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WHICH WAY ARE WE GOING?

The ancient Babylonian people were held together by the firm bonds of law. Some of their laws were terribly severe. For instance, a son who struck his father was to have his hands cut off. That makes us shudder. But—

In N. Dakota the other day the Supreme Court of the State handed down a decision giving to the criminal statutes of the State what lawyers call "life for a pint." The law provides that conviction for a fourth felony may be punished by life imprisonment. The Court held that violations of the Prohibition Law constitute "moral turpitude", and therefore come within the provisions of the habitual criminal act. The Court defined moral turpitude as an "act of baseness, vileness or depravity in private or social duties which man owes to his fellow-man, or to society in general."

In Babylon, thousands of years ago, they cut a boy's hands off for striking his father. In America, to-day, we send a man to jail for life for selling liquor. Four separate sales will do it, four drinks—"life for a pint."

Which way are we going from Babylon—up or down? It was a horrible thing to cut a boy's hands off. It is a horrible thing to take a man away from his family, his friends, and jail him for life for selling a pint of liquor. Let us not do all our shuddering about the Babylonian laws.

DOING SOMETHING WORTH WHILE

At the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Dallas, Texas, the other day, the address of the Bishops of that church took a firm stand against enemies of the home—complicated marriage, trial marriage, unclean fiction, immoral motion pictures and liquor.

"At no time," said the address, "have popular fiction and popular plays been such a menace to good morals as in these recent years. Popular fiction, appealing to what is lowest in human nature and attacking the very basis of Christian morals, would be bad enough. But this evil influence has been out-distanced by the motion picture theatre—the greatest menace to morals and religion the church has had to face in many years."

"All promised reform has ended in growing degradation. Methodism will be false to herself and to the future should she fail to say to her membership that indiscriminating attendance upon motion pictures is perilous not only to Christian character but to common decency."

It is heartening to see this church devote some of its influence to these evils, and not give a monopoly of its time to the fanaticism of Prohibition, as it has been inclined to do in the past. There is no gainsaying the fact that liquor is an enemy to the Christian home, if not used properly, and it is an especially dangerous enemy to young people, and to the morality of young people. That is why the Catholic Church, thoughtful mother, invariably asks her children, when they are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, to take a pledge of total abstinence until they are twenty-one years of age. They take this pledge as an offering to God, and they keep it. Prohibition of this kind is a thousand more times more effective than that produced by the "Thou Shalt Not" of a law with a shotgun behind it. Methodists and others will learn this to their sorrow before the awful debacle of the present Prohibition laws has been smoothed out to a lawful condition.

Gentlemen in the bootlegging profession have a sorry opinion of the virtue of our Courts. Miami, Fla., officials have been trying to padlock Al Capone's Palm Island mansion. The case is being fought by a friend of Capone's who has offered the State a contempt charge of \$5,000 to decide whether to go to law. In other words, he is willing to get \$5,000

Tim of the Tales

Tim of the Tales they call me,
With a welcome heart and hand;
But little they hold my brother
For all his cattle and land.

If I be walking the high road
From Clare that goes to the sea,
A troop of the young run leaping
To gather a story from me.

Tim of the Tales, the folk say,
Is known the world around;
The children he taking his stories
To their homes in foreign ground.

I pity my brother his fortunes,
And how he sits alone,
With the money that keeps his body,
But leaves his heart a stone.

And sometimes do I be feeling
A dream of death in my ear,
And a heaven of children calling,
"Tim of the Tales is here."

—Rev. M. J. Earls, S. J.

A SACRILEGIOUS SYCOPHANT

A sacrilegious sycophant—F. Scott McBride, general superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League—testified before the Senate Lobby Committee in Washington the other day that:

"The league was born of God, it has been led by Him, and we will fight on while He leads. Those things that stand in the way of the progress of the Kingdom of God must get out of the way."

"The Anti-Saloon League was born of intolerance, of arrogance, of bigotry, of narrow, contemptible and vicious methods. While some of its aims and ideals may be worthy of commendation, its political and semi-religious activities have been in the main despicable. It appeals to prejudices and passions. It appeals to fanaticism. Its champions are chiefly men and women who lack the simplest touches of human kindness, charity or consideration for the views of others or for the rights of others. The brazen impudence of F. Scott McBride reaching sacrilegious hands towards a God of love, of charity, of kindness and of compassion, and claiming Him as the Father of the malodorous organization, is the best evidence of what manner of men they are who seek to dominate and dictate the destinies of a Nation founded upon justice and equality. The Anti-Saloon League is a downright menace to the internal peace and good-will of the American nation and the American people. The beginning of the League extends not to Mt. Sinai or to Heaven, but to a group of snooping sycophants whose work does not show the first symptoms of decent human origin, to say nothing about the divine."

THE LITTLE FLOWER

Five years ago, May 17, 1925, St. Theresa, the Little Flower of Jesus, was canonized. Fairest of all the roses that bloomed in the Carmelite garden in Lisieux, France, she received the glorious title of Saint twenty-eight years after her death. Her anniversary recalls sweet memories of a beautiful life and a beautiful character.

The date of her canonization is written in golden letters upon the pages of Christian History. Not since Michael Angelo designed the great Church of St. Peter in Rome, long centuries ago, had the sacred walls of that structure held such a crowd. Sixty thousand people, from all classes and professions in life, flocked to the church. Far more than that number were unable to gain admittance, and they knelt outside and prayed to the Little Flower all through the impressive ceremony of her canonization.

The Little Flower, since May 17, 1925, has been the pet Saint of all the Catholic Church. She was declared Universal Patron of the Missions, she was named Special Patron of St. Peter's Work for forming indigene priests, and is looked upon as the protectress of nearly every kind of Catholic enterprise.

Her statue graces the Universities, the Colleges, the Schools, the Seminaries, the Convents, the Monasteries, the Abbeys, the Churches, the Shrines, the Hospitals, the Asylums, the homes of Princes, and the huts of beggars. Her picture adorns millions of homes. After that of Jesus and Mary there is no question about which picture is found in more homes: It is that of St. Theresa, the child of Carmel and the flower of Lisieux.

Through St. Theresa, thousands of luke-warm souls have been brought back to God, reclaimed to him through the sweetness of her sanctity and the beauty of her life. She has a wholesome and powerful appeal to all people, and it is no exaggeration to say that her life has been read by more non-Catholics than perhaps the life of any other Saint, unless it be St. Francis of Assisi. Her virtues have permeated the world. Fires of love, fires of Faith, fires of sacrifice—these has she built in the hearts and souls of millions of people. Her shrine at Lisieux is a world-shrine, visited yearly by hundreds of thousands of people from all countries. It would be well if every young girl would read her life. It would be well if all of us would try to imitate her great love for

A retreat for telephone operators is to be held at the Cenacle in Brighton, Massachusetts in June. We hope the retreat master is one who has often been called from a warm bed, in the middle of a cold night, just to have a sweet voice request him to "Ek-skuse ut plee-uz."

RELICS

The Catholic Church teaches that the relics of our Lord and His Saints are worthy of veneration, just as we Americans venerate the relics of the Liberty Bell, or George Washington, or Lincoln. Scriptures record wonderful works wrought by God through the clothes, the handkerchiefs (Acts 19-12), yes, even the shadow of the saints (Acts 5, 15), while they lived on earth. He can and does work miracles today by the sacred ashes, the bones and other relics of the saints. Exodus 13, 19, 2 Kings, 13-21.

LATRELLE, PRINCE OF ENTOMOLOGISTS, WAS A CATHOLIC PRIEST

God, her piety, her sincerity, her sacrificial spirit—this fair young girl, who lived, worked and walked in our own day and age; now numbered among God's elect, now loved by all the world, now the sweet spiritual comrade of countless lonely souls and numberless troubled hearts the world over.

DRY OR BLIND?

The human race is full of oddities. Yes, it is brimming over with them, and we all have a share. The writer admits his part in them. One man, not liking intoxicating drink, presumes to tell another: "Thou shalt not drink," and the other answers: "Just watch and see." Some abuse intoxicating drinks, as they abuse many other gifts of God.

Political meddlers, blind to their own shortcomings, forced weak politicians to pass a law that forced their narrow notions about drink on the nation. The law has not and never has had the approval of the people of our land. Those who can see, know that well. Ten years of lawlessness, crookedness, murders, oppression and bribery, such as no nation has ever experienced but ours, have followed. And still the promoters of this condition shout from the house tops that the nation never was so prosperous, nor sober as it is today. If that were true, even the babies must have gotten drunk before the prohibition law was made.

To-day school children are drinking hooch, and some are becoming intoxicated. The writer has seen them and talked with them in that condition. But he never saw or heard of them making that error before the land became dry on paper but wet in deed. There may have been falls here and there, but drinking by those under age ten years ago was not the common fact it is to-day.

The oddities of the human mind show themselves when we find those who consider it a crime to use properly what our Lord, who is God, made the object of His first miracle, the changing of water into wine at the marriage of Cana—and then these same persons openly advocate the violation of His law in regard to holy purity and the duties of the married. And when we see these holier than thou hypocrites advertising in the public papers their advocacy of birth control, and the teaching of the married, whose first duty is to have a family, how to avoid their duty to God and their country by having childless homes, we wonder how far their oddities will go. They talk of Holy Scripture, but seem not to have read that part where God struck dead the first man to commit that crime they would teach to the married of these days. That is no crime in their eyes, but to take a drink even in moderation, to their limited intellects, is a wrong that should be stopped by bullets if necessary.

However, it is pleasing to learn from the Literary Digest poll that the people of our land, liberty-loving as they are, stand ready to show that the fanatics do not represent the country as they have claimed to do so loudly. The representatives of the people will do well to note this expression of their disapproval of the dry lobbies and their hobbies and to see plainly the evils that dry fanaticism has brought on the land. The writer is a dry, that is, in his own life, and always has been. But that is no reason why others cannot use what God has made when they use His gifts properly. May the American saloon, as it was, never come back. May the representatives elected by the people see their way clear to form some plan to end the present rule of fanatic dryness that in the end promises to destroy all laws and all order and decency in the country, as it already has destroyed sobriety.

MAY IN OUR SCHOOLS

Few of our best informed Catholic laity in seeing the priest at the altar or the religious in the school ever give thought to the financial hardships under which the Bishop and the orders educate their young members and furnish them with the necessities of life. It is a hard drain upon scanty accounts. In our limited experience we have seen in only a few wills any attempt to aid in this great work. This is the dark side to the annual vocation campaign; but it now has the light of full publicity. Perhaps the school authorities would not object if we assume the right to widen the purpose of the children's prayers during May, so that they may include many generous donations from the laity to the Bishop for his seminarians and to the motherhouses for

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

Senator Nye of N. Dakota says the U. S. Senate is "shocked" because Ruth Hanna McCormick spent \$250,000 in her campaign to be nominated for the Senate. While the Senate is in that frame of mind the Big Wind from Alabama ought to give it a four-hours talk on the Pope.

Flowers of gratitude blossom in no hearts so beautifully as in the hearts of the poor. The Rev. C. J. Cronan, native of Mount Morris, N. Y., was buried in New York City last week. For some years past he had worked among poor negroes and white people in Harlem, and more than 10,000 of them came to pray and weep at his casket. The tomb will never take him from their hearts.

The assistant managing editor of The New York Times, Joseph F. Tebeau, a native of Oswego, N. Y., was buried in the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in New York City last Friday. He had been on the old Sun, under Charles A. Dana, for ten years, and on The Times for twenty-three years. He was a devout Catholic, a splendid newspaperman, and an outstanding editor. Newspapermen from many places paid fine tribute to his life, his work, his character. The souls of such men as Joseph Tebeau, reflected in the pages of The Times, have made that paper a paragon of cleanliness, fairness and greatness. "By their works ye shall know them." Joseph Tebeau worked with a Catholic spirit, which is a spirit of fairness, honesty, decency and of unflinching fidelity to truth, virtue and goodness. The death of such a man is a loss to American journalism.

THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

The center of Catholic devotion is the Eucharist. About the Eucharist center the thoughts of the true disciple of Christ, who instituted the Holy Eucharist, containing His Own Body and Blood at the Last Supper, the night before He died. Through the Eucharistic Congresses men are reminded of the assistance they may receive through their Eucharistic King. Through the Eucharistic Congresses men are recalled to the opportunities they have of proffering their devotion to Him Who so loved men that He gave up His Life.—The Pilot, Boston, Mass.

A HOTBED OF RADICALISM

Be careful where your boy or girl goes to school. Three young men were arraigned the other day before Judge Francis Allegretti, head of the Boys' Court in Chicago. They had been arrested in a hall where speakers were denouncing the government at a Communistic meeting. One of the youths was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin; the other two were students in that University. The Judge asked them if the University taught them Communistic ideas.

"Not exactly," said the graduate, "but they have pretty liberal ideas there." Whereupon Judge Allegretti said: "Well, the University of Wisconsin is a hotbed of radicalism. It's a teacher of disrespect for the government instead of being the upright teacher of respect that it should be. Maybe it doesn't actually have a course in those kind of ideas, but they are all over the school."

"There are a number of universities which support the teaching of Communist ideas. Some of them even import teachers from Red Russia." It is a paradox to me that State universities should turn out students who preach sabotage against the State.

A number of so-called "modern" American colleges and universities not only undermine the respect of students for law and order, but they undermine and destroy the morality of students. Then religion dies in their hearts and souls. You never find a Catholic school teaching Communistic ideas, or "sabotage against the State", or anything but the highest and finest respect for law and order, respect for morality, respect for religion and love for God.

So be careful where your boy or girl goes to school.

IRELAND BANS BOOKS

The Irish Free State, under authority of its new censorship act, has just announced the banning of thirteen books by the Minister of Justice, Fitzgerald Kenney. Five of the books are from America—"Home to Harlem" by Claude McKay, negro author, and four books on birth control by Margaret Sanger.

The other eight books are by English writers—Huxley's "Point Counterpoint"; Radcliffe Hall's "Well of Loneliness"; which was banned in the United States; Dr. Lowenfeld's "Conjugal Happiness"; and five books on birth control by Dr. Marie.

Nine of the banned books are on birth control. Ireland wants none of that, for very good reason that it is a violation of the sacred law of God, and degrading to humanity.

A. E. Russell, famed Irish writer, fought censorship vigorously in his "Irish Statesman," which died a regrettable death not long ago. But the characters of the first books banned should help "A. E." change his mind about censorship. Evil books are an abomination of the age. They should be banned, as poison is banned.

CURRENT COMMENT

PROUD OF OUR SCHOOLS

We Catholics have reason to be proud of the fine school system we have built up and maintained during the ups and downs of so many years. The united sacrifices of a great many people have gone into that accomplishment. And our school development has done more than merely keep pace with population needs. We have noticeably increased the efficiency of our existing institutions at the same time that we have been filling in the gaps that once so seriously handicapped us in keeping control of our grammar school graduates. Figures just published indicate that our Catholic High Schools have handled 226,166 students during the year 1928. That showing will come as a pleasant surprise to most Catholic readers. It argues well for the future. We see not so far distant a day when we shall be able to look after our own most effectively from the period of the first grade to that of the Doctor's degree.—The Ave Maria, Notre Dame, Indiana.

FINE PUBLICITY

The Catholic press of the country does itself proud on many news events of vital importance. Not only is the news sought out and seized, but it is attractively and prominently presented by live and enterprising editors.

Last week practically every publication in the country featured two events occurring locally, yet of great news and Catholic value. The first was the result of the Harriman case, whose treatment will serve as a model for future cases. Nearly every Catholic paper featured this valuable story on page one with splendid headings and supplemented it with direct and unequivocal editorials. The Tablet reprints editorial selections from a number of our able contemporaries.

The second story related to the high school teacher in the Bronx who apparently misused his position and made it a platform for presenting erroneous ideas. The N. C. W. C. Service immediately grasped the significance and importance of this story and sent it to its clients. Nearly all editors, sensing its value, placed it on page one so that the offense was heralded from coast to coast. Papers over 1,000 miles from the Bronx told the interesting story. The Tablet, Brooklyn, N. Y.

SHE LOVED ALL HUMANITY

What a beautiful epitaph this would be for any woman—"She Loved All Humanity!"

Nathan Straus, aged Jewish philanthropist of New York City, broken by grief over the recent unexpected death of his beloved wife, paid this tribute to Mrs. Straus immediately after her funeral. He said:

"I want to correct a very erroneous impression which has been conveyed to the public after my wife's death. It is that she and I have devoted our lives entirely to Jewish charities. This is not correct. She loved all humanity and her burning desire was to relieve all distress."

"Neither she nor I knew any difference between Jew and non-Jew when we could be helpful. In all our work together this has been our guiding principle. Everyone knows, I think, that our Pasteurized milk work was conducted for all alike."

"We have worked together for the upbuilding of Palestine, where Jew and Arab will live together as neighbors. Our health centers there are open to all and we have rejoiced because we could extend help for all."

Every word of this is true. Mr. and Mrs. Straus have been among the foremost contributors to all charities in New York City, and far beyond New York City, for many years Catholic, Protestant and civic charities have known them as unflinching good friends, generous, kindly, helpful. God blessed them with an abundance of this world's wealth, and they used it with beneficent hands for all the poor. Racial or religious lines never interfered with their charities. The tribute the sorrowful husband pays her now is, therefore, a just tribute—"She loved all humanity."

their novices. It strikes us that then the prayer will be complete. It will be welcomed in heaven.—The Tablet, Brooklyn, N. Y.