Let us hope Commissioner of Public Works Baker keeps the collection of streets and sewers up to the mark.

Irreverent

There has appeared on the horizon in these latter days a school of writers and alleged "thinkers" whose mission appears to break down all ancient traditions of religion, decent thought, faith and hitherto accepted articles of belief.

A writer for the C. B. of C. V. has exposed one of these writers. He says—

We have before us a book which is entitled "Rest Days." A study in Early Law and Morality, by Hutton Webster, Ph. D. (New York, 1916). According to a statement on the first page, and another on the last page, the book is an attempt to show that all "holidays" (Christian holy days included) are survivals of savage superstition. We quote the two extracts.

On page 1 we read: "A survey of the evidence to be submitted indicates that the sabbatarian regulations have arisen chiefly, if not wholly as pure superstition, the product of an all too-logical intellect or of a disordered fancy. In the last analysis they are based primarily on fear. On the last page is found the dictum: "The passage of the holy day into a holiday, beginning in the lower culture, promises to reach its culmination in the secularizing of all the great festivals of the Christian year."

Every student of culture knows, of course, that some of the Christian festivals have an analogue in pagan rites. But to reduce such great solemnities as the Christmas and Easter observance to "survivals of pagan fear" is to betray one's ignorance of the Christian meaning of "holy days."

Catholics in America will keep alive the holy-day spirit.

A Problem

Alvin Macaulay has issued a pamphlet on street congestion in cities or as he puts it, "the new saturation problem." He points out that while many persons would like to buy automobiles they are deterred because the streets are becoming so congested that the auto may not be safely or profitably used to travel to business or use in business trips while use for pleasure in the business section is practically out of the question.

"Already traffic conditions are forcing voluntary limitations on the use of automobiles," observes this commentator. "Many suburban residents will not use them at all during certain hours, in the shopping and theatrical districts of New York walking even in bad weather, is preferred by some to the exasperations of trying to get to a destination in a taxicab."

And that Mr. Macaulay does not overdraw the picture is confirmed by the general movement all over the country looking toward restrictions on the use of automobiles. Traffic ordinances and parking regulations are being made more stringent and the use of motor vehicles held to strict limits.

Public safety is part of the traffic problem. Mr. Macaulay remarks: "It is futile to denounce the pedestrian and, as he says, 'fourish statistics to show that fewer persons die in automobile accidents than in measles.' The problem is a real one and in Rochester or wherever humanity is huddled in cities, it seems to require the most serious attention of such men as Mr. Macaulay. It is not a question that can be settled finally by city ordinances or police regulation. These are but temporary expedients, the remedy must be sought elsewhere."

Mr. Macaulay puts his finger on the source of the trouble when he says that the root of the evil can be traced to the planlessness of our cities. It follows, therefore, that the cure is indicated in a revision of street plans.

Already Rochester is awake to the seriousness of the problem. Several thousand young persons were delighted to welcome Jack Frost to Rochester if their elders were not.

At a recent inter-denominational conference of Protestant workers in Columbus, Ohio, Rev. Dr. Frank P. Parkin suggested that Protestants observe Lent with greater fervor.

Governor Smith has designated Rev. Aloysius Dineen as Chaplain of the National Guard of New York State.

The beginning of the period for filing Federal income tax returns for 1923 fell on January 1.

"The peace of Christ in the reign of Christ" is the general intention of the Sacred Heart League for January.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society in St. Louis expended \$74,202.36 in good works during the year ended September 30, 1923.

Dr. Butler Opposes

Nicholas Murray Butler may be reactionary in politics and a stand-patter but he is on sound ground in opposition to the Federalization of the school system of the United States presided over by an autocrat stationed with arbitrary powers in Washington. In a recent address before the State Educational Association of Pennsylvania, Dr. Butler said:—

"In particular, it is vital if the American school system is to survive, that the federal government keep its hands off the schools. Imagine our diverse and diversified population living under widely-varying conditions all brought to heel in their schools, as the people of Prussia once were, by the authority and edicts of a central office at the national capital. I should regard any such development as marking the beginning of the end of the America which our fathers knew and of that American school system in which our generation has been brought up."

"There are no doubt those who sincerely believe that the Prussian ideal of organized efficiency is superior to the old American ideal of personal liberty and freedom of initiative in as many fields of endeavor as possible. Freedom, with all its mistakes, is infinitely to be preferred to the rule of the most benignant tyrant or that of the most effective bureaucracy."

Dr. Butler referred to a proposal that the national government appropriate \$100,000,000 annually to aid State school work as "distinctly harmful from whatever point of view it be examined."

It is difficult to decide which course will prove more efficient in reducing automobile accidents to compel every operator to be examined and licensed or to compel all automobile operators to carry casualty and liability insurance.

If the Knights of Columbus organize and safe-guard their proposed "Junior Order" they will find it a splendid recruiting agency for the senior order.

"Father and Sons gatherings" appear to be growing in popularity. And they may tend to keep Daddy on his toes, so to speak, in keeping acquainted with Son and it may tend to make the Father's more particular as to what they say and do in purely men's gatherings.

Political pot seems to be simmering with a President and Congress and Governor to be elected 1924 is likely to be an eventful year and fraught with importance to the people of the world as well as of the United States.

It is gratifying to have Industrial Commissioner Shubert report that compensation now reaches the injured workman sooner than heretofore.

The annual tug of war between a Governor and Legislature of opposite political faiths is in progress in Albany.

Mr. William H. Anderson prefers to discuss increased bank deposits rather than increase in crime since the Volstead Act went into effect.

Once again we have the New York State Legislature with us. Likewise the Congress of the United States.

Mme. Montessori Given Degree (By N. C. W. C. News Service) London, Jan. 2.—The University of Durham broke away from a tradition of long standing and conferred an honorary degree on a Catholic. The degree, that of honorary D. Litt. of Durham University, was conferred on Dr. Maria Montessori. Dr. Montessori has gained wide distinction for her interest in the education of young children.

NEW YORKERS SEND WREATH TO FUNERAL OF MAURICE BARRES

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Paris, Dec. 28.—Among the numerous floral tributes at the funeral of Maurice Barres, was a beautiful wreath sent in the name of the Society of Saint Joan of Arc, of New York.

This was very fitting tribute, for it was Maurice Barres who first proposed that the feast of Saint Joan of Arc be made a national holiday. It was his desire to place France under the protection of the Saint. Maurice Barres was given the task of reporting the bill in Parliament, establishing this holiday, and had the joy of seeing the measure passed.

HISTORIANS TO MEET IN WASHINGTON (By N. C. W. C. News Service) Columbus, Ohio, January 4.—The next annual meeting of the American Historical Society will be held in Washington, according to announcement made at the closing session of the 1923 convention here.

CROWS PURE ON GOLF BALLS ANTI-INTOLERANCE ACT

To Be Considered By COMMITTEE OF HOUSE (By N. C. W. C. News Service) Washington, Jan. 4.—One of the bills which will be before the House Judiciary Committee for consideration when Congress reconvenes after the holidays, is that known as the "Anti-Intolerance Act," introduced December 31. The occasion was made a part of the observance of the ending of the old and the beginning of the new year. Bishop Joseph Schrembs officiated and in the course of the ceremony made an address in which he eulogized those whose generosity had been recognized by the Pope.

Insignia of the rank of commander of Knights of St. Gregory was conferred on Caesar A. Grasselli and Thomas K. Maher and decorations were presented to Misses Emma and Katherine Smith and Mrs. F. E. Cook, sisters of Msgr. Joseph F. Smith, vicar-general of the diocese. Mr. Grasselli gave a former suburban home and spacious grounds as a home for crippled children. This gift is about 10 miles from the center of the city and already has a number of crippled children as residents who are being given care by sisters of the Humility of Mary. Mr. Maher gave in his own name and that of his wife his farm of 260 acres and several buildings thereon just outside the western limits of Elyria, O. to the Sisters of Charity as a motherhouse, if they chose to use it for that purpose. The Misses Smith and Mrs. Cook gave \$25,000 toward the building of the Church of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament for Negro Catholics in this City. It is the first church exclusively for these people in the diocese. It already has a good sized congregation although it is less than two years old.

B. L. KENNELLY, NOTED EXPECT IN NEW YORK REAL ESTATE, IS DEAD (By N. C. W. C. News Service) New York, Jan. 4.—Funeral services for Bryan L. Kennelly, prominent financial and real estate expert were held in St. Patrick's Cathedral here on Monday morning. Mr. Kennelly was stricken on Friday at his desk in the Harriman National Bank of which he was First Vice President, and died a few minutes later. Mr. Kennelly was a graduate of Manhattan College. He was a member of the Catholic Club of New York, the Manhattan, New York Athletic, Andiron, Pilgrims, Army and Navy Clubs; the Baltuaro, Apawamis, Oakland, and Knollwood Golf Clubs, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, the American Yacht Club and the Automobile Club of America and an honorary member of the Burgess Association of Albany.

AUTHOR WITHDRAWS OBJECTIONAL NOVEL (By N. C. W. C. News Service) New York, Jan. 4.—Floyd Dell, author of "Janet March", and his publisher, Alfred A. Knopf, have agreed to withdraw the novel, from further circulation. The agreement followed a conference between District Attorney pointed out certain features of the book that had been found objectionable. Mr. Knopf, after consulting his attorney, decided not to continue the sale. The sale of this novel has been stopped in several New England towns by the Watch and Ward Society.

LEOPARD CULTS IN AFRICA (By N. C. W. C. News Service) Victoria, British Columbia, Jan. 4.—A party of hunters, who had an opportunity to learn something about two of the best-known leopard societies, has this to say in Adventure Magazine about the Sierra Leone branch: "Members of this society can often be recognized at night, as many of them have the sharply protruding forehead, caused by pressure applied in infancy by their mothers."

When the society wishes to kill a man certain members are chosen for the deed. These are armed with sets of iron instruments fastened inside both hands and they track their victim until they come upon him in a lonely part of the bush. They watch their opportunity, and then spring upon him from behind and seize him by the throat. Should the body ever be discovered, the man upon it is exactly resemble the way made by leopard claws that the death is put down to those claws."

Store Wrecked by Auto 40 Times (By N. C. W. C. News Service) Paris, Dec. 28.—The remains of the North end road which progresses in the direction of the motor driven vehicles. The road is a desecrated street. It has been wrecked forty times in the last thirty years. Three months ago a motorist did drive through its glass front and died on the spot. A few days later a motor lorry crashed through into the middle of the shop without causing any fatalities. Recently a taxicab went right through the store breaking the large red-closet glass that still mark a drug store in France, overturning the counter and doing a total \$1,500 worth of damage to the stock. The proprietor of the store complains that these repeated mishaps are ruining his business and his shop is now under repairs and customers go elsewhere.

Phoenician Stone (By N. C. W. C. News Service) The Phoenician stone was a famous imposture in the shape of a stone, bearing a bilingual inscription in Greek and in pretended Phoenician, and purporting to be a genuine tablet of the Fifth century B. C. In 1824 the stone was sent from Malta to Royal Rochelle curator of the cabinet of antiquities at Paris and was declared to be genuine by him. A copy of the inscription was sent to several of the learned men of Europe for decipherment and translation. Among the savants imposed upon, in addition to Rochelle were Gervais of Halle and Hamaker of Leyden. The Phoenician stone was afterward proved to be a hoax.

Discovery of three new glaciers in the Blatter Root range in Montana was made recently by Theodore Shoemaker and K. E. Swan in the forest service. All are located on a ridge between the Big and Kootenai creeks. A climb of 4,000 feet was made by the explorers into a wild and little traveled section before the glacial formations were sighted. One of the ice masses was of huge proportions, while the other two were considerably smaller. Inspection of the area, including the study of rock deposits and other geological signs, indicates that the glaciers are receding rapidly, Mr. Shoemaker said.

Lifting Power of Air and Gas (By N. C. W. C. News Service) The lifting power of air is 0.105 pounds per 1000 cubic feet of air for each degree Fahrenheit above the temperature of the surrounding air. This weight is the total weight inclusive of the dead weight of the balloon. The lifting power of hydrogen is 7.11 pounds per 1000 cubic feet. The lifting power of helium is 6.97 pounds per 1000 cubic feet, the temperature of these last two being the same as that of the surrounding air.

INSIGNIA OF PAPAL HONORS CONFERRED ON CLEVELAND CITIZENS

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Cleveland, Jan. 2.—Investiture of the insignia of papal honors recently conferred upon five local benefactors to the Church took place in St. John's cathedral on the evening of December 31. The occasion was made a part of the observance of the ending of the old and the beginning of the new year. Bishop Joseph Schrembs officiated and in the course of the ceremony made an address in which he eulogized those whose generosity had been recognized by the Pope.

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OUR ANNUAL JANUARY

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