

# The Catholic Journal

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## Set Right

Governor Smith is a "live wire to monkey with" as not a few of his would-be opponents have found out to their sorrow.

Some of these half-baked enthusiasts fancied they had discovered something to the Governor's discredit when they read he had granted 92 pardons in the year 1925 and forthwith with sent up a howl that the Governor had not only usurped judicial powers but was emptying New York's state prisons. How "Al" turned the tables completely on these traducers is thus told by a secular contemporary not of the Governor's political persuasion:

"Governor Smith's reply to the velle charges made by the Baumes committee of the Legislature with regard to his use of the pardoning power is one of those documents that display his unrivalled command of the business of the state, and the hit or miss methods of many of the attacks upon him.

"It has been asserted that the Governor had granted 92 pardons in the year 1925, and the natural inference to be drawn from this statement was that the same number of criminals had been released from confinement.

"The facts are shown to be far otherwise. The number of pardons actually granted was 86, and of these, all but 9 were issued after the expiration of the prison term, and solely with the object of working restoration of citizenship. As for the other cases, every one of them was issued upon the request of the prosecuting officer, or of the judge who imposed sentence, or in one of two instances, on account of the physical condition of the prisoner.

"There were also 79 cases of commutation of sentence. In virtually every one of these the recommendation of the prosecuting officer and the trial judge were the basis of the action taken.

"Such facts ought to be fairly reassuring as to the exercise of the pardoning power in this state. The lax use of that power is a grave matter, calling for the full measure of public condemnation. But there is no reason to believe that there has been anything seriously to complain of in the state of New York."

## Radio

While it is possible that Congress will not this year pass the proposed law to restrict and control radio broadcasting, nevertheless it is patent there must be either congressional regulation or there must be radio Landis or Hays if the "listeners-in" do not rise up in rebellion.

It is obvious to the listener-in and he is the one to whom broadcasters must cater if the radio dealers and manufacturers hope to sell their product that there are too many greedy broadcasters operating on the same or nearly the same wave lengths. In order to monopolize the air and to compel listeners-in to listen exclusively to their air output, the temptation is great to put competitors wave length or to crowd on more power than the license allows and who is there to gainsay the assertion that, not infrequently, there is yielding to temptation! And who suffers? The listener-in who finds that, try his best, he cannot tune out the offender to whom he does not wish to listen neither can he bring in the station to which he does desire to listen.

Licensees to broadcast should be varied enough so as not to have certain wave lengths congested and offenders' licenses should be revoked. Super power stations should not be permitted to so monopolize the air that weaker and, often, more worthy stations are blanketed.

In every locality where there are two or more broadcasting stations, the Chicago example should be followed—at least one night each week the local stations should be silent to permit listeners-in, who wish, to enjoy the air output of outside stations.

See old friend, Jack Powers, as the safety first movement.

## Let Him Read!

This good advice was given to an anxious mother by a secular contemporary:

"The editor of a religious weekly was besought by an anxious mother for advice as to how to stop her 12-year-old boy from reading everything he could lay his hands on. The editor's wise advice was "Do nothing."

"In these days when the movies lure boys and girls away from books, reading, and make long well-told tales seem tedious by a comparison with the swiftly-moving story on the screen, a mother ought to give thanks that her boy wants to read, and will read anything he can lay his hands on."

"The rising generation knows little enough of good books. Nor is it all the fault of youth if some libraries are still poky places, while the movies offer every delight that youth desires."

"The boy or girl who haunts the public or private libraries is destined to acquire that fullness of learning which is always marked in the language and life of a well-read person. Nor will such young people be likely to read anything especially dangerous, even though their reading includes anything he can lay his hands on."

"Most adults can look back upon a youthful period that was marked by a catholicity of taste in books. This taste ranged all the way from the lurid blood-and-thunder paper traded from boy to boy, up to such weighty volumes as 'Monte Cristo' and 'Les Miserables'."

"Any modern parent with a child evincing such desires should rejoice and be glad. Reading still maketh the full man."

And we would add Be sure that there are Catholic papers, books and magazines available for the reading of the youngster.

## Fails!

The Curtis-Reed bill to establish an "educational czar" in Washington and to practically deprive the States of control over educational matters has been dropped. This means that Congress has shelved the bill, not defeated it by vote on the floor.

Just what this means is thus forcibly stated by the "Union and Times":

"The Curtis-Reed bill is dead, so report has it. In its place, the friends of federal control of education have substituted the Phipps bill. This measure will probably pass in Congress as the objectionable features in the Curtis-Reed bill have been removed. The National Educational Association has again failed. The stern indignation of the nation poured into Washington with the result that Congress attentively listened to the sound and convincing arguments against the centralization of power in educational matters."

"The Phipps bill is but a shadow of the proposition which Senator Curtis and Congressman Reed would have Washington accept as the first measure to be followed by a series of measures ending with the federalization of education—the fond dream of the N. E. A. The Phipps bill simply asks the cooperation of the states with the federal bureau without taking from the states the control in educational matters which these states have always enjoyed. If the proponents of the Curtis-Reed bill are satisfied with this substitute, the states will raise no objection. Nor will the people. The substitute is no more nor less than a cover to permit the N. E. A. to regain its breath and start out for a new battle during the next session of Congress."

"In our humble opinion, the mistake was that the Curtis-Reed bill was not brought to a vote. Congress should have been permitted to act favorably or unfavorably upon it for in all probability, the Senators and Congressmen would have so deeply buried it that the N. E. A. and its paid lobbyists would have given up the tasks as a hopeless failure. As it is now the N. E. A. will lay its plans and dig its trenches for the next fight. And as there is always the danger of success where so much persistency is evident, it would have been much safer had Congress the opportunity to voice an adverse opinion. Knowing this the N. E. A. retreated and allowed the Phipps bill to be presented in its stead. Certainly the N. E. A. knows the tricks of politics."

And now the small boy will turn from Harold Lloyd to Babe Ruth for hero-worshipping.

Mussolini appears to possess a charmed person.

The Locarno Agreement does not appear to have solved the mooted question of lasting European peace.

It would appear, judging from the congressional hearing in progress in Washington, that there are a good many reputable citizens who are willing to admit prohibition will be a failure until the Volstead law is modified.

If you want to put anything over these days the way to proceed is to invite about two hundred persons to dinner—at their own expense—and then turn the lion tamer loose.

## Penalty

One of the penalties paid by men and women occupying high public, professional or social station is visualized in the following editorial excerpt from a recent issue of the Rochester "Times-Union":

Several sections of the country are getting a certain amount of advertising by extending invitations to the President and Mrs. Coolidge, and suggesting certain properties as a possible summer White House. It is remarkable, in reading over these tenders of places and property, to learn what great advantages exist.

Wherever the President goes, the government goes with him. He cannot escape, even for a day, the constant publicity and the deep responsibilities which rest upon him. This has become increasingly prominent during the last 20 or 30 years. The days when Grover Cleveland could hide himself for weeks during the summer in Buzzard's Bay, or make fishing trips to Adirondack camps for days, have passed. No longer can a Benjamin Harrison retire for two months during the summer to an obscure bay on the east shore of Third Lake in the Fulton Chain, don old overalls and a flannel shirt, and fish by himself all day. Today a president may not even go to the burial of his father unless accompanied by a great retinue of officials and newsmen and photographers to record and make public the occupation of every passing hour.

So the vacation of a president in these days of radio, wireless and moving pictures, is a nightmare. There is to him a chance of some accident or fire. No matter where he goes it will be impossible for him to get away from the pitiless publicity, the oppressive and annoying espionage which must now attend him.

The happiness and refreshment of complete isolation, with opportunity to bend one's steps and kick one's heels in whatever direction he may wish, are utterly unknown.

## Toleration

In two addresses delivered last week one to the Congress of Pan-American Journalists, the other at the corner stone laying of the new National Press Club home in Washington, President Coolidge continues to display a fine conception of public ideals and a dislike for intolerance, whether it be in politics, business, religion or social affairs. To the Congress of Journalism he said:

"In our domestic affairs an exceedingly important principle to observe is nationalism. This is all one country. We are all one people. While a proper pride in our own individual locality is both justifiable and helpful, it ought to be remembered that each individual locality is what it is mainly because it is an integral part of the whole nation. But however great may be the accomplishments of that section in which we happen to live, they can never be great enough to warrant any disparagement of any other section. No part of our nation is so perfect that it can look with any disdain on the imperfections of any other part, and, conversely, all of our different areas each have sufficient advantages to commend them to respect. It is enough to know that all can say 'This is part of America,' and 'We are Americans.' Under our institutions all are equal."

The same reasons which make untenable any effort to array section against section apply to any attempt to array class against class. Correctly speaking, we have no sections and we have no classes. The same unity that applies to our territory applies with even more force to our population. The apparent differences of location, race, and customs are not real but artificial. No lasting progress can be built upon them. No appeal can be made to them which will accrue to the lasting benefit of the human race. The progress all away from emphasis upon that which is accidental to emphasis upon that which is essential. When we wisely decided not to create those artificial barriers which are represented by orders of nobility, but to let true worth create for all our inhabitants a universal class, we recognized one of the great truths.

And still the deadly auto takes its toll of life and limb. Perhaps, we should add—due to the perversity of human nature.

Probably a quarter of a century hence European countries will still owe money to the United States.

Judging from discussions in the secular press the International Eucharistic Congress of 1926 in Chicago will be an extraordinary gathering, both in attendance and interest.

Fine that an Aquinas attaché is the winner in the popular contest for a piano.

There is something wrong in parental or school training that turns out murderers at the ages of 15, 16 and 17 years.

That tax reduction programme at Albany listens good to the average taxpayer.

It makes Father Rochester feel good when business men and patrons too, clamor for haste in completion and operation of the subway.

## Weekly Calendar Of Feast Days

Sunday, April 18.—St. Apollonius, Martyr, was a Roman senator who was given the opportunity to denounce the Christian religion and thus save his life and property. He indignantly refused these terms of safety and was beheaded about the year 186.

Monday, April 19.—St. Elphege, Archbishop, was born in 954 of a noble Saxon family. After entering a monastery near Tewkesbury, England, he became a hermit near Bath. He was made Bishop of Winchester at 30, and later Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1011 he was carried off by the Danes, who had captured Canterbury. He would not allow his poor flock to ransom him and for this was brutally beaten and stoned by his captors. One of his tormentors, whom he converted before he died, put an end to his misery with a blow from an axe. He died Easter Saturday, April 19, 1012, with his last words a prayer for his murderers.

Tuesday, April 20.—St. Marcellinus, Bishop, was born in Africa of a noble family. He preached with great success in Gaul and the Alps and built a chapel at Embrun. After laboring all day he would spend the nights in prayer. He died about the year 72. St. Gregory of Tours tells of many miracles happening at his tomb at Embrun.

Wednesday, April 21.—St. Anselm, Archbishop, lost his religious fervor temporarily, when at the age of 15 he was forbidden to enter religion. His vocation revived later he became a monk at Bee in Normandy. As Archbishop of Canterbury, to which See he had been appointed by William Rufus, he was in bitter conflict with the king because of his defense of the Pope. Wordly prelates called him "traitor" but the barons eventually sided with him. He is famed for his devotion to the Blessed Virgin. He died in 1109.

Thursday, April 22.—St. Soter, Pope and Martyr, became head of the Church in 173. He was liberal in charity. He vigorously opposed the Montanus heresy and ruled the Church until 177.

Friday, April 23.—St. George, Martyr, was born in Cappadocia of Christian parents at the end of the third century. Although as a soldier he had won the favor of Diocletian, he renounced the emperor when he began his persecution of Christians. He became a type of successful combat of evil, the slayer of the dragon. The devotion to St. George, is one of the most ancient and widespread in the Church.

Saturday, April 24.—St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Fidelis was born of noble parents in the year 1577. Finding it difficult to become rich as a lawyer and yet be a good Christian, he embraced the austere life of the Capuchin Order. Waylaid by a party of Protestants in Switzerland, where he had gone to preach against the Calvin heresy, he suffered martyrdom when he would not renounce his faith for them.

Former Senator Walsh Commencement Orator Milwaukee, Wis., April 9.—Former Senator David I. Walsh of Massachusetts has accepted an invitation to deliver the principal address at the 1926 Marquette University commencement exercises June 16. Following his appearance here, Mr. Walsh, will go to Chicago, where he will deliver one of the four principal addresses to be given by laymen at the Eucharistic congress.

Bishop Kelley Joins St. Columba Knights London, April 2.—The Knights of St. Columba have initiated two more bishops. The Right Rev. F. C. Kelley, Bishop of Oklahoma, was initiated this week as he passed through London. He was already a K. C. Msgr. Hanlon, Bishop of Teos, joined the Blackburn council when it was inaugurated this week.

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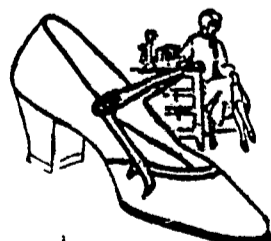
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