

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL "Away From Rome"

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Friday, February 1, 1924

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A Champion

In an interesting article in "Columbia" entitled "The Champion of Religious Freedom", Bambridge Colby has this to say of Thomas Jefferson:

"I am for freedom of religion, and against all manoeuvres to bring about a legal ascendancy of one sect over another." Thus wrote Thomas Jefferson in 1789, to his friend Elbridge Gerry—some thirty-three years after he had made America proclaim religious freedom as a fundamental plank of the American social platform in the Declaration of Independence. It is a pity to have to say so, but there is urgent need for all Americans to remind themselves now of the words of the author of the Declaration of Independence, for, much as we may deplore it, the plain fact is before us that there appears to be another of the recurring waves of religion and racial prejudice passing over the country.

I believe, with many students of American sociology, that these billions of prejudices are temporary, and that they coincide with the advent of some great crisis that unites thought and action on the part of the various racial and religious organizations within the nation. But, unfortunately, no sooner has the crisis passed than we see its aftermath—the prejudice. After the Civil War we had the Know-Nothing movement, and now, when we had thought that the unifying tendencies of the common effort in the Great War had definitely brought together in a true and patriotic understanding Americans of all racial strains and all religious creeds, we find religious bigotry assertive and spreading, accompanied by manifestations of racial discrimination.

It is impossible for anybody cherishing hope for the future prosperity of America to believe that this condition is anything but transitory; but this impossibility is predicated upon an optimism which all do not share. There is hope, however, in the general disaffection of reasonable men for the evidences of prejudice of a religious and racial character, no matter where or by whom these evidences are shown.

A Queer Story

No matter how the jury regarded the public in general will take "with a grain of salt", Mr. William H. Anderson's story on the witness stand that an unknown philanthropist had thought so highly of the American services to the anti-saloon league that he handed over \$25,000 as one clear present and later on another of \$2,000. Also that Anderson disbursed that \$25,000 through a publicity man, also unknown and later on made the Anti-Saloon League reimburse him for the \$25,000 so spent but listed on the League's books as "loans from Anderson."

Both tales are too reminiscent of the words "El Moo" who told the New York State Senate Committee that he was in the habit of carrying a stack of American bills to Albany and disbursing in the purchase of liquor and amusements and then returning the bills by selling to a member in the State Assembly. It is never known to whom the bills were sold.

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Convert

Rev. John Albani was long known in Europe as the leader of the "Away from Rome" leader. But he was led back to the old Church by observation of Catholic soldiers and Catholic priests in the great World War. In writing of his experiences Dr. Albani said that it was difficult for him for a long time to detach himself entirely from the Protestant train of thought.

The faithful Catholic, he writes, has no notion of how difficult it is to become a sincere Protestant, educated according to specific Protestant teachings, to recognize his duty to join the Catholic Church. It is as if he were to hear him tell of the happiness which he experienced when his struggles were finally over and his conversion to the Catholic Church was accomplished.

"The very first confession afforded me the greatest benediction" he writes. "It was a help for me such as nobody had ever given me before. Thus from the very beginning Confession has not been for me a duty but a high privilege. In days of threatening external distress, I had, unexpectedly and undeservedly, the good fortune to become intimately acquainted with things to which my dogmatic thinking had not previously extended. I mean communion with the Blessed Virgin and the Saints. It is all the same to me what my former fellow-believers may say—they may laugh at me. I found wonderful help, absolute help from the Saints in hours of distress. Since that time, respectful communion with them has become a consolidation of my life in the light of eternity. I enjoy their counsel when my will is vacillating. I have their aid when my strength is growing weak. Thus my life has become a rich and ever richer gathering of the harvest."

The former "Los von Rom" enthusiast finishes the story of his conversion with the confession: "I believe in the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; that is the real reason and aim of my return to Rome."

Wrong Philosophy

Recently, the Washington "Post" printed a symposium of views on the present day unrest, one of the contributors was Cardinal O'Connell of Boston. Among other things his Eminence said:—

The distress and the turmoil of our day are the result of a wrong philosophy of life. Men are striving to order peacefully the affairs of their fellow man, and they fail to understand the true nature of human life, the final destiny of man and man's constant and inescapable responsibility to his Creator. If the essential and vital relationship in human life of creature to Creator is ignored where is the foundation for an enduring social and civic structure?

In the holy scriptures we learn of a man who built his house upon a rock. The winds and the storms destroyed the house of the foolish builder. They made no impression on the work of the man who built upon a strong foundation. The divine foundation for correct living was given to the world by Jesus Christ, incarnate Son of God. His truth, His principles, His ideals form the only basis upon which human society can rest in safety and security. It is the sublime mission of the Church of Christ, builded by her Divine Founder on the rock of Peter, to teach Christian truth and to uphold Christian standards and Christian ideals everywhere and for all time. In her pulpits and in her schools and colleges the Church of Christ carries on indefatigably her work of Christian education. It is her duty to place before men, on her divine authority, the power and the beauty of the revelation which God has made known to His world. The Church is the great guardian of human society and the custodian and teacher of His divine truth and the dispenser of His divine mysteries.

A false philosophy of life has worked its havoc in the world, but God does not forget His people. Leaders and followers, governments and citizens have but to bring to their problems the religious principles taught by Jesus Christ. When Christian ideals rule the hearts and the conduct of men, then we shall have peace. "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, if thou didst but know the things that are for thy peace."

If the high cost of paper and production would result in the elimination of a few scores of the cheap and useless magazines that now cumber the news stands, that would not be a great pity.

Peculiar ideas of ethics are possessed by some men. Ex-secretary Fall did not appear to see anything wrong in borrowing \$100,000 from the man who secured a valuable Governor. Limerick was President of St. Mun-erick Van Praet, a missionary, has been kidnapped by bandits at Teles-shan, a province in China, near the Mongolian border, according to word received here from Shanghai.

Canon Keane Made Bishop of Limerick

Dublin, Jan. 21.—Very Rev. Canon Leemans, his companion, escaped. Dublin, Jan. 21.—Very Rev. Canon Leemans, his companion, escaped. Dublin, Jan. 21.—Very Rev. Canon Leemans, his companion, escaped.

Good Work!

It is gratifying to learn that the State Department of Labor, that branch of State Government which has to deal directly or indirectly with all the people of the State is functioning efficiently, intelligently and promptly.

To be sure, the Associated Industries did not substantiate charges made a few days ago but, as the result of the prompt inquiry by the splendidly equipped Governor they, too, must be gratified to find their apprehensions unfounded as that organization has vital interest in the Department of Labor, especially in the efficient administration of the Workmen's Compensation Bureau.

The inquiry has also demonstrated that New York State has a Governor who is exceptionally well informed as to the State business and affairs.

In both respects the State is to be congratulated.

Secretary of Treasury Mellon appears to be a pretty, fair rough and tumble antagonist.

Let us see if the new British Labor Government can solve the problem of Europe's unrest better than ex-Premiers Lloyd George and Mr. Baldwin.

Albany's Legislature will now resume the center stage.

How many of us made New Year resolutions? How many of us have kept them?

Mark A. Daly costs Associated Industries, Inc. \$17,000 a year. Comes high!

England's nobility will soon learn whether the Labor Parliament would emulate the French Revolution.

Lenin is gone but Trotzky remains.

Judge Arthur E. Sutherland never showed to better advantage than before Governor Smith in the recent Labor inquiry. His adroitness saved his clients from utter rout.

When a lobbyist brings his principal into the limelight his usefulness is gone. The lobbyist is paid to be the goat.

Fight On Birth Control Clinic To Be Continued

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Chicago, Ill., Jan. 25.—The battle of Mayor Dever, Health Commissioner Bundensen and other city officials against the attempt of a number of wealthy club women to establish a "parents' clinic" for birth control teaching, will be taken to the appellate court by the city, following the ruling of Judge Harry Fisher of the circuit court, on a technical point, raised by attorneys for Archbishop George W. Mundelein. These attorneys had asked for a reversal that the protest of the city against a writ secured by the Illinois Birth Control League, compelling the city to issue a license for the clinic, was insufficient.

Incidental to the hearing strong anti-birth control testimony was introduced. Health Commissioner Bundensen and Dr. Francis J. Gerty, superintendent of the Psychopathic hospital both testified that the methods employed were physically and mentally disastrous to the patient, and that they were not taught in the medical schools, or advocated in the medical journals.

Other evidence introduced was that the age of parents was not a basis for determining the excellencies of a child, as Lincoln's father was 21 years old when the great son was born; Napoleon's father 23, when the great warrior was born, and that Benjamin Franklin's father was over 40 when "Poor Richard" was born.

Protestant Editor Pays Tribute To The "Priest Of Everybody"

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Auburn, N. Y., Jan. 24.—The death of Rev. Herbert Regenbogen, pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in this city for 27 years, called forth the following editorial reference to his career in the Auburn Citizen, a secular newspaper:

"The late Father Regenbogen was a personality of unique distinction, yet outside of the members of his congregation and the circle of the poor and lowly of Auburn he was comparatively unknown.

"He was a type of priest pictured often in literature—humble self-sacrificing to a remarkable degree, all ways kind, forgiving and lovable, and ready to sacrifice his last possession to aid the unfortunate.

"Very few really knew the extent of his charities because of the degree of Christian humility to which he carried on his work, and in these times his type of ministering angel is rare.

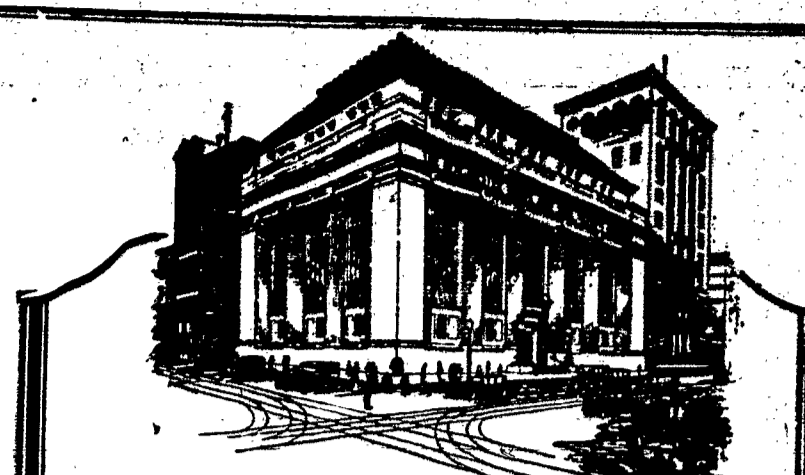
"Our knowledge of Father Regenbogen was never direct—his path and our path never came together—but we have always heard of his deeds and his saintly character, and our admiration grew with the years. Few men, lay or clerical, have ever embodied so many gentle virtues and served humanity more helpfully. The absence of his sweet personality from this community will prove a loss to all. He was everybody's priest."

Father Regenbogen died January 17 after a long period of ill health. Bishop Thomas F. Hickey was celebrant of the Pontifical Requiem Mass on Monday. The dead priest was born in Wuertemberg, Germany, 59 years ago. Burial was in St. Joseph's cemetery this city.

Carroll Club Takes Communion In Body

New York, Jan. 22.—In commemoration of the birth of Mrs. Mary Carroll Garvan, mother of Mrs. Nicholas F. Brady, who founded the Carroll Club five years ago, the members of that organization received communion in a body at St. Patrick's Cathedral last Sunday morning.

The distinguished Irish economist, Father Tom Finlay, has repeatedly pointed out the economic loss that Ireland suffers by exploiting animals alive instead of establishing a dead meat trade.



Procrastination

is the thief of time—but it steals much more.

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A MEMORY TEST

THINK back a month and recall what you spent your money for—if you can. If you can't, ask yourself if things you can't recall are worth buying. Mental exercise like this will help your bank account; for it will show you the wisdom of giving more attention to it.

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