

The Catholic Journal

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The News.

What will always be a controversial question is: "What is News?"

The late Charles A. Dana once told a cub reporter that if a dog bit a man that was not news—in other words such an incident was not worth extended comment—but that if a man were to bite a dog that was real news out of the ordinary and worth unlimited space in the newspaper's columns.

An interesting study of the changes that have taken place in the manner of handling news was made recently by Orlando Kay Armstrong and published by the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

Mr. Armstrong compared all phases of the newspapers of St. Louis from 1875 to 1925, but the most marked changes were noted in the handling of news.

Some of the changes noted were the elimination of pure scandal, abandonment of the practice of coloring news editorially, development of the practice of telling the whole story in the first sentence or paragraph.

As an example of the kind of scandal news that was published in 1875 but which could not find its way into a modern newspaper, the following was cited.

A "soiled dove" in Muncie, Indiana, having been sent to prison, has put a number of the nicest young men of that city on the ragged edge by exposing their connection with her.

In 1875 the death of a prominent citizen was heralded in this manner: Hon. William Shepherd, one of our oldest, most prominent and popular citizens, breathed his last.

To-day the death of a president of the United States is told this way: President Harding is dead.

Fifty years ago the story of an accident was begun somewhat in this manner: A shocking accident occurred in this city this evening. A German girl named Carrie Baseman, about 20 years old, attempted to start a fire with coal oil.

After several sentences the reader learns that the girl who started the fire lost her life. To-day that would be the first fact mentioned in telling the incident.

These changes and many others noted by Mr. Armstrong, such as the method of handling crime news, are changes in the direction of making the newspaper an accurate, unbiased and judicious reporter of the facts of life as they are.

To which the newspaper thus has recognized the intelligence of its readers and their right to the facts it has gone further toward its complete fulfillment of its public duty.

Food for Reflection.

Here are two paragraphs in a Catholic contemporary that furnish food for reflection:—

"Following the funding of the Italian debt to this country here is what happened. Italy 'voluntarily and unconditionally' offered to the Roumanian government a loan of eight million dollars to be amortized in fifteen years—Italy to receive eight per cent interest, then Italy turned around and reported satisfactory progress on six hundred new planes, two hundred and fifty of which will be of metal construction. Italy could only pay us twenty-five cents on the dollar but Italy can lend her millions and build airplanes for the next war.

"Here is another interesting little item. Last year the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey did a gross business of \$1,122,682,810. This amount ranks second to the United States Steel Company which did a business of \$1,406,505,195. The net earnings of the company was \$111,231,885. If we remember rightly back in 1911 the Standard Oil Company was broken up into constituent companies. It was an illegal combination and restraint of trade. Now the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey can boast that it earns every year of over one hundred million dollars. Poor Mr. Rockefeller is a smugger must weep."

The Weather.

When every other topic for discussion falls, or it is necessary to change the line of argument, the weather is always considered to be a safe theme.

Perhaps, the lack of anything else to occupy the editorial pen, prompted the following editorial disquisition by the "Democrat & Chronicle" in a recent issue:—

"The predictions that this is to be the coolest summer within living memory have been put forth as something more than guesses based on 'hunches,' as notions somehow absorbed are often called. The predictors claim to work on theories, though it is far from following that their theories are correct. Theories are more often mistaken than true; and a lame theory may lead a person deeper into a bog of confusion than if he plunged ahead in confessed blind ignorance. The forecaster Browne, who calls himself an ocean meteorologist, founds his conclusions on seawater temperatures which indicate, as he believes, a year of unusual chill. Professor Brooks is another theorist who finds in the ocean confirmation of his conviction that we are in for a summerless year. There are also the 'sunspotters' who see shivery months coming; and of course there are the goose-bone, squirrel-fur, migratory-bird observers and various others who base on such things prognostications which are sometimes fulfilled but as often fail.

"The cheerless predictors of a cheerless twelve months ahead of us, who claim, and seem, to have most in the way of facts behind their forecast, assert that a lunar-solar cycle of sunspot maximum, 188 years long, is now at end. They find, or say so, that the year 995 A. D. was abnormally cold. As to the next two cycle culminations they are silent; but produce historical evidence that 1553 was a year of frightful rigors, and so was 1739; hence 1926 bodes us no good. The summerless year of 1816 seems not to fit into their cycle; but theories cannot be expected to explain everything. It may be noted that the Smithsonian and other scientists find that our sun is a variable star in the energy it radiates. Recent years have shown diminished total heat, and the theory has been advanced that while a spotted sun is evidence that the solar furnace has been stoked up into furious combustion, the resulting ashes and smoke cut off the radiation we should otherwise receive.

"So there we have all the guesses on the subject, as far as we are informed; and readers can form their own conclusions. It is incontestable that thus far this spring has been abnormally backward and cool, with crops and blossoms behind their scheduled times, a June-day frost in New England and rawness from the latitude of Washington up to our northern border. All that we surely know, however, is that everything, all conditions—appears to recur in cycles under laws too high to be disturbed by anything we can do."

Our Greatest Asset.

While one does not always feel inclined to agree with the Children's Bureau of Washington, nevertheless there is great weight in the following editorial from the Rochester "Times Union":—

"Not gold, petroleum, coal, lumber, heat or water-power is our country's greatest asset, not all these wealth producers added together. Of all the assets of this country, or of the world, none could be placed higher on the list than youth—our boys and girls. What we shall be tomorrow and in the years to come depends on what happens to the boys and girls of this country today.

"That being true, there is point to the warning of Miss Grace Abbott, director of the Children's Bureau, that of the 2,000,000 children to be born in this country this year, many will drop out of the procession the first week, the first month and the first year of life, from preventable causes. As Miss Abbott says:

"No nation, however, rich or powerful can ignore the health of its children. The trial and error method is not suitable in a matter as important as the health of a child.

"This conservation movement begun in the United States is rapidly spreading to other nations. As in other modern questions, the nations are realizing that they cannot solve the child problem alone. There is now an International Child Welfare Association. There is also a Pan-American Child Welfare Association which is to hold its next convention in Cuba.

"The program of better health for children emphasized in all these meetings is simple: yearly medical examination, more play time, and more sunlight. Intelligent people should be interested in and aware of the progress of these two American agencies for better youth. They are doing their bit to change the face of the world by changing the prospects and outlook of the replenishing stream of boys and girls.

Has the cross word puzzle gone the way of all fads? Well, it outlasted Mah Jong.

Cardinal O'Donnell told the ubiquitous news gatherers that "of course we have fappers in Ireland" only he added naively "they do not smoke, drink or rouge."

Good Men for Jails.

Says the New Orleans "Picayune": "Efficient jail operation does not necessarily mean expensive jail operation. Provide good officers and enough of them and build the jails on the outskirts of town where there will be no temptation for the city architect to indulge in an elaborate building," said Dr. Hastings H. Hart, consultant in delinquency and penology for the Russel Sage Foundation of New York in a talk recently before a group of city officers.

"In England, France and Belgium there are twice as many officers to a certain number of prisoners as in the United States. In Great Britain no man can be a prison guard until he has passed a civil service examination and has then attended a training school. Good officers who know how to keep up the prison morals are more important than pictures in the lobbies."

Vacation season does not excuse one from assisting at Mass and receiving the Sacraments.

Weekly Calendar Of Feast Days

Sunday, July 11.—St. James, Bishop. This eminent Saint and glorious doctor of the Syrian Church was a native of Nisibis, in Mesopotamia. Despite his retreat to the highest mountain for abode, sheltering himself in a cave in the winter and the rest of the year living in the woods in order to evade the vices of the world, he was discovered and sought after for spiritual advice. He was favored with the gifts of prophecy and miracles in an uncommon manner.

Monday, July 12.—St. John Gualbert. Born at Florence, A. D. 999, this one-time professional soldier was converted to God one Good Friday by the appeal of an adversary, who, taken unprepared to fight, fell upon his knees with his arms stretched out in the form of a cross, and implored him, for the sake of our Lord's holy Passion, to spare his life. St. John said to his enemy, who was a relative, "I cannot refuse what you ask in Christ's name. I grant you your life, and I give you my friendship. Pray that God may forgive me my sin." Abandoning the world, he gave himself up to prayer and penance in the Benedictine Order. Later he founded the congregation called Vallombrosa, from the shady valley a few miles from Florence, where he established his first monastery. After a life of great austerity, he died July 12, 1073.

Tuesday, July 13. St. Eusebius, Bishop, was a citizen of Carthage, who in 481 was chosen by the people of that city to occupy its episcopal see, which had remained vacant for twenty-four years. Eminent for his learning, zeal, piety, prudence and charity, his virtues gained him the respect and esteem even of the Arians; but at length envy and blind zeal gained the ascendancy in their breasts, and their king, Huneric, issued an order degrading him, prohibiting his preaching or allowing Vandals, several of whom were Catholics, to enter his chapel. The Saint boldly defied the edict of Huneric, and much persecution of Catholics followed. He was banished, but subsequently recalled by Huneric, and again given his rights to preach. Later he was banished by Theodoric, and died in exile on July 13, 530.

Wednesday, July 14.—St. Bonaventure. Sanctity and learning raised Bonaventure to the Church's highest honors, and from a child he was the companion of Saints. Yet at heart he was ever the poor Franciscan friar, and practiced and taught humility and mortification. Great friend of Saint Thomas Aquinas, they received the doctors' cap together. He was guest and advisor of Saint Louis, and director of Saint Isabella, the king's sister. He was appointed Cardinal Bishop of Albano by Pope Gregory X. He sat at the Pontiff's right hand, and spoke at the Council of Lyons. He died while the Council was sitting, and was buried by the assembled bishops, A. D. 1274.

Thursday, July 15.—St. Henry, Emperor. As Duke of Bavaria, Henry saw in a vision his guardian, St. Wolfgang, pointing to the words "after six." This moved him to prepare for death, and for six years he continued to watch and pray, when, at the end of the sixth year, he found the warning verified in his election as Emperor. Thus trained in the fear of God, he ascended the throne with but one thought—to reign for His greater glory. Like holy David, Henry employed the fruits of his conquests in the service of the temple. He died in 1022.

Friday, July 16.—St. Simon Stock. Simon was born in the county of Kent, England, and left his home when he was but ten years of age, to live as a hermit in the hollow trunk of a tree, whence he was known as Simon of the Stock. Here he passed twenty years in penance and prayer, and learned from Our Lady that he was to join an Order not then known in England. On the arrival of the White Friars, he entered the Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. As he knelt in prayer in the White Friars' convent at Cambridge, on July 16, 1251, the Blessed Mother of God appeared before him and

presented him with the scapular, in assurance of her protection. The devotion to the blessed habit spread quickly throughout the Christian world. Pope after Pope enriched it with indulgences and miracles innumerable put their seal upon its efficacy. St. Simon Stock died at Bordeaux, A. D. 1265.

Saturday, July 17.—St. Alexis. Born in Rome of noble parents, St. Alexis by God's special inspiration secretly quit the city of his birth on his wedding night and journeyed to Edessa, in the far East, where he was content to live upon alms, gathered at the gate of Our Lady's church in that city. After seventeen years, when his sanctity was miraculously manifested by the Blessed Virgin's image, he drifted back to Rome, where he managed to subsist on charity begged from a mean corner of his father's palace. St. Alexis died early in the fifth century.

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Ever since 1914 when the Monastery Church of St. Francis on the Mount of the Atonement, Graymoor, was finished and the Shrine of St. Anthony was erected therein, many thousands have had recourse to his intercession at Graymoor. Hundreds upon hundreds of testimonials from grateful clients of the Wonder-Worker of Padua are received by the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement every month from all parts of the United States and Canada. It is impossible to publish more than a few of these. The following illustrate their variety:

C. J. Z., Cinn. Ohio: "I am enclosing check, being two percent of the money my partner and I received for a cottage we had been unable to sell for about a year. During the first week I was making the Novena a friend called and told me of a prospective buyer, which materialized in the sale. We are very grateful to St. Anthony and thank you for your co-operation."

Mrs. M. T. D., Nova Scotia: "It is with great pleasure as well as gratitude that I enclose thank offering in fulfillment of a promise to St. Anthony if he would obtain my request. For a year I had been praying, making Novenas, having Masses and other prayers said for my intention. Finally I started a Novena to St. Anthony with the above promise and I am thankful to say my prayers were almost immediately answered."

A Catholic Friend: "A couple of weeks ago I asked you to remember my Brother, who was drinking, in your Novena to St. Anthony. Immediately after he seemed to improve, and has continued up to this time. I therefore am fulfilling my promise and I hope you will publish the same, so that others may go to good St. Anthony and Our Blessed Mother for help in trouble."

E. T. H., New Rochelle, N. Y.: "As a Catholic I know of St. Anthony and the wonderful favors he is credited with obtaining. I never had any devotion to him and even at times I fear there was a sense of skepticism in my mind as regards him. In December, while reading of some favor obtained, I said a prayer to St. Anthony, and promised if a certain sum of money came at this time, a very improbable thing—I would give it to charity. The money will be paid during this year, and I am now sending part of it for St. Anthony's work as a tribute of faith and gratitude."

A new-Novena to St. Anthony begins at Graymoor every Tuesday, ending the Wednesday of the following week.

Prayers and directions for making the Novena will be sent upon request, 10 cents postpaid. Short Life of St. Anthony, 25 cents. Address all petitions to

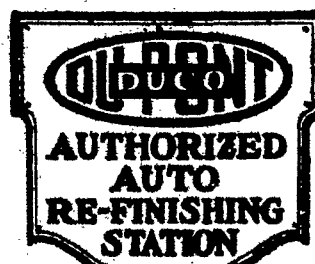
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