

The Catholic Journal

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Penance.

Not every convert to the Catholic faith, but a great many, testify that the hardest obstacle to overcome in their journey toward the Church is their repugnance to and fear of the Confessional and the tribunal of penance.

The non-Catholic, unless he be a high-Church Episcopalian, never has unembowed his innermost soul to one he feels is a fellow human, not even his life mate in marriage.

But when the non-Catholic non-believer is asked to confess his sins, he is asked to confess to a man in the outside world.

The non-Catholic who enters the Confessional, he goes to Confession and is absolved at the experience.

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Unchanging.

One reason why the Catholic Church attracts to its flock thinking men and women is its unchangeableness in essentials.

Men and women who really think after they have looked about a bit, discover that there is but one Church which has not changed in essentials since its institution by Jesus Christ.

The thinking men and women can trace an unbroken line of pontiffs beginning with St. Peter and continuing on down to Pope Pius XI, the reigning Pope, who have taught the truths enunciated by Christ to His Apostles and by them transmitted to their successors and by them to the millions of believers in all parts of the known world.

Max Russel.

Few men in Rochester had a wider general acquaintance than Max Russel, despite the fact that he never held public office and in the fraternal and other activities in which he took part, always kept in the background and his activities and benefactions, while many were not heralded in public.

Local Option.

Some reformers, so-called, are beginning to wake up to the fact that the dear public is fully alive to the inconsistency of blowing hot and cold in one and the same breath.

For instance: It is quite difficult to argue in favor of local option and community right to regulate movies, etc. and at the same time argue against the proposition that the States have a right to determine for themselves the quantity and quality of their part in "concurrent action" to enforce the Eighteenth Amendment.

In their well-nigh insane endeavor to put Governor Alfred E. Smith "in a hole" certain reform elements at Albany have run afoul of this horn of a dilemma, as is evidenced by the following editorial in a paper admittedly not over-friendly toward the Governor of New York State, the "Democrat & Chronicle":

A bill proposed at Albany with Republican support is obviously designed to embarrass the Governor and put him, in the old folk-saying phrase, between the devil and the deep sea.

It is not easy to quarrel with the principle of local option in such matters. It has long been familiar to our state and has worked fairly well. The manifest tendency of modern legislation is toward local determination of local questions; and such is heard nowadays of the contention that larger control of their own affairs should be left to the states.

Answered.

Senator Hoffman's bitter attack upon Governor Alfred E. Smith has been countered in a way the Senator does not like.

For their own part, The Advertiser-Protestant-owned and Protestant-run newspaper, has been up to its eyes and ears in this unclean glove lying at its feet and advance to the fray under the unsullied banner of a gallant soldier whose devotion to his country as the mistress of his heart has been impugned.

No other Democrat than this man of our choice could hope to win this man can almost surely win believing then, in his incomparable availability, and thinking as he does on most public questions and regarding him, as we must, as a Man of Destiny, the step we now propose to take, is logical and inevitable.

For The Advertiser to fall at this time openly to avow its faith in this leader, which one might conceivably see out of deference to the nameless fear of the prejudiced, would be a weak evasion of a plain public duty.

Finally, and not the least in importance, The Advertiser regards this as an especially happy moment to announce its choice of Governor Smith. Speaking for itself The Advertiser is glad to present this declaration as its conception of an appropriate answer, on the part of Alabama Democrats, to Senator J. Thomas Hahn's fanatical outburst in the United States Senate two days ago.

There is too much political patronage involved to abolish the state enumeration.

If talk continues, the St. Lawrence Rapids will still be an advertised attraction in 1930.

John J. Hewston had a long and busy life. He was prominent in employing in labor, in political and business lines. Many a prayer has gone up for the repose of his soul. May he rest in secret.

Court Trials.

Abraham Benedict was formerly a news writer in Rochester before he studied law. He practiced here for a few years then removed to New York where he has achieved reputation as a trial lawyer.

Monday, February 27.—St. Leonard, was a member of a noble Spanish family who became Bishop of Seville. Through his efforts the Visigoths and Suevi were converted from Arianism. He died in the year 596.

Tuesday, February 28.—Sts. Romanus and Lupicinus, abbots, were brothers who retired to the forests of Mount Jura where they were joined by many holy men. They founded the convent of Le Beaume and several monasteries.

Wednesday, February 29.—St. Oswald, Bishop, was born of a noble Saxon family. He was reared by his uncle, St. Odo, Archbishop of Canterbury, and, while still young, was chosen dean of the secular canons of Winchester. He restored monastic life, and later, as Archbishop of York. He died February 29, 992.

Thursday, March 1.—St. David, was elected bishop of Caerleon but removed his see to Menevia. It is related that Our Lord appeared to him at the time of his death in 561.

Friday, March 2.—St. Simplicius, Pope, succeeded St. Hilarius as Sovereign Pontiff in 468. During the barbarian invasion he sowed the seeds of Christianity among the invaders and at the same time was engaged in fighting the Eutychian heresy in the East. He died in 483.

Saturday, March 3.—St. Cunegundes, Empress, was the wife of St. Henry, Duke of Bavaria who was chosen King of the Romans and crowned on the 6th of June, 1002. Before her marriage, with the consent of her husband, she made a vow of virginity. She founded a monastery at Kaffugen and on the death of her husband embraced the religious life there. She died in 1040.

A Guess.

If permitted to hazard a guess, we would give as our opinion that this editorial appearing in a recent issue of the Rochester "Times-Union" was penned or typed by a Canadian, either native or of Canadian ancestry.

Under the present immigration law all Old World countries are under the quota system, except those Asiatics who are barred altogether, but immigration from the countries of this hemisphere is not restricted. A bill has been introduced in Congress by Senator Watson of Indiana which would establish New World quotas.

Practically every quota system which has been devised aims at favoring certain racial or national groups and holding down immigration from others. Senator Watson's bill is no exception.

No objection exists to immigration of Canadians. But a good many people object to immigration of Mexicans. Curiously enough, this objection is strongest in the northeast, where there are no Mexican immigrants, while in the southwest, where the Mexicans come, the dominant sentiment favors their admission.

Mulling over statistics, Senator Watson finds that by admitting 10 per cent of the number of natives of New World countries resident in the United States in 1890 he can set a quota of 98,000 for Canada, or 17,000 more than arrived in 1927, and cut Mexican immigration down to a bare 7,000.

That will strike most of us in this part of the country as a good scheme. We don't know anything about Mexicans, but we are sure they are undesirable immigrants.

Haven't heard the oil magnates ask for a "buy more gasoline week."

Weekly Calendar Of Feast Days

Sunday, February 26.—St. Porphyry, Bishop, was a rich citizen of Thessalonica who sought retirement in Palestine. He was ordained and later became Bishop of Gaza where he distinguished himself by the destruction of heathen temples and the erection of churches.

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Irish Fishermen's Nets Are Blessed

Dublin, Feb. 13.—The clergy and fisher-folk of the picturesque village of Blackrock, Cork County, have revived the ceremony of blessing fishermen's nets at the opening of the season.

When the entire fleet of thirty-four boats was collected, the Very Rev. Canon Thomas F. E. accompanied by the Rev. T. Murphy, C. C., advanced in procession to the pier head. They were preceded by a cross-bearer and acolytes and followed by the entire population of the village. The pier itself was gaily decorated with hunting.

Though rain had been falling all the morning, the sky cleared just as the procession started for the ceremony.

The actual blessing of the nets occupied about fifteen minutes. The service was that specially approved by the Sacred Congregation of Rites in 1912. It includes extracts from the Gospel of St. Joh., relating to the blessing of nets on the sea of Galilee by Christ, at the prayer of St. Peter.

Buildings For New Belmont College To Cost \$1,000,000

San Francisco, Feb. 14.—The Sisters of Notre Dame, who conduct one of the most noted convents for girls in the West, today announced a \$1,000,000 building program for the college at Belmont, where since 1923 the nuns and their students have occupied the historic old Ralston mansion.

John J. Donovan of Oakland, architect for the 13 buildings for St. Mary's new college at Moraga, has drawn the plans for the new convent buildings of Notre Dame. When completed the college will be one of the most modern girls' schools in the West.

The Real Chicago Mayor

Editor Catholic Journal, Rochester, New York. Dear Sir:

Most everybody in America has heard of Mr. William Hale Thompson, the mayor of Chicago, whose ideals are "America First". The readers of your newspaper are no exception. I believe that thousands of your readers know only of mayor Thompson what they have read of him in the daily press, and national magazines.

The writer went to Chicago just before Christmas, called on Mr. Thompson, had an interview, and came away with knowledge of the man acquired first hand. Not hearsay, or what someone else thinks of him. If you will grant me the space in your columns, I will tell your readers authentically the actual facts about the man who is all for America, the man who sincerely is fighting for America, the man who has America's interests at heart.

Mr. Thompson is a good six footer, weighs over two hundred, has a most joyful personality, a person most everyone likes after they once meet him. Even those who differ with him in opinion—even his political enemies confess they like him. A few real big newspapers have interviewed him, and then all they would tell their readers is that he is a big fellow—and perfectly harmless, as much as to insinuate that he does not mean things he says.

Mayor Thompson is harmless, just so long as un-American ideas and vicious propaganda keep away from Chicago. However these things have entered not only the city limits of Chicago, but un-Americans have written outrageous untruths into the pages of the school histories, and were found in the libraries. Some of these histories said that the American Colonists fought an unfair fight, and put a knife in the back of England. It is such statements as this and others that brought forth the fighting spirit into the veins of Thompson, and showed to the world at large that Thompson is not harmless when America's interest are at stake.

There are newspapers today who seem to hesitate to back up America. These newspapers will and have devoted much front page space to laugh at mayor Thompson—condemn him, and some have termed him a clown and that he is merely a professional patriot. Any man from any country who does things for his country in a way that is big, outspoken and in the open is a professional. Any person who is not afraid to claim his own soul, would you justly call him an amateur? Who would dare call Paul Revere, Patrick Henry, General Herkimer, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington amateurs? These men too in their day, and in our day have been laughed at, criticized, and even called clowns.

There is literature on the market now, produced by literary buzzards, who think but little of the character of our great statesmen, who at any cost will sacrifice honor of their own if it secures revenue for them. These authors and writers juggle the truths, take from and add to in order to please the tastes of fiction readers. Every real American owes a great debt of gratitude, and authors are no exception, to our heroes of a past day who fought and died, thereby making it possible for the rest of us to be born on free American soil.

William Hale Thompson is an American of action. He will not tolerate these splendidly unkind lies, and scurrilous statements, on the names of the forefathers of our nation.

It takes a real big man—a professional, a man with backbone, a man with nerve placed in the right direction to fight, to offset, and to wreck those who would wreck the very foundation upon which this country is built.

What American with an ounce of spirit and ideals in his system would not rise to action were he the head of our government, the head of our state, the head of our city, if into the minds of our youth through histories were creeping the propaganda and pure pack of lies that Washington was a ladies man, that he was the biggest curser of his time, and that he used the army to protect only his won acres. What American if given the chance, would not take command and set up a bonfire of his own and destroy these books.

If some of our thoughtless Americans were living in the days of '76 they would have been wrapped up into copies of this history muck and taken along with the TEA and dumped into the Boston Harbor.

There is no American today who can add or detract from the name of Washington. But w... all help as mayor Thompson is joining—with action if necessary to keep alive the personality, the character, and the honor, and the goodness of that great man.

Laugh at Mr. Thompson if you must, but how much more just it would be to withhold your laughter until you come to know him, his ideals and his true American spirit, then you must admire him because her mind unshinged by the tragedy you will know the inside story back of his actions.

Kenneth Thomas Maher, Mexico.

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Empress Carlotta's Fortune \$6,250,000

London, Feb. 13.—The tragic Empress Carlotta, widow of the Emperor Maximilian of Mexico, left an estate in England which has been valued for probate at \$563,000. Her estate in Belgium and elsewhere, is understood to total \$6,250,000. King Albert of Belgium, her nephew is the sole heir. Carlotta, who was a Princess of Belgium, Duchess of Saxony and must, but how much more just it would be to withhold your laughter until you come to know him, his ideals and his true American spirit, then you must admire him because her mind unshinged by the tragedy you will know the inside story back of his actions. Kenneth Thomas Maher, Mexico.