

The Catholic Courier And Journal

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Friday, July 18, 1930.

THE MERCY KILLER

There has been a great deal of sensational matter published about that poor old man in Walton, N. Y., who killed his mentally defective daughter a few days ago, inspired by the fear that he might die and leave her helpless in the world.

The charitable view of the case is that the poor father, mentally unbalanced by constant worry over the condition of the afflicted girl, lost his reason completely and committed an awful crime.

Meanwhile, instead of getting excited over a tragedy of this nature, it is always well to say a sincere prayer for the people involved in the tragedy, and to keep the sob-story mush of sensational papers away from our children and away from ourselves.

THE CARMELITE NOVENA

The first public Novena of the Carmelite Sisters in Rochester was brought to a close on Wednesday of this week. Here was a treat as to the interest of the people of the city and Diocese in the Carmelites.

In addition to those who went to the convent in person to make the Novena, a far greater number obtained the novena booklets and made the novena in their homes.

BITING A HAND

Earl Carroll, New York theatrical producer, must feel like the city motorist who, stealing apples from the farmer, had his hand bitten by the watchful farm dog.

The law, watchful as a farm dog, has bitten Earl Carroll's hand again. It has complained violently to the farmer, the motorist was told: "That dog is set in his ways. He always bites a bad hand."

Carroll's papers, as a rule, are not cordial towards the law. But in this case it is admitted that Mr. Carroll's show is "bad news."

A Builder's Lesson

"How shall I a habit break?" As you did that habit make. As you gathered, you must lose; As you yielded, now refuse.

QUACKS AND QUACKS

The New York City Health Department has just completed a tabulation of medical quacks engaged in luring the public. Each of the practitioners, manufacturers, peddlers or inventors has a folder in which is included his complete biography, the nature of the commodity with which he tricks the public, and his method of working.

The total number of quacks listed is slightly in excess of twenty-five thousand—a startling total of human leeches working chiefly upon persons afflicted with incurable diseases.

If this number is startling, how much more so the number of quacks who are posing as spiritual physicians of the soul. The medical quack preys upon the poor afflicted body, upon the tired mind and the dimming hopes of his victims.

The spiritual quack is restrained by no law. He finds new religions. He twists old ones around to suit his own ends. He preys upon troubled souls unanchored on the sea of Faith, calls out to them that he will save them and bring them to port, and deserts them in their critical hour, as does the medical quack.

550,000 PILGRIMS

Five hundred and fifty thousand pilgrims visited the home of St. Teresa the Little Flower, at Lisieux, France, last year. In 1928 the number of pilgrims to her home was three hundred thousand.

It is not quite thirty-three years since Marie Frances Teresa Martin died. It is only five years since she was canonized. Yet the fame of her sanctity has spread to the uttermost parts of the world.

Fifty-seven years ago The Little Flower was born, in Alencon, France. She is, therefore, of our own time and our own age. Contemporary with us. Walking, as it were by our side, our companion and our friend.

Never, in the history of the world, has a Saint captivated the hearts of millions so quickly. Never has a Saint appealed to all people so quickly; to the Protestant as well as to the Catholic; to the sinful as well as to the pious.

The Greatest Thing in the World is the Catholic Church

founded by Christ upon St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, (Matt. 16, 18) "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church." The present Pope, Pius XI., 261st head of the Catholic Church, is the successor of St. Peter, first Pope and head of the Catholic Church, and his supreme religious authority extends over all Catholics, BUT ONLY IN MATTERS OF RELIGION. (Read about Catholic Church in "Question Box," by Conway—all book stores.)

LAVOISIER, FATHER OF MODERN CHEMISTRY, WAS A CATHOLIC

TWO MILLION CHILDREN

Approximately two million children in the United States are being educated outside of Catholic schools. This is nearly one-half of all the Catholic children in the country.

There is no denying the fact that the Church is suffering serious loss in membership each year. The statistics show that we gain, it is true, but only in a small way, compared with our numbers.

Sunday schools and religious education classes help to quite an extent in safeguarding the faith of the two million children who never see the inside of a Catholic school. But in many places this is only a make-shift help.

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S SPIRIT

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, entertaining and clever writer, passed from the land of life the other day, apparently with all thought of his boyhood days and of the faith of his fathers shut out from his soul.

Early in life, Conan Doyle became an indiscriminate reader, a dreamer, a visionary. He found his God in books, not in Faith and not in charity or love.

Then death came, bringing to him no special favor, no magic privilege. His body was buried under an apple tree in the garden of his home, and a salaried clairvoyant came to the stage of a great hall in London, to bring his spirit back, and to establish beyond all doubt the truth and the beauty of the things he talked and thought in life.

The lights were dimmed. The great hall became surcharged with the electricity of human expectancy. The salaried clairvoyant announced, with slow and solemn emphasis, that five spirits stood behind her, pushing her. Hundreds gasped. Some one snickered, then laughed.

The clairvoyants are quick. Clairvoyants understand psychology, as well as salaries. Like the snap of a whip the young lady who had been reaching into the mystic land of spiritualism, groping for the friendly hand of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, announced that the meeting was over, that the offending persons had broken the "spell."

"The message came in his own clear voice, and I understood it perfectly," said the salaried clairvoyant. No one else saw him. No one else out of all the ten thousand heard him—but what is the use of being a clairvoyant if you can't have a few special privileges of your own?

Meanwhile, it is just as well to understand that the Church condemns Spiritualism and Spiritistic practices, and characterizes them as attempts to revive paganism and magic. Seances are forbidden, and participation in them, for they bring no good to the soul, no truths to the mind, and nothing but evil consequences to religion and to morality.

METHODISTS LIKE RADIO HOUR

In its issue of June 19, The Christian Advocate of New York, a Methodist publication, has the following comment on the Catholic Radio Hour, inaugurated some time ago under the auspices of the National Council of Catholic Men, and launched by Cardinal Hayes of New York:

"The radio work of the Roman Catholic Church has been greatly enlarged, strengthened and improved within the past few months, and is now highly effective and holds the attention of many listeners in Protestant homes. It is dignified, free from vituperation, constructive and educational, in marked contrast to the tone of some of the radio talk which puts Protestants to the blush."

This comment carries an impressive lesson with it—the lesson of tolerance, of kindness, of charity for the views of others, and above all a lesson of sincere friendly interest in our separated brethren. Bishop O'Hern is an enthusiastic champion of this very thing.

What Cardinal Hayes said of the Catholic Radio Hour, in launching it, is equally true of the church itself. He said: "The purpose of the National Catholic Hour is not to triumph or to boast; nor to attack nor to blame, but to serve."

Every one of us should take this lesson home. Every one of us can serve our friends, neighbors, relatives, who are outside of the Church, and we should do it with the utmost kindness and charity, exemplifying by our lives and our language the beauty of the Faith we possess.

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

At the end of every day a man should know whether he has been tagged at a fire hydrant, or given an angelic mark for some kind deed.

A pessimist is a man who closes his eyes and commences to worry about getting to Heaven when the collection box is four pews away from him.

Fred A. Victor, State Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, says Prohibition is gaining ground in New York State because the income of the League has increased fifteen per cent. in six months over last year.

How many of us remember the boy who used to steal up behind us, hit us with a rotten tomato, and then run like scared jackrabbit? Deets Pickett, research secretary of the Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals of the Methodist Episcopal Church, appears to be a grown up replica of that boy.

"There is more than a little reason to suspect that half of those constituting his majority were, in fact, voting for Lindy and the other half for Anne."

Mr. Pickett should take another drink of diluted grape juice after that. We feel certain that anything he drinks will not add to the accumulation of water already on his brain.

A lady in Georgia, Mrs. E. C. Alumbaugh, recently completed a jail sentence of six months for distributing the notorious bogus "oath" of the Knights of Columbus. After her conviction and sentence, her case was appealed to the highest court in the State, but the sentence was affirmed.

Bess is dead. Bess was the first elephant owned by the Ringling Bros., peniless boys who built up the world's greatest circus. She was ninety-three years old, and had been forty-three years in captivity. Her trainer found her dead the other day, and the millions of boys and girls who have seen her perform will see her no more.