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Francis B. Mitchell

Almost the last of the "personal publishers and editors", certainly the last in Rochester, passed away last week in the person of Francis B. Mitchell, who, for a quarter of a century, published and edited the old Rochester Post Express. We note that most of our contemporaries classed Mr. Mitchell only as publisher. This is in error, while Mr. Mitchell did not write all the editorials in the Post Express—in fact he wrote very little although he could write well and forcefully—there was not a line of editorial matter appearing in the Post Express that he did not read and approve. It was no infrequent occurrence for editors to be held while editorials were changed or omitted altogether.

Mr. Mitchell knew where and how to obtain brilliant writers for the Post Express. In addition to the known writers like Joseph O'Connor whose "Rochesterian" column signed by "J.O.C" was quoted far and wide, William H. Samson, Jacob A. Hoekstra, Charles E. Fitch, Lewis Cass and others, men like Dr. David Jayne Hill, John Van Vorrhis, Dr. Charles A. Dewey and leading lawyers, authors and social leaders, contributed anonymously to the Post Express.

Mr. Mitchell aimed to conduct a clean, high class family newspaper whose columns would contain nothing to offend the most fastidious taste. Its reading clientele was of a selective type. Offensive advertising never was admitted to the columns of the Post Express.

Politically, Mr. Mitchell was not of the practical type. He never made the Post Express a party organ, although it supported the Republican candidates in national and most state elections. Municipal campaigns usually found the Post Express critical of the partisan candidates. During most of Mr. Mitchell's ownership, both he and the paper were at loggerheads with George W. Aldridge then the Republican boss. Inasmuch as Mr. Mitchell eschewed personal political preferment—the only political office he ever held was that of elector-at-large on the McKinley ticket in 1896—he rather had the best of the battle. But after Mr. Aldridge became Collector of the Port of New York, he and Mr. Mitchell declared truce and became warm friends.

Unfortunately, the financial support accorded a high class paper in Rochester was not sufficiently remunerative to make the Post Express a paying proposition and when William Randolph Hearst sought entrance into Rochester's newspaper field, Mr. Mitchell sold him the Post Express, and the Associated Press franchise, retaining the printing and engraving business which he conducted until his death.

We do not disparage the present Rochester papers when we aver that there is no paper published in Western New York that ever had the affectionate support of its readers to the extent that the Post Express had.

Mr. Mitchell was not a joiner or a mixer. He had his small circle of friends with hoops of steel. To them he was the rare companion, brilliant conversationalist, the lover of good music and art, the connoisseur in real literature and the genial host. These will mourn the passing of an exemplar of a type that is fast becoming obsolete—the Cultured American gentleman of the old school.

W. A. M.

There is no medium of Catholic news so reliable as a Catholic paper. The Catholic Journal is the Rochester member of the Catholic Press Association and recipient of its exclusive national and foreign Catholic news service, admittedly superior in this special field, to the Press in its secular news [illegible] That is the [illegible] gasoline tax

No Use Arguing

It is somewhat amusing to note the almost frantic efforts that are made by the politicians who were voluble in proclaiming that Governor Smith himself injected the religious issue into the campaign of 1928 to induce the public to believe that there was positively no religious issue at all last fall.

It was prosperity, or the tariff, or belief in Mr. Hoover as a superman that carried the day. Even the mildly drys are asseverating that the prohibition issue did not count when they last fall coupled prohibition and the supremacy of Protestantism as the main and impelling reason why Alfred E. Smith should not be allowed in the White House.

But the preponderance of unbiased testimony is that religion was the preponderating "plus" in every analysis of the defeat of Governor Smith.

At the same time, we are inclined to think that Governor Smith is in a more comfortable position right now than Mr. Hoover. The latter is now experiencing the sad reaction from over advertising. He was heralded last fall as a supedhuman man and it is rapidly becoming apparent that he is only a man of clay.

Lake Region Wns

Those interested in water power in the abstract will be interested in the following discussion by the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle of the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court in the "Chicago water diversion case."

"All of the states that border along the Great Lakes will benefit from the decision of the United States Supreme Court, requiring the city of Chicago to reduce its diversion of water from Lake Michigan for sewerage purposes. So serious has the diversion become that the level of all the lakes has been reduced at times by as much as six inches, with consequent prejudice to shipping.

"The report of Charles Evans Hughes, as special master appointed by the Supreme Court, showed that in the year 1923 lake shipping lost 3,346,000 tons that it might have handled if the lake level had been at a normal height.

"It seems like a simple proposition to say that no city along the lakes has a right to use so much water for its own purposes as to injure the interests of other points along the lakes. But the Chicago problem has been in the courts for more than 10 years and its peculiar difficulties have puzzled many of our best legal minds.

"Chicago disposes of its sewage through a drainage canal, which requires water from Lake Michigan. The volume used for that purpose has risen to 8,500 cubic feet a second, which the court now holds to be excessive, although it was permitted by an order of the Secretary of War in 1925. Some diversion of water is necessary to maintain navigation in the Chicago River and thence to the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico, but water used in excess of that requirement is now pronounced unlawful.

"Chicago chose to dispose of its sewage in this fashion rather than through the erection of sewage disposal plants, such as most other cities use. She must now atone for her backwardness in that respect by building suitable plants as soon as possible.

It seems self evident to other cities along the lakes, whose interests are just as vital as those of Chicago, that the utility of the entire lake area ought not to be impaired to serve the needs of Chicago when those needs can be met in other ways."

A fearless champion of the right, a vigorous denouncer of intolerance, the antithesis of Tom Heflin, passed when former United States Senator Oscar W. Underwood, of Alabama was summoned to his last reward.

George H. Clune is a splendid man to head the City Planning Commission. He is careful, cautious yet possessed of imagination.

Our Own Fault

Local newspaper columns teem with violent protest against the levying of local taxes in two installments, in January and July.

Forceful language is employed in attacking the city manager and the new City Council as cheap politicians and what not for the innovation.

This is all wrong and shows gross ignorance on the part of the Protestants.

Neither the city manager nor the City Council had anything to do with the change in the time of levying and collecting city taxes. As a matter of fact they can do nothing different.

When the people voted for the city manager charter they voted to levy and collect city taxes in two installments in January and July instead of in one installment in May.

The public was warned on this point but, by overwhelming majority, voted aye.

We did not support the city manager charter. We are not sure now of its virtue as a panacea for all municipal ills.

But facts are facts.

Yet Unlettered!

Not only to uninformed non-Catholics but to some unthinking Catholics as well, who may have been misled by recent intimations that Catholics are chiefly unlettered and unread we commend a careful perusal of the following dispatches to the National Catholic Press Association News Service:—

Notre Dame, Ind., Jan. 17.—Thirty thousand volumes will soon find room in the new stacks nearing completion in the Notre Dame University library and will bring the number of books in actual service up to 120,000 with approximately 40,000 more unclassified though housed in the university library.

Paul R. Byrne, librarian, says that students use of books at Notre Dame has increased 60 per cent. during the last seven years. Rev. Paul Foik, C. S. C., who reorganized Lemonnier library into the present library, is now doing a similar great work at St. Edwards University in Austin, Texas.

And bear in mind that Notre Dame is only one of the several Orders which have Universities in the United States, to say nothing of the Diocesan seminaries which have sizable libraries. Incidentally, St. Bernard's Seminary library is not to be sneered at.

It is a queer doctrine that United States Attorney Templeton enunciates when he holds that automobilists must be able to sense out when called upon on the high road to halt whether the accoster is a bandit or a prohibition agent. If he runs down the bandit he is a hero. If he refuses to halt and the accoster is a prohibition agent and he shoots and kills the autoist, then the latter is to be classed as "a leeing felon!" We cannot conceive that the United States Supreme Court will uphold that!

Bishop Cannon fulminates against Tammany Hall but he aspires to be the Charles F. Murphy of Virginia.

His many friends wish Arthur Paul Kelly wealth and prosperity wherever his lot may be cast.

The Catholic Editor

A Catholic clerical editor has set forth the value of the services of the lay Catholic editor so forcibly and so convincingly that we cannot refrain from republishing in full the following editorial in a recent issue of the "Union and Times":—

Many a Catholic man who goes to Church on Sunday morning believes that he is practicing heroic sacrifice if he pays his pew rent, drops a quarter in the collection box and gives a dollar toward monthly support. For the information of such men, let us consider for a moment what other Catholic men are doing in this small world of ours. Take the Catholic Press as an example. In various cities of this country Catholic laymen are giving their place current news of Catholic interest, their effort, their intelligence to edit Catholic newspapers. They do it for small, very small remuneration. They take all, the abuse, the ridicule and face the hardships of Catholic journalistic careers to terest in the Catholic home. They could have followed their own vocation or they could have accepted positions on secular journals and have received liberal salaries. Many of these men might have been wealthy today. They preferred to spend their lives in promoting Catholic ideals which while having a rich spiritual reward is a thankless job in the matter-of-fact world in which we live. They are not the oratorical spouters with political careers to maintain who talk so grandly of the Church on the public platform of Catholic affairs and spend the rest of the week or the year in building up their own selfish interests. These Catholic writers knowing how valueless and empty publicity happens to be, are content to take the few crumbs of appreciation that falls from the Catholic table knowing that a God above sees and understands.

We have such men as Doctor Hart of Cincinnati, Simon Baldus of Church Extension, Humphrey Desmond of Milwaukee, Benedict Elder of Louisville, Mr. Wey of Cleveland, our old friends Pat Scanlon and Claude Becker of Brooklyn, the Ridders of New York, Vincent Fitzpatrick of Baltimore, Anthony Beck of Detroit, Joe Meier of Chicago and many, many more. They bear the heat and the burdens of the day. One day they will die and no bronze tablets will be erected to their memory. And what is true of them, is true also of the Catholic men in Catholic colleges and universities who forget the almighty dollar to promotet the interests of Almighty God.

It is a different story with the clerical editor. He deserves no special credit. If he did not labor for the Catholic press, he would spend his effort for a Catholic parish. With him it is just another duty. But with the Catholic layman who spends his life for the promotion of Catholic truth—well! the man who thinks twice when he drops a dollar in the collection basket ought to ponder a moment on the other Catholic man who turns his back on thousands that truth may prevail.

Truth In This

To a newspaper man and also to a Catholic publisher there is a measure—a great deal—in the following editorial in a recent issue of the Brooklyn "Tablet":—

A community of religious moved into a certain parish in a neighboring city not long ago at the invitation of the Bishop. Reporters for the daily newspaper in the town, sensing a good "story," called at the convent and asked for pictures and information. They were politely but firmly informed "publicity is not desired."

"We do not want anything about us in the papers," the Superior said.

A few weeks ago the Superior decided to run a concert and bazaar to raise funds. The announcement, in some detail, was sent to the daily newspaper office and it was not printed. When the Superior called to inquire why it had not been run the editor replied that the matter was advertising and could not be printed in the news columns.

The Superior was indignant, accused the newspaper of being unfair and insinuated that the editor was bigoted.

Unfortunately it did not occur to the Superior that newspaper editors know their news, and that a good story" weeks ago would have been worth thousands of dollars to them. Now when free publicity about a concert and bazaar (not news) was wanted the editor could not give it.

The trouble with many Catholic organizations is that they think they must be modest and hide their light unless they want a card party or an entertainment mentioned. They have no sense of proper publicity proportions.

We did not notice any up-state in the list of the newly created Knights of Malta.

Erie and Genesse counties seem to have a separate Catholic charity drive of their own.

At last, all Rochester playhouses appear to be on equal footing.

Weekly Calendar Of Feast Days

Sunday, Feburary 3. — St. Blase, Bishop and martyr, devoted the earlier days of his life to the study of philosophy and afterwards became a physician. He became Bishop of Sebaste in Armenia and was seized and hurried off to prison by Agricolous, the governor. On his way to prison, a distracted mother whose child was suffering from a disease of the throat implored his aid. At his intercession the child was cured and since that time his aid has often been solicited in cases of a similar disease. After cruel tortures the saint was beheaded in 316.

Monday, February 4.—St. Jane of Valois, was the daughter of Louis XI of France and the wife of the Duke of Orleans, who later became King Louis XII. After he ascended the throne his first act was to repudiate his wife who had been faithful and loyal to him for twenty-two years. She retired to Bourges where she realized her desire to establish the Order of the Annunciation in honor of the Mother of God. This order was approved by Pope Alexander VI in 1501. St. Jane built and endowed the first convent of the order in 1502 and died in 1505.

Tuesday, February 5.—St. Agatha, virgin and martyr, was born in Sicily of noble and rich parents and was consecrated from her earliest infancy to God. In the midst of dangers and temptations she served Christ in purity of body and soul and died for the love of chastity, when the Governor, Quintanus, found that he could not prevail upon her to sin either through threats or tortures of offers of safety.

Wednesday, February 6.—St. Dorothy, virgin and martyr, was celebrated at Caescares, her native city, for her angelic virtue. Her parents are thought to have suffered martyrdom under Dicletian and she herself was called before the Governor Sapricius and ordered to abjure the Faith. When she refused, she was subjected to fearful tortures and finally killed.

Thursday, February 7.—St. Romuald, Abbot, was the son of Sergius a nobleman of Ravenna. He fonuded many monasteries the chief of which was at Camaldoli, where he built a church surrounded with a number of separate cells for the solitaries who lived under his rule. He died, as he had foretold twenty years before, alone, in his monastery of Cal Castro on the 19th of June, 1027.

Friday, February 8.—St. John of Matha. This Saint's life was one long course of self-sacrifice for the good of his neighbor. He founded the Order of the Holy Trinity, whose members fasted and gathered alms throughout Europe and then used the money for the redemption of Christian slaves in Barbary. He died in 1213 at the age of fifty-three.

Saturday, February 9.—St. Appolonia and the martyrs of Alexandria. St. Apollonia was an aged virgin whose teeth was extracted and who was buried alive when the mob rose against the Christians in Alexandria 249. So many perished gladly for the Faith that the judges themselves were struck with horror.

The Church's Liturgy.

February 3: Sexagesima.

Dom Dunstan Tucker, O. S. B., (Prepared for the N. C. W. C. News Service by the Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota.)

The Mass for Sexagesima Sunday, which is especially devoted to St. Paul, is a medley of varying religious themes. It is, nevertheless, a single whole, for the spirit of penance animates its various parts and brings them into unity. It is a martial and yet a penitential Mass, breathing the many-sided personality of St. Paul and is, therefore, as applicable to moments of external strife as to the inner soul struggles of Lent. As though tormented by a consciousness of impending disaster the Church cries out: "Arise, why sleepest Thou, O Lord? ..... Why turnest Thou Thy face away and forgetest our trouble? Our belly hath cleaved to the earth. Arise, O Lord, help us and deliver us." The Collect is a confession of helplessness before our soul enemies, and we beg God through St. Paul to aid us" . . grant that by the protection of the doctor of the Gentiles we may be defeated against all adversities."

Beautiful and apt as these prayers are, the inner meaning of the Mass is made clear in the Epistle and Gospel. In the Epistle, St. Paul sketches his inner life in the bold, sure strokes of one who knows and has mastered himself. He has received many divine favors for his strenuous labors, and yet his head has not been turned. He does not hesitate to admit that, lest he might grow proud, the sting of the flesh was given him, "an angel of Satan to buffet him." Despite his high calling, he felt the necessity of prayer and fasting to keep his rebellious nature subject to the law of Christ.

The agricultural scene presented to us by the Gospel is a decided change from St. Paul's self-portrait; and yet, on looking deeper, we find it filled with the same spirit and conveying the same lesson as the Epistle. Here we see Christ as the Sower going out in the springtime to seed His land.

Some of the seed fell by the wayside and was trodden underfoot; some fell upon the rocks, and being sprung up, soon withered away; some fell among thorns and the tiny plants were soon choked to death. Other some seed fell upon good land and yielded fruit a hundred-fold. The sense is obvious: Unrepentant, worldly, vicious souls are the unwatered and thorny spots upon which the divine seed, God's message to man, was strewn, while the good field, is the soul of the Christian who has patiently fasted and done penance, ever the while keeping in mind the true value of earthly things.

It is springtime for the soul, the time for penance. If we prepare well, we shall be able truly to say, "I will go into the altar of God, to God Who giveth joy to my youth." (Communion).

Spiritual Ladership School Attended By 1,200 In New Orleans

New Orlenas, Jan. 29.—More than 1,200 students representatives from all Catholic colleges and high schools in the Archdiocese of New Orleans attended the School of Students' Spiritual Leadership just held at Loyola University here. It was the first such gathering ever held here.

The Most Rev. John W. Shaw, Archbishop of New Orleans; some 75 Sisters. 15 priests and 15 brothers also attended the meeting.

The Rev. Daniel A. Lord, S. J., editor of The Queen's Work, who has conducted similar Schools in approximately 20 large cities throughout the United States, directed the meeting here. Brother Gilbert, C. S. C., of Holy Cross College, New Orleans, one of the principle speakers, made a strong plea for vocations to religious orders.

"We may spend millions of dollars on endowment of buildings for school purposes," he said, "but if our Catholic educational system is to continue we must have a greater endowment of generous Catholic youth to take up the Christ-like work of Catholic education—not only in the field of the lay apostolate, but also in the priesthood and in our teaching orders of brothers and sisters. Let us encourage those who show an inclination for the teaching career and let us do all in our power to foster vocations to the teaching apostolate."

Brther Gilbert told the delegates that the very presence at the meeting of 1,200 or more Catholic colleges, from all parts of the Archdiocese was ample evidence that "our Catholic schools have maintained high standards for the traditional three 'R's' while stressing a greater fourth—Religion."

Father Lord also addressed the meeting, urging support of the missions and pointing out the necessity of making spiritual literature more widely known and read.

The two-day meeting was brought to a close with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and the admittance of the delegates to membership as Knights and Handmaids of the Blessed Virgin.

Catholic Dealers In Church Goods Meet In New York

New York, Jan. 28.—The National Association of Catholic Publishers and Dealers in Church Goods celebrated its twenty-first anniversary on Friday and Saturday, with a convention in this city, which concluded on Saturday night with a banquet at the Hotel Astor.

Publishers and dealers in church goods came from all sections of the country to attend. Matthew F. Sheehan, of Boston, president of the association, was the toastmaster, and the principal speaker was Daniel J. Gallagher, also of Boston.

Charles H. Ridder, treasurer of the Catholic Press Association, spoke as the representative of that organization and expressed its appreciation for the cooperation displayed by the Catholic Publishers and Dealers in Church Goods in subscribing for two life memberships in the Literary Awards Foundation of the C. P. A. Mr. Ridder announced that the winners of the prizes for 1929 will be announced at the annual convention of the Catholic Press Association in Cincinnati next May.

On Saturday morning at 10 o'clock a Solemn Mass of Requiem for the deceased members of the association was celebrated in St. Peter's Church in Barclay street.

At the meeting on Saturday afternoon the following officers were elected: President, Matthew F. Sheehan, of Boston; vice-president, Charles J. Kammerer, of Buffalo; treasurer, Louis Kennedy, New York; secretary, T. M. O'Connell, Philadelphia; board of directors, Bernard Benziger, Matthew F. Sheehan, William F. Flynn, Louis Kenedy, T. M. O'Connell, Herman Tapke, Victor A. Gummersbach, Charles J. Kammerer and Joseph P. Schaefer.

Ousted Pastor Fined $250 For Circulating False K. of C. 'Oath'

Newark, N. J., Jan. 29.—Convicted of criminal libel for having circulated a false Knights of Columbus oath, the Rev. Elmo L. Bateman, ousted pastor of the Hilton Christian Church of Maplewood, N. J., was fined $250 by Judge Walter D. Van Riper in the Court of Quarter Sessions, yesterday.

In passing sentence Judge Van Riper said:

"You have been convicted of libel, which is not only unfortunate but it is the meanest type of crime. You have borne false witness against your neighbor. You have told an untruth, and I am satisfied from the evidence that you could have ascertained the truth.

"An examination of the case makes me feel that you have suffered some. In view of the fact that a conviction of libel against you will not help you in the future, but is something that your future efforts will have to be directed to live down, I intend to fine you $250.

"I hope this conviction will be a lesson to you and others. People of your type should help to suppress religious intolerance and not stir it up."

Displaying no emotion after the imposition of the fine, Bateman was taken to the prison floor of the court house with other prisoners. He remained there until his fine was paid by Mrs. Bateman.

Benedictines Extend Cleveland Institute

Cleveland, Jan. 29.—First steps towards enlarging the foundation of Benedictines in Cleveland has gotten underway with the purchase of Mt. St. Mary's Institute and its 13 acres of land which adjoins the grounds of the institute.

As soon as the Sisters of Notre Dame who have been in charge of Mt. St. Mary's since 1879 can provide for 150 young girls in their care the Benedictines will take possession of the building. The building will be remodeled as a hgh school for several hundred boys. A new high school also is planned to accommodate between 700 and 800 boys.

The local community will receive a dozen additional priests after ordinations in St. Procopius' abbey, Lisle, Ill., in June.

Free Priest At Once, U. S. Demand of China

Washington, D. C., Jan. 28.—The Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs, C. T. Wang, has been requested by by the American Consulate General at Peking to take immediate action to effect the release of the Rev. Edward Young, Vincentian missionary and American citizen, who is being held for $10,000 gold ransom by bandits near Nananfu, Kiangsi Province.

On receipt of word of the kidnaping from Bishop O'Shea of the Catholic Mission at Kanchow, Mahlon Fay Perkins, counselor of the American Legation, made demand for prompt governmental action.

Father Young, who is about 30 years old, has been a missionary in China for three years. He studied at St. Joseph's College, Princeton, N. J., and completed his religious preparation at St. Vincent's Seminary, Germantown, Pa. He was well known as a student, in track athletics and in baseball. His mother and brother live in Smithtown, L. I.