

The Catholic Courier and Journal

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Friday, March 28, 1930.

SUBLIME PATRIOTISM

Mahatma Gandhi, leader of a non-violent rebellion against British authority in India, has instructed his followers to do these things:

"If you are sent to prison, go piously. If you are assaulted, bear it cheerfully."

"If you are shot, die peacefully."

Civil disobedience is the lever with which Gandhi expects to pry liberty from the British government—buy nothing British, pay no taxes, boycott everything British, including the government servants, and pay no attention to British laws.

Irish leaders have virtually coached Gandhi in his movement, and have encouraged him to take the step he has taken.

AN HISTORIC MASS

History was written, with prayer and with sacrifice, when His Holiness Pope Pius XI, celebrated what he called a Mass of "expiation propitiation and reparation" in St. Peter's Basilica on March 19 for the terrible persecutions inflicted upon Christian peoples in Soviet Russia.

For that Mass was in many respects a proclamation to the world that the Supreme Pontiff stands at the forefront as the champion of religious liberty.

This request, it should be remembered, was made for all the people of Russia—not alone for the Catholics, who comprise a very small minority of the population of that great nation; but for the Jews and for all non-Catholics as well.

And what a setting! The largest church in the world, the largest congregation in the world—70,000 people. The tomb of the martyred St. Peter close by. The relics and treasures of ages and of centuries around him.

Be Content

If what thou dost desire may not be thine, Learn then with what thou hast to be content; For idle wishing is good time mispent.

The fount of good within thy own soul lies: Seek Beauty, Truth, and Love; Live with thy heart, Rich in thyself, whatever Fate denies: Thou ownst the whole and needst the smallest part.

Lord of the earth and Lord of the deep skies Thou child of God, of Nature, and of Art.

Peter's into a Russian national cathedral for the occasion.

The chanting of the "De Profundis" for the repose of the souls of the thousands of religious martyrs already sacrificed in Russia; the exposition of the sacred relics of the True Cross, and of Veronica's veil—the very garment with which she wiped the face of Jesus on his way to Calvary—all these combined to make this Mass a great historic event; an appeal and a sacrifice that could be made nowhere else in the world with such effort, with such fervor, and with such Christian spirit and soul.

STUDY VS. PLAY

The other day the writer passed a school play ground—not in Rochester, and not a Catholic school—and though it was ten in the morning, there was a class in the yard being taught by a hired teacher to play what used to be called one-o'-cat.

We live in an age when the cost of schools is mounting, while the result of school work does not equal that of a generation ago. Too much time is spent in teaching children to play, or many high priced teachers are employed at the taxpayers' expense to teach children to do what they can do better themselves.

The writer on several occasions has had excellent opportunity to observe results. A teacher who was considered expert in his work showed a class of boys a certain game. The boys followed his instructions, and it was what would be called tame.

There are a lot of us old moss backs as we may be called, who love children but who are not able to grasp the reason for teaching children in school how to play. We think that proper exercises can be enjoyed by them at their own games, when their own minds will be developed in devising methods of exercise that will do them more good than the games that are class work.

We hope in our old-fashioned way that the time is not far off when these fads will be banished from our schools, and when the children will be allowed to have their play when their work is done in school.

One would think, from what can be seen today in the vicinity of many city schools, in their school yards, or in the "gyms," that the only recreation a child gets is what is provided by the school and at the taxpayers' expense.

Catholic Church Preceded Bible

The Catholic Church celebrated its silver jubilee many years before the last book of the Bible was written. It was more than 300 years after the founding of the Catholic Church that the world obtained the Bible. Christ's Church does not depend only on the Bible. See Matt. 16, 18.

MULLER, THE GREATEST BIOLOGIST OF THE LAST CENTURY,

WAS A CATHOLIC

they know what a "gym" was. They seemed to get healthful exercise at home helping father at the wood pile, and mother in her work, and then, when that was done, in the nearest vacant lot at their games which were played with vim.

ARE WE LAW CRAZY?

Judge Robert M. Jones of Knoxville, Tenn., says we have gone "law crazy" in America. Everybody who has a hobby wants a law to promote or protect that hobby. And a lot of people have had their hobbies embalmed in the statute books.

In another State a child cannot pass from the eighth grade to high school unless he has learned the first verse of "The Star Spangled Banner." There is a law to that effect.

"Ordinarily," the Judge said, "law should follow only where there is a crystallized public opinion in favor of it. Where people are not in favor of it, they will not heed it, and the law is no good."

"There are more than 100,000 statute laws in the United States restricting the conduct of the individual. Each one is an infringement of man's personal liberty. Some, of course, are necessary, but the great majority are foolish."

"Now there are so many laws that people of good mind and high ideals can never expect to obey them all, and as a result a law is not looked upon as sacred, like it was when the statute books were only five inches thick instead of being five volumes fifteen inches thick."

"Every good law will be obeyed, and there will be a hearty public opinion in favor of enforcing it. The poor laws will not be obeyed and they ought to be repealed."

When Judge Jones says every good law will be obeyed, he means every such law will have the support of the great majority of the people of America. He is right. And he is doubly right when he says laws ought to be repealed when they lack this support.

Approximately 700 hours are now devoted to the broadcasting of religious programs each year by the two National networks. The National Broadcasting Company set aside 338 hours during 1929 for such programs, and the Columbia Broadcasting System set aside approximately the same number.

LORD BALFOUR DEAD

There will be no shamrocks strewn on the grave of Arthur James Balfour, British statesman who closed his eyes in death on March 19th.

Dust to dust, and ashes to ashes, his mortal remains will commingle with the earth to which he long ago consigned the tortured and mutilated bodies of many brave Irishmen, whose only fault was that they loved liberty better than they did life.

For in 1887, when the mighty genius of Gladstone and the giant strokes of Parnell had carried the Home Rule cause of Ireland to the forefront of British politics, Lord Balfour was appointed Chief Secretary for Ireland. Instantly he launched a violent and far-reaching system of punishment, of torture, of deaths by gibbet and firing squads, to counteract and crush the growing spirit of liberty in the hearts and souls of the Irish people.

"Bloody" Balfour, the Irish called him. Hate and fury were turned loose by him upon the hapless people of the land of St. Patrick—not so much hate from Balfour's own heart, as from the hearts of the bigoted and pitiless men he used to crush the soul of Ireland. The prisons of the land resounded with the cries of his tortured victims, and many new-shaped graves dotted the country when gibbet or bullet did its work.

"He was responsible," said Tay Pay O'Connor, his contemporary in the British Parliament, "for a cruel treatment of merely political prisoners which was unequalled at that time in any of the more civilized countries of the world." He broke down not only the bodies, but the minds of Irish prisoners, by slow methods of torture, brutality and inhumanity.

Immigrants to the hospitable shores of America carried his blood-red epithet over here—and "Bloody" Balfour was a common expression in Irish circles in America for many years.

And yet, in many ways, Lord Balfour had a character that was lovable. His friends admired him greatly, and few men in recent years have received such fulsome world-wide obituaries. Nevertheless, and with good cause, Ireland's tears will not bless his grave, nor will shamrocks adorn it.

The head of many a "Red" was thumped violently by the New York city police during the recent Communist demonstrations in that city. A petition has been filed now with Mayor Walker, demanding the removal of Police Commissioner Whalen because of this thumping. It was unlawful, the petition says. The signers forget the famous saying of the famous "Dooley"—"There is more law in the end of a policeman's night stick than there is in all the law books of the world."

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

Home is a place where a man stays while he has a flat tire.

Al. Smith is a realtor now. Here's betting he'll never have a sign, "To Let", on his hat.

A minister in New York says we want a new religion. He's wrong. What he wants is a new job.

When you tell your son that George Washington never told a lie, be careful to explain to him that George never played bridge or golf.

It's all in one's viewpoint. A Washington Congressman says we are enduring a period of economic low visibility. A plumber in Kalamazoo says he's out of potatoes.

Some people were doubtful about the justice of the acquittal of Edward J. Doheny, the millionaire oil operator, until the wind-bag from Alabama jumped up in the Senate and denounced the Jury. Then everybody knew Doheny was innocent.

A gentleman in Seattle, Wash., was divorced by his wife because he trumped her ace in a bridge game. She promptly hit him with an alarm clock, knocking out his front teeth. Then she left the house and started her suit for divorce. He's lucky she didn't shoot him.

Martyrs make a cause. In Philadelphia the other day a union workman, out on strike, was killed by strike-breakers. On the day of his funeral 35,000 union workmen dramatically raised their right hands and solemnly swore to live and die for the cause for which their comrade had given his life. All the bullets and all the coercion in the world can never kill a just cause that has the blood of a martyr for its inspiration.

The inevitable has happened. Frank Ward O'Malley, famous writer, who left America "forever" several months ago and went to Switzerland to live, as a protest against the bigotry of the 18th Amendment, and of the electorate of America in the late national election, has returned to this country. "I got homesick," he said. "So I have left the land of the free—Switzerland—and have returned to the land of the dazed—America."

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A foreigner, coming to America, might think, after looking at the headlines on the front pages of America's newspapers, that Al. Capone is a bigger and more important man than Herbert Hoover. What a comedy! All the Chicago police force out looking for him, and Al. walks into headquarters and gives himself up. Then nobody wants him! The Governor of Florida proudly proclaiming that Al. would never be permitted to enter that State, and lo! Al., armed with a Federal injunction, motors through the State to his castle beneath the sun. And a few years ago this man was a Bowery bartender with a reputation for knowing how to mix cocktails or knife disturbers. Now he lives like a king, and gets more headlines than any king.

patriotic men, and as "Bloody" Balfour he will be remembered.

Sunday's Liturgy

March 30

"Laetare Sunday," Fourth Sunday In Lent

By Dom Ambrose Wittmann, O.S.B.

(Prepared for the N.C.W.C. News Service by the Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota.)

The Collect: "Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty God, that we, who rightly suffer for our deeds, may be relieved by Thy consoling grace."

By saying "we rightly suffer for our deeds," we frankly acknowledge that the sufferings and trials which we must undergo are fully deserved. The stains of the sin must be washed away by saying penance; therefore, God Himself at times sends us such penances. But now in Lent Mother Church encourages us to do even more than willingly accept the troubles that come our way.

not with sadness or gloom. Today, in mid-Lent, the Church herself reminds us of that holy joy which is so necessary a quality of Christian penance. For this one day she lays aside the violet vestments which are her daily garb during this season and in their stead uses vestments of a bright rose color. For this one day she again decorates the altar with flowers and makes use of the organ to accompany the liturgical chants. She does this in order to remind us that true Christian penance is performed joyfully and lovingly. With half of Lent already past, she wishes us to look forward to the remainder of it with renewed courage and with renewed resolutions to make good use of this time of grace.

The God-Man Jesus Christ is working with us. In every holy Mass He continues that great work of the redemption which He first enacted on Calvary. We look therefore to Him for the strength to suffer for our deeds" according to the example He set us; we ask His help and pray to be "given relief by His consoling grace."

The consciousness of God's help should be the cause of uninterrupted joy in us. The Introit which gives its name to this Sunday, the "Laetare, Jerusalem"—"Rejoice, O Jerusalem, and come together all ye that love her; rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow."—prompts us to cherish and foster true happiness of heart no matter how dark or lowering the clouds surrounding us may seem. The Savior will provide. He provided for the great multitude in today's Gospel by a miracle; He provides for us in the great miracle of love which takes place every day on our altars. How fitting, then, that we should joyfully assist at this great act of Christ's, and join with Him, as He wishes us to do, in offering the Sacrifice to the Father every time we are present at holy Mass! It is by such co-operation with our Savior that the Mass will "profit us both unto devotion and salvation" (Secret). It is by such co-operation also that we can insure the granting of that prayer of ours for today: "that we, who rightly suffer for our deeds, may be relieved by the consoling grace."

Altar In Javanese Style, Gift to Pope

(By N.C.W.C. News Service)

Louvain, March 28—Dr. Joseph Schmutzer, a native of the Dutch East Indies, lately named professor at the University of Utrecht, Holland, has presented the Holy Father with an altar in Javanese style. Recently arrived in Rome, the altar has found its way to the Lateran Palace, where it will be preserved in the permanent Mission Museum.

Dr. Schmutzer, for years a leader of the Isle of Java Catholic party, has also been a constant and consistent promoter of the adaptation of Christian art under all its forms to the ideals and concepts of the natives the Church seeks to convert. The altar, work of a Javanese artist, which he has had sent to Rome as an object lesson, is adorned with a statue of the Sacred Heart and of two kneeling angels.