

The Catholic Courier And Journal

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Friday, June 5, 1931.

THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

The United States Supreme Court this week handed down a decision upholding the freedom of the Press in a strong way. The action developed out of a law enacted by the State of Minnesota, popularly known as the "press gag law."

THE KEY TO HAPPINESS

Time is a great palliative. A little more than seven hundred years ago St. Francis of Assisi sent five Franciscan priests into Morocco to evangelize the Moors. They were promptly put to death. A few weeks ago Pope Pius XI sent a medal to the Caid el Glaoui, Pasha of Marrakech, the largest city in Morocco, and one of the most powerful rulers in this ancient land.

The Restless Dead

Pray, who are these, my comrade? I hear the muffled beat Of drums that roll in rhythm For eager marching feet; I see the happy children With faces tanned and brown— God's little saints of heaven— That once the guns mowed down.

We Live In a Critical Period

We live in a critical period. There are about 2,263,592 pupils in the parish schools, and at least an equal number of Catholic children in non-Catholic schools. Of every twenty Catholic children who will go to school next September, ten will be found in the public, or in some other non-Catholic school.

OUR NEW SERIAL

This week we commence publication of a splendid serial story—"Stairs of Sand," by Anna M. Regan, a Rochester writer who is well known among our people. Each week, for twenty-two weeks we will publish one chapter of this story.

PRESBYTERIANS AND MARRIAGE

One can almost believe that the Presbyterians of America have been reading and profiting by the encyclical of Pope Pius XI on "Christian Marriage," so clean-cut, outspoken and determined has been their action on marriage and their hostility to birth control at the recent general assembly of their church in Pittsburgh.

DARK DAYS IN ITALY

The hostile attitude of Premier Mussolini of Italy towards the Church is no new thing. Two years ago, while the Concordat between Italy and the Church was in legislative channels, and not yet signed, Mussolini made a boastful speech that was most offensive to Pope Pius XI, and that brought swift reproof from the Supreme Pontiff.

SPAIN'S NEW PRESIDENT

Great concern is naturally felt over the future of the Church in Spain. Much depends, of course, upon the spiritual and political character of the men who are at the head of the new Republican government in that ancient kingdom. A Spanish writer, Clair Price, in an article in the Magazine supplement of the Sunday New York Times of May thirty-first, paints a happy and comforting picture of the Provisional President of the Republic, Don Niceto Alcalá Zamora.

President Zamora appears to have great power. He is the man who abruptly ordered King Alfonso XIII of Spain to leave his throne and quit the country a few short weeks ago. His orders were obeyed. Clair Price calls him "the best of present-day Spanish orators, and a pillar of personal and political respectability."

President Zamora spent three and one-half months in jail as a political prisoner of the Spanish monarchy. While in prison "he extended exactly the same deference to the criminals who swept out his cell as he extended to the prison director himself."

The sincere religious character of the Spanish people is shown in a remarkable way in the above paragraph. One can imagine American policemen permitting a prisoner to enter a church alone to hear Mass, while they waited outside at the curb for him to return!

He is fifty-four years old, and for the past twenty-five years has been active in politics. Many honors have been showered upon him during this time, and he has shown substantial qualities as a leader and as a statesman.

There are heartening qualities in this description of Senor Zamora, and one cannot help but feel that the Church will have in him a strong and vigorous friend, with a heart warmed by love and devotion, and a soul free from the contaminating poison of Communism.

"The Scriptures emphasize the need of spiritual compatibility in marriage and teach that believers should marry 'in the Lord.'" Therefore the children of believers should be trained to realize the probable evils that result when they are "unequally yoked together with unbelievers," and should avoid such alliances.

Grudgingly does the General Assembly agree that divorce may be obtained on grounds of adultery or wilful desertion, but that "these causes of divorce must be looked upon as concessions to the hardness of men's hearts and to their moral and spiritual shortcomings."

"The General Assembly condemns 'hasty' marriages, urges uniform marriage laws for the States to safeguard against fraud, compulsion or force; warns against marriages within the 'prohibited degrees of consanguinity'; asks that marriage licenses should be published in advance of marriage, and that all marriages be performed with dignity and solemnity."

We are witnessing a recrudescence of paganism, with Hollywood blazing the way and Nevada prostituting its Statehood and pandering to the weaknesses of human nature for thirty pieces of silver, the report says.

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

France has sent Texas Guinan back home, bag, baggage and dancing troupe, refusing to allow her to land. But we shouldn't be discouraged. Let's try Al Capone or Tom Heflin on them next.

The American people are getting finicky. In Los Angeles, Cal., a gentleman confined to jail on the charge of murdering a political boss, ran for District Attorney and was defeated. What is the use of going to jail if the people won't stand by you?

Fame, fickle with all of us, comes sometimes by unique routes. In Chicago a dog has been named, "Calvin Coolidge" for four reasons—he is unusually intelligent, he loves children, he never barks, and he doesn't choose to run.

Even a "fool" has rights that must be respected. Reversing a previous decision that testimony of an atheist was invalid because of his non-belief in divine punishment, the Alabama Court of Appeals recently held that "though to say 'there is no God' proves one a fool, yet it does not deprive him of his heritage as a citizen, nor of his standing."

Two lives of Knute Rockne have just been published, and a third is in course of preparation. One life is by Delos W. Lovelace, entitled "Rockne of Notre Dame," published by G. P. Putnam's Sons of New York. The other is by Warren Brown, entitled "Rockne," published by Reilly & Lee Co. of Chicago.

"The lives of great men all remind us We can make our lives sublime, And, departing, leave behind us Footsteps on the sands of time."

The growth of Catholic educational institutions is amazing. The other day Cardinal Dougherty of Philadelphia dedicated a two-million dollar group of buildings at La Salle College, Philadelphia. The same week St. Thomas College, St. Paul, Minn., broke ground for a million-dollar group of buildings, and Notre Dame University is erecting more than a million dollars worth. These are but a few of the widespread building activities in Catholic higher educational circles.

teachings of the Church; the teachings of Christ; the teachings that are for the good of all humanity. His quick attempt to absorb the Church when he thought the Pope would not dare speak out while the Concordat was yet unsigned shows the character and the caliber of the man, as far as religion is concerned, as far as truth and right are concerned. The Catholic Action Society does not fit into his scheme of things, into his dream of things; nor does the Pope, or the Church. How far he will dare go against these remains to be seen.

That the Pope says "crucifixion will come indeed" is a terrifying thought. An aroused Fascist rabble, with an irresponsible and vain-glorious leader, is capable of any crime against civilization, religion or humanity. The commencement of the persecution is but an inkling of its mapped-out schedule. News of arrests is barred, prohibited. No newspaper in all Italy dare publish one line, one word, of the steps that may be taken, the brutal acts that may be perpetrated, the crimes that may be committed under Mussolini's domination in Italy. That is a terrifying thought.

"One of the saddest days of my life," Pope Pius said of the day a tyrannical hand reached out to crush a society dedicated to the betterment and uplift of humanity, and to the promotion of religion. But we may be sure that notwithstanding the sadness, notwithstanding the threatened crucifixion, Pope Pius will stand firmly for the right, for truth, for justice, for religion and for God. He will stand even to the death. For he is inspired by the principles of Jesus Christ, and by the heroism of a great line of Pontiffs, some of them Saints and Martyrs, from St. Peter down through all the ages of Christianity. And whatever happens—whatever of persecution, of terrorism, of brutalities and of murders—there is consolation in this fact, that when Mussolini's ashes are blending with the ashes of forgotten Caesars the Church will be teaching peace, truth, justice, charity, love and service of humanity and love and service of God. For man dies, but Jesus Christ will be with His Church "all days even to the consummation of the world."