

The Catholic Courier And Journal

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THE BEGINNING OF ADVENT

Sunday is the beginning of Advent, which means "coming"—the coming of our Divine Lord at Christmas time. It is the thought and wish of the Church that during the period of Advent we should cleanse and purify our souls by prayer, fasting, penance and the reception of the Holy Eucharist, in order that we may worthily celebrate the great feast of Christmas, the birthday of the Saviour of the world.

We give loving and sentimental thought to the birthdays of persons we love—to the birthday of a mother, father, sister, brother or child. We plan ahead for this event—for the gifts, for a birthday party or dinner, for thoughtful and kindly acts. How much more so should we think and plan for the birthday of Jesus Christ—for Him who came down from the glory of Heaven, to be born in a stable at Bethlehem, to live in poverty, to work, suffer and die for us, that our immortal souls might be saved for eternal happiness.

Advent is simply the time of preparation for this birthday, and each and every one of us should give sincere thought to the preparation for that great feast. What a joy to the heart of our Divine Saviour if we meet Him on Christmas morning with souls cleansed and purified from sin, with thoughts not distracted by the pleasures or follies of the world, and bringing to Him gifts of Faith, Hope, Love, the truest and best treasures of our lives, our works and our souls.

BUSINESS PARASITES

George F. Johnson, the great shoe manufacturer of Johnson City, says there are employers in America who bid up wages when business is good and men are hard to get, but who cut wages the moment business gets bad. "These men and the concerns they head are parasites," Mr. Johnson says. "They get their business out of the buying power guaranteed by the high wages of other concerns. They contribute nothing at all to prosperity, and whenever business gets slack they make things worse by withdrawing their wages." A number of so-called "sharp" and "shrewd" business men won't like that indictment.

Mr. Johnson says every corporation should include a summary of the wages paid in its annual report, so the people of the country will know which concerns are parasites and which are playing fair with their employes and helping the prosperity of America. He is opposed to the term "living wage," and says it means nothing. He likes the expression "fair wage," and says it means everything. He would make that "fair wage" large enough so the average wage earner could have a fair living, "a fair opportunity to enjoy the things which life is furnishing in greater abundance as we progress into a higher state of civilization and greater prosperity." Also, he says:

"I would have the children warm and comfortable, with sufficient good, wholesome, nourishing food. I would have them clothed in season properly. I would have them enjoy the healthful things to which they have a right. I would have them go to work later in life—after they have, in fact, had their heritage and have built up a good, sound mind and body. Then I would have them take up their work, and let them be fairly paid, and their children fairly paid."

Mr. Johnson is not in favor of firing men as they grow old. Fired at forty" is not a part of his book of system. "We like our people between thirty and seventy years of age, for it is about then that they are most valuable."

Johnson Shoe Company has fifteen thousand employes, says Mr. Johnson. "The only way anyone ever leaves."

Motherhood

Oh, we hear some people say, "Babies are such a bother." Yet silver chords of love entwine The patient, happy mother.

How many empty arms there are, That might an infant hold, Which fondle brute creation and— Are missing joys untold.

Build up the bulwarks of our faith, Welcome each little stranger, For He you worshipped at the Cradle Was cradled in a manger.

M. S. Marchant

That's the best answer to the question: "What do the employes think of Mr. Johnson?" High wages are the only true source of prosperity, Mr. Johnson says. "If there are leaders in American industry—and there are plenty of them—they can see to it," he says, "that the paying of low wages is put in a class with the dishonest manipulation of company funds. For not otherwise can we secure permanent, progressive prosperity."

Henry Ford will like that language, and the American wage earner. But a lot of employers won't like it. They will rant and rave about it. But George F. Johnson built up one of the greatest shoe businesses in the world out of his own head. He was an ordinary shoemaker less than fifty years ago, going here and going there in search of work. Then, in Binghamton, N. Y., he asked the manager of a shoe factory that was going bad financially to put him in charge of the plant and let him use his own methods. His great shoe company of to-day is the answer to that experiment. Mr. Johnson has a good Catholic wife and family. He is very generous to the Church, and to church societies and church charities. He has grown and prospered without becoming what he detests—a business parasite.

PROFESSOR BONN

Forty-two years of unbroken service, and faithful and devoted service, as organist of St. Patrick's Cathedral—that is the record of Professor F. Eugene Bonn, beloved by all who know him. In music, talented; in character, unblemished; in Catholicity, sincere; in all that makes a man truly good and noble, he is an inspiring example of what a son of the Church may become.

Last Sunday an Archbishop, two Bishops, a great gathering of clergy, seminarians and the laity—friends all, and admirers of the man and the musician—knelt before the great altar in St. Patrick's Cathedral at a solemn Pontifical Mass, celebrated by Bishop O'Hern, and prayed for Professor Bonn. The Most Rev. Thomas F. Hickey, D.D., Archbishop of Vintonia, a friend of long years standing, paid beautiful tribute to the Professor, and Bishop O'Hern presented him a prized Papal decoration, "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice"—a reward and a recognition of his devoted service and loyalty to the Church these forty-two years long.

This was good. This was fitting. His time, his talent, his genius, his love—these have been given gladly, unselfishly to the Church and to the beautiful music of the Church by Professor Bonn. In the twilight of his life it is most appropriate that honors be showered upon him, that Church and friends honor him, and that the prayers of many people be mingled with the sweet music he sends heavenward to God.

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

In all churches of this Diocese on Sunday a special collection will be taken up for the Catholic University of America, at Washington, D. C. This University was founded in 1863, and it is to be forever conducted under the authority of the Bishops of the United States. It provides higher education along many lines for Catholic young men, and it has affiliated with it several other educational institutions, all of which are doing splendid work for their students, the Church and for God.

The Catholic University has a School of Sacred Sciences, a School of Canon Law, a School of Law that is being enlarged and improved this year, a School of Philosophy, a School of Letters, and a School of Sciences. Shortage of finances harassed its early years and handicapped its work. The Knights of Columbus came to the rescue with a donation of half a million dollars in days when dollars were worth far more than at the present time. Many other good friends helped, and of late years the financial burden has been less and less of a handicap. The University has proven its worth, and it stands for great and growing accomplishments that are rapidly making it the pride of all Catholic people of America.

The plan of having all the people contribute something towards the support and the upkeep of this great institution of learning will surely arouse more interest in the University, its work and its future. It is to be hoped the collections will be generous, for the University is well worthy of our friendship and our support.

Catholic Missionary Activities

There are more Catholic missionaries at work in mission fields in the East and the Far East than all other forms of Christianity combined. The Catholic Church is a vast missionary society. Its very purpose was imposed by Christ when he said "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." (Mark, 16, 15). Hence the Catholic Church is at home everywhere, with 60,000 missionaries laboring among Pagans in heathen lands.

GIOJA, THE FATHER OF SCIENTIFIC NAVIGATION, AND THE DISCOVERER OF THE MARINER'S COMPASS, WAS A CATHOLIC

OUR PITIFUL INDIFFERENCE

Our missionaries go to China, endure great hardships, suffer many privations, and very often give their lives in martyrdom for the Faith. What for? To win converts to the Church; to teach the Chinese people Christian Catholic truths; to help save immortal souls for eternal happiness with God.

But when the Chinese people come to America, do the American Catholics show any interest in them? Do they trouble themselves to find who is Catholic and who is not, encourage the Catholic and cultivate the friendship of the non-Catholic. We do nothing of the kind, says Rev. Robert J. Cairns, M.M., Maryknoll pastor at Sunning, South China. He writes in the December issue of The Field Afar, a missionary magazine:

"Many Chinese Catholics who go to foreign parts weaken in their Catholic Faith, or lose it altogether; because of the lack of interest shown them by Catholic—even by priests—and because of the strangeness of the language. "As soon as Chinese arrive in America, most of them are invited to some Protestant mission or Y. M. C. A., to study English. It is easy to see why many of them forget their Catholic training, losing all contact with Catholic influence."

RELIGION NOT ONE-SIDED

Our religion is not one-sided. That is, it is for all people; not merely for women or children, but for men, too. It is a common thing to hear some men say: "Oh, religion is all right for women, but not for me."

The Institute of Social and Religious Research in New York City has been trying to find out if this is a general feeling among men. So it has made a study of the membership of men in churches. In the Christian Science Church there are thirty-three men to every hundred women. In the M. E. Church and the Episcopal Church, there are approximately seventy men to every hundred women. But in the Catholic Church there are ninety-four men to every hundred women. We dare say the other six men were home minding the babies when the count was made, and that it is practically even up.

These figures will cause no surprise to Catholics. Our religion is for everybody, and it is rare indeed to find a Catholic home in which the father is not devoted to the Church equally with his wife. For each one there is an immortal soul to save, a loving and infinite God to serve. For each one there is a good example to set for children—Faith, prayer, the reception of the Sacraments, interest and helpfulness in parish affairs. It never is merely a question of "walking to church with Ma." It never is merely a question of "showing up at church." It is a solemn and binding duty, a definite obligation to the God who created us, and who has promised us eternal life and everlasting happiness if we love and serve Him faithfully.

The writer served on a committee during the world war. Part of the duties of this committee was to ask the churches to save fuel by holding services in their vestries instead of in the churches proper. It was an amazing thing to learn that many large non-Catholic churches, even in war time, when mothers should, above all other times, be praying for their sons, never had more than fifty or sixty, or possibly a hundred or two persons at their services. All other churches promptly and gladly agreed to hold services in their vestries to save fuel. But the Catholic churches could not, even in a single instance, do this. At every Mass every church was crowded, and every church had from four to six Masses every Sunday. These facts were a revelation to non-Catholics on the committee, and they spoke feelingly of the lack of interest on the part of the non-Catholic in his church, and appreciatively of the interest of the Catholic.

It has always been thus. Men and women, we go to church to worship God, to pray to Him in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, to ask His help and His graces, and to pledge Him our love, fidelity and service. This is why the Institute of Religious Research could not find the Catholic Church a part of missing men. It is a port, rather, of all humanity, a harbor of peace, safety, rest and happiness.

What's in a name? A daughter has just been born to the Maharajah Sharmistabal Holkar, formerly Nancy Miller of Seattle, Wash., now the wife of the former Maharajah of Indore. The youngster will be known as the Princess Sita Rajee Holkar.

A BEAUTIFUL CHARITY

Our Lady of Victory Infant Home, conducted by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Nelson H. Baker at Lackawanna, N. Y., is but one of a great chain of charities under the direction of Father Baker. Last year this infant home cared for 6,288 infants. The total receipts were \$27,323.84, and for the total expenses \$115,526.30, leaving a deficit of \$88,202.55. The mothers of many of these children are unfortunate girls. They needed friends, help, kindness. They found these at Father Baker's.

In a report covering the work of this infant home, Father Baker says: "There seems to be a continued disposition upon the part of many of the so-called homes of charity in our large cities, to refuse their protection and care to this class of needy ones, who are without means, and hence force them to resort to some desperate means of self-preservation, which may mean the destruction of the child and afterwards, the recklessness of the murderer mother. In consideration of all this, we have made extraordinary efforts, through the influence of our many friends, to guide this unfortunate class to us and we are offering our protecting services to the prospective mother, regardless of any financial consideration, in caring for herself and her child.

This is the spirit of the Church always in caring for the poor, the needy and the unfortunate. It is the spirit of God. A charity of this kind naturally entails heavy expense and serious responsibility. When it entails, too, a serious financial deficit the burden of the charity is increased greatly. But it is good to record that there is no thought on the part of Father Baker of discontinuing this charity, because, he says: "Our Lord and His Blessed Mother are behind us in this work." That is sufficient, because they will bring friends, help, money, to a cause covered so beautifully by the mantle of charity.

IN RED RUSSIA

In red Russia this week—in red Russia where God is derided and religion spat upon—the Communist government has thrown eight souls to the populace to feed the fires of patriotism. Eight human beings, charged with conspiring with France and other nations to betray Sovietism, are on trial for their lives. And what a trial! Doomed long before the trial, condemned long before testimony is heard or sentence passed, the whole proceeding is a mockery and a farce.

Like ravenous lions, the populace has been fed—fed bombastic details of the guilt of these men; fed fantastic stories of their treason against the most high hypocrites of the government; fed anything and everything that will call for the cry of blood, the demand for death. Propaganda against these men has swept the land—not so much to obtain conviction, but to stir millions into the belief that the hands of other nations are raised against them, that their brothers of the human race are thirsting for Russian blood, and that they must band together, hold together, and make ready to fight for their existence and their lives.

In Moscow—in Moscow whose smoldering embers long ago wrote the doom of Napoleon upon the shifting skies of wintry Russia—these eight men are being tried. One million men, carrying banners, clamoring for blood, shout without—shout for the death of traitors and for the life of Communism. Within, great lights have been arranged so that every expression of these condemned men may be photographed. The prisoners, refined, delicate, intelligent in appearance, blink as the lights shine upon them and the cameras click. A prosecutor, with a face like a bulldog, glares at them. A judge who has sent other enemies of Sovietism to bloody graves presides at the trial. On every table near the prisoners, and attached to every pillar in the great trial hall, are loud speakers to broadcast to all of Russia every word, every breath of this trial. For this is Communism fed, and the people bated with the tempting lure of Soviet patriotism.

Not so long ago Bishops and priests by the hundreds—traitors, too, to Russia Sovietism, because they were faithful to conscience and to God, faced similar courts. In all, some eight thousand, the Rev. Edmund A. Walsh, S.J., of Georgetown University, says. And the manner of their death, he adds, is a revolting page in the long annals of man's inhumanity to man. Jews and Gentiles have walked the bloody road to martyrdom. The pathway to Sovietism is strewn with myriad corpses, stained with the blood of murder. The trial which opened this week in

WAYSIDE WHEA

By the Managing Editor

With Tom Hellin in the political arena, what unnamed hero will be gifted life to the great task of keeping Pope out of the White House?

Possession of near beer, or a beverage made out of malt, is a Georgia, according to a recent decision of the Court of Appeals in that State. The court sent an old man to the chair for twelve months. Let's pass a law have it over with, making it a offense to own a cork, a corkscrew, a thurst.

"The Romanists stole one hundred thousand votes from me," shouts Hellin, explaining his defeat in election as U. S. Senator from Alabama. "The Pope lost six million dollars in the stock market in America last year. The Fellowship Forum, chief paper champion of the late lamented Dear, oh dear, what terrible things going on in the world these days!"

Sweeney Morse Colgate, head of Colgate Palmolive-Peet Co., and one of the largest manufacturers of toilet soap perfumers in the world, died recently left an estate of many millions. There were only two charitable bequests will, one of \$50,000 to a Baptist Church North Orange, N. J., and a similar amount to a Baptist Welfare Federation. Most of Colgate's undoubtedly use some of the Colgate toilet goods, but no cent goes to Catholic charity. "When you rub the Colgate shaving cream into your whiskers, or shake Colgate perfume your clothing, remember that the Catholic company left the word Catholic of his will."

Forty-three banks closed their doors in the State of Arkansas on Monday week. Four of these will go out of business or reorganize. The other nine closed for five days, as permitted law, to avoid runs by depositors. The National Bank of Kentucky, the largest in the city of Louisville, went into the hands of a receiver after ninety-six years of operation. The City National Bank of Paducah took over two other banks, but announced it will pay all depositors. Three banks in Quincy, Ill., were closed, and six in banks. Two others in Illinois closed doors, and four in Missouri, eleven placed in the hands of receiver that State within ten days. Two banks in Des Moines, Iowa, closed their doors. The State has taken charge of the of Tennessee in Nashville. This is true. Sincere and deep sympathy will be offered America for the people affected by these calamities. And many prayers be sent that conditions will improve that God will protect all the people America from sorrow and suffering, handmaidens of failures and depression.

The Methodist Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals is set out. It is advocating what that Colgate'shite of a bigot, William H. Quince, has been advocating for a long time—the exclusion of all aliens in the United States when the number of Congress shall be apportioned for any State according to the population of that State. In regard to this, the Constitution of the United States says:

"Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting, whole number of persons in each, excluding Indians not taxed."

But the Methodist Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals that amended to exclude all alien residents of the country, some 7,000,000, it is estimated, although the great majority of these may have applied citizenship papers. The Methodist is trying to tell America that bootlegging, etc., is fostered mainly by aliens. Bootlegging is promoted, fostered and protected because millions of born native-born white Americans want liquor and are going to have it, because they resent any law infringing their personal rights. Bootlegging for no other reason, and when the Methodist Board of Temperance, etc., gets of a bootlegged movement, a narrow and temptable movement, and backs up it by a smoke screen of falsehood had better reverse its gears and run itself. We have always believed the church organization, group of ministers or what not, that is allowed to dictate one policy in this country will soon and tackle other policies, with inevitable result of seriously damaging blood-fought liberty of America and inciting internal dissension in the Methodist Board is on its way to

Moscow is illustrative of the method the Government. Not justice do they but fuel for the fires of hatred, flame the fire-side of Sovietism. And these men, poor, pitiful objects snatched from the masses for food and fuel for the passions of an aroused populace, have much chance for justice and mercy. Christians of old thrown to the lions of the arenas of Rome. For, in the eyes of the rulers is no religion, nor love of God. These gone, men are no better than beasts. And that is what faces today, whether it be a question of religion, of justice, truth and virtue