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THE CATHOLIC ACTORS' GUILD

The Catholic Actors' Guild, long a power for good in the metropolitan district, recently elected Gerald Griffin as its president. Mr. Griffin promptly makes a statement of his aims and views. He is opposed to elvish censorship of the stage. He is in favor of personal censorship from within the ranks of the profession. He has faith in the decency and good sense of the average actor. He has contempt for the midnight manager who launches into extemporaneous wit to win sudden notoriety, and perhaps temporary fortune. These should be curbed, or eliminated.

Mr. Griffin says he proposes to ask the Holy Theatrical Guild, the Episcopal Actors' Guild and others to join the Catholic Actors' Guild in a determined fight on all sordid plays. He proposes to form a committee of prominent laymen, as well as members of the theatrical profession, to cooperate with church and civic authorities in efforts to purge the stage of its evil plays, and put an end to productions that render to the lowest elements of human nature. He condemns in vigorous terms the so-called burlesque shows which feature nudity, profanity, filth of the lowest kind, and quotes Peter B. Kyne, well known author, as saying that these shows are far worse than those of the old Barbary Coast plays in San Francisco.

Mr. Griffin will have the hearty cooperation of many good people in every effort he makes for the improvement of what Msgr. Lavelle of St. Patrick's Cathedral not long ago called "an abomination of filth." The metropolitan stage needs purging. It needs a vigorous house-cleaning, and if the Catholic Actors' Guild can help knock the dust of obscenity out of it and the exorcism of obnoxiousness it will be a work well worth applauding. We hope Mr. Griffin will back up his declarations by vigorous action.

NEW JERSEY IN REVOLT

We are saddened to read that the State of New Jersey, noted long for its corporations and its patriots, is in a condition bordering on revolt. In this state some of the most far-reaching battles of the Revolution were fought. In this state some of the great army camps of the World War were established by the Federal government. Men like Senator Morrow, recently laid to rest, have made the state famous. Patriots of the best kind have always been more numerous than politicians at a baby show, or mourners at the probate of a will. Many thousands of the heroic sons of this state have died in battle, that the Union might be preserved and liberty live. It is hard to think that this state is slipping away from America. Seceding, revolting, going West. But listen to the cataclysmic words of the Honorable John D. Pennington, prohibition administrator of this state:

"Regardless of different views on prohibition, the present extent of illegal brewing in New Jersey protected by an espionage system, controlled by racketeers, gunmen and the underworld, guided by disreputable attorneys in their nefarious operations, protected in many instances by corrupt Federal and State officials and permitted to exist by an apathy, impossible to understand, on the part of citizens, is leading to almost open insurrection against the laws of the State and nation."

We are almost afraid that somebody is drinking beer in New Jersey. The army should be called out—if there is enough beer to go around—and the Navy, and the prohibition agents, and the scientists who can blow your brain shrivels if you even think of drinking beer. Something must be done to stop this in New Jersey. Let Time, the lightning bolt, move with lightning speed and strike the Hon. Mr. Pennington and the Hon. Mr. Pennington.

My Saints

My saints have not forgotten me; 'tis I Who fall from grace, forgetting all they've taught. Their gifts are still my treasure, though I've caught So little sense of use, for all I try.

Not far away in haloed, splendid calm, And ignorant of all my needs and aims, Their knowledge sees, and never coldly blames; Perhaps, at times, awards a mystic palm

When my poor effort wanes, unknown to me, Some slender triumph for the spread of Light, Or adds a little to the strength of Right. How can it harm me to believe they see?

My saints, I think, need nothing—I can give, And yet my heart is full of thanks and praise For all they did to beautify my days. Oh, that their beauty in my life might live!

—MARIE L. EGLINTON in The New York Times.

IRELAND USES THE SHILLELAH

We are not taking sides on the so-called "Irish question." We have great admiration for the noble-minded men and women who are leaders on each side. But we are quick to give hearty commendation to the recent act of the Irish Free State Government to put an end to terrorism, to coercion, and to brutal murders. When the minority of any land resorts to the assassin's bullet to carry its point, drastic action is necessary. Extremists are never dependable. Good Catholics in Spain supported the Revolution, only to find that extremists are determined to wreck and ruin the Church they love. It is so in Ireland. Soviet agents are at work there, enemies of religion are at work there, and murderous bands of irreligious youths.

Dependable American priests have told us from time to time of the appalling growth of disrespect for the priesthood in Ireland among many of the youth of the land in the past decade. The poison of Socialism, of Communism is in their hearts, hatred for law and authority, and hatred for religion, the greatest bulwark of all law. There was a time when every Catholic Irishman would have died gladly for his priest. Now there are many thousands of them who openly scorn and defy their priests. They boast the newer "freedom," and the other clap-trap bunk of the Communist orator.

Only this past week Soviet agents were arrested in Sligo, Galway and Tipperary. The Soviet Oil Corporation has a big branch in Dublin. The reliable Associated Press tells us that "all the Russian Oil Company employes are leaving Dublin." Why? Because their oil is bad? Or is it because their politics is bad, and they fear the new safety law?

We are not worried about Ireland. Not yet. The spirit of St. Patrick is too strong there at present. And the spirits of many more saints and martyrs, thousands of them. Faith is grounded in the very soil. But a few years of careless indifference, a few years of easy-going governmental methods, and we might have upon our hands another Spain, burning churches and shouting: "Down with God!" Therefore, we are glad the Government is using the shillelah. We hope it will wallop every head that appears on the horizon in any way hostile to orderly government, hostile to the Christian peace of the country, hostile to religion and to God. For with Ireland in the ranks of the Communists the very heart of the Church would break with sadness and with sorrow, and millions of her sons the world over would never forget the shame of it, the pity of it, the humiliation of it. Even the dead in their graves would forget how to rest in peace.

THE BRITISH ELECTIONS

The recent British elections, sweeping Ramsay MacDonald and the Conservatives into power, means that Nations are greater than parties. England is facing a terrific crisis—millions of unemployed, poverty of the worst kind, great unrest, financial affairs in a critical condition, and many other great and gaping wounds in the body politic. Labor had been in the saddle, and the King had called its great leader, Ramsay MacDonald, to help save the country from ruin—MacDonald who had fought King and Conservatives for years. Like a patriot, he faced political and party ruin, accusation and suspicion, scorn and contempt, and stepped bravely into the breach.

The new election sweeps Labor into the political discard, and MacDonald remains to help save the Nation from new misery and probable ruin. In these days one is inclined to forget "perfidious Albion," her inhumanity to Ireland and other subjects, her bitter hostility to the Church, and to look with Christian sympathy upon the troubled land. For days and times have changed in England and views, measures and ideals. The Church is growing steadily there. She is making many converts among the highest and best, and there will be sincere prayers that God will help not only these troubled people, but the troubled peoples of all lands and all races, common children of a living Father.

Confessing Christ

No nation ever received the faith of Christ without the liberal shedding of blood, and even our own land is wet with the blood of thousands shed for Christ, and paid for our gift of faith. In the days in which we live, confessing Christ by our blood is not called for, but it is our duty and obligation, as it is our privilege, to confess Christ by loyalty, fidelity, and obedience to the truths of our faith revealed through the Church; and by the acceptance and practice of Christ's moral law. To breathe Christ in our words and deeds and lives is to confess Christ in sublime fashion.—The Very Rev. Edward J. Walsh, C.M.

VENEZUELA'S BISHOP

The people of all South American countries are preponderantly Catholic. Their religion is sincere, their faith simple and beautiful. Irving Cobb, Georgian born and Protestant, not long ago wrote a series of delightful travel articles in which he commented at considerable length upon the deep impression made upon him by the Catholicity of South American people, and the respect they show towards all religions.

But South America has its black sheep as well as its numerous good white ones. There was a change of government in Venezuela some months ago. A certain high official, calling himself a Catholic, secured a divorce and then remarried with civil ceremonies. The scandal naturally was great. The Bishop of Valencia, Venezuela immediately issued a vigorous pastoral letter on the sacredness and inviolability of marriage and, without naming the official, held him up to public scorn. The high official demanded a public apology from the Bishop. He got a vigorous rebuff instead. Then, using his great power, he drove the Bishop out of his beloved land of Venezuela and into exile. He thought that settled the matter. He forgot that truth lives forever and that reproaches die in a night.

Now there has been a sudden turn of the political wheel in Venezuela. The fiery General Gomez is again the head. One of his first acts was to send to Trinidad for the exiled Bishop, the Most Reverend Salvador Montes de Oca. He publicly received the returning Shepherd and congratulated him on the courageous stand he had taken for morality and decency in the republic.

Thus ends, happily, an episode that stirred the Catholic people of Venezuela to the inmost depths. We may be sure that the good Bishop will be welcomed with great enthusiasm and love, and that the truths and ideals for which he stands will mean much, very much more, for his people than ever before. For they are sanctified by the sacrifices of a Shepherd loyal to his flock and to his God.

CAUSE FOR REJOICING

On Sunday, November twenty-second, from two-thirty to three o'clock, our beloved Bishop, John Francis O'Hern, will speak on "The Church of the Air," a national Radio hookup, Columbia Circuit, that will carry his voice to all parts of America. This is a notable honor, and a fitting one. From its very birth in the brains of genius, Bishop O'Hern has been an ardent champion of the Radio, and ever since his consecration as Third Bishop of Rochester he has been an unflinching advocate of the use of the Radio. He is a firm believer in its possibilities, in its power and its influence for good upon all our people. If it can carry the message of industry, it can carry the word of God; if it can carry the spirit of commerce it can carry the spirit and ideals of the Church.

And so, out of all notables in this great land of America, Bishop O'Hern has been invited to speak on "The Church of the Air" on a coming Sunday this month. This gives cause for rejoicing to all his people, and many a prayer will be said that his voice may soothe and soften myriad human hearts towards religion and towards God.

We had a friend, a Cork Irishman, gone to his fathers now, who boasted many a time that he "voted" five hours after he landed at Castle Garden. A five-year old boy voted in Ireland the other day. He was registered by mistake, and the authorities, decided he had a right to vote.

DISCIPLINE

It might not be quite true to say that mental and moral discipline is more necessary today than ever before. The fact is discipline has been necessary today than ever before. The fact is discipline has been necessary since the day the serpent entered Eden. Discipline means training under authority. It generally connotes doing that which is difficult.

There are two widely divergent opinions on the matter of discipline. One objects strongly to discipline because it objects to authority, because it dislikes things that are trying and arduous, because it holds that human tendencies and inclinations should take their course and not be checked or thwarted. The other opinion maintains that human nature does need to be regulated and human impulses curbed. And to regulate inordinate human tendencies it is necessary for men to do things not to their liking and to submit to authority—the authority of the Church, of the state, of superiors, and of conscience.

Without discipline there is disorder in the individual and chaos in society. Those responsible for the well-being of society have no misgivings as to the necessity of discipline. Neither have those who have at heart the good of the school and the family. And we may add that all those who believe in the validity of conscience know that vigilance and restraint are indispensable.

Take away discipline, and society would head toward savagery. Of course, everyone who believes at all in civilization believes in some degree of order and discipline. But the Christian believes in Christianity as well as in civilization. And to attain the perfect Christian society the individual must subject himself to obedience to the laws of the Church and of the state, to the order of a Christian family, and to the ultimatum of conscience. The thought that discipline is no longer important is raving nonsense. Let us put it back in the school and the family, and keep it active for society, for country and for God.

CURRENT COMMENT

YORKTOWN

Figures are not always dry. In the picture at Yorktown they are actually intriguing. In that memorable siege 38,887 soldiers and sailors took part on our side. Of that number (and be it remembered these men actually achieved the object of the war—our independence) at the very minimum 33,000 were Catholics. This included the French forces who outnumbered Americans 5 to 1. We have the names of eighty priests who served the colors in the siege.

This is history. Have you ever seen it played up in our textbooks? Let that pass. On the plea, possibly, that they are not philosophies of religion.

Have you ever heard it mentioned by Southern pseudo-patriots who hail from parts included in the thirteen original colonies? As they spew their foamy filth against the ancient Church have they ever been men enough or honest enough to admit that an army preponderantly Catholic won for them their freedom from oppression? Do not let that pass because it is the blasphemous progeny of mean, narrow, and shriveled up souls who have no rightful place in American public life.

It would be false modesty not to protest this poisoning of the wells by historical suppression. Yorktown's location in a southern state has a special significance. That very commonwealth shamelessly used funds in the last Presidential election to defeat a candidate not because of his po-

litical affiliation but on account of his Church membership.

The shades of over thirty thousand Catholic soldiers looked on as they saw man pilloried for the very faith that they possessed when they shed their blood to give us freedom. If shades can blush the must have turned with crimsoned cheeks from the new Virginian definition of freedom.

We are wholeheartedly for the Yorktown celebration. Its memory should serve as a stumbling block to bigots of the future.—The Universe-Bulletin, Cleveland.

PROFOUND EFFECT

Belloc writes that the news of Spain is the most important of all the news of the year in that it will have the most prolonged and profound effect on the human race. For though the war between the heathen Chinese and Japanese, the financial depression, make more impression at the moment, they do not affect the root of culture.

The separation of Church and State in Spain this week is the signal for the roofing up of the Catholic culture in an ancient Catholic land. It weakens the Catholic, not only in Spain, but in all Europe.

Had this not happened, Bruening, the Catholic Centrist, would be stronger in his resistance to the violent who shake Germany; had this not happened the rising Catholic intellectuals of France would have more influence to curb the machinations of the Masonic rulers of the French.—The Monitor, San Francisco.

RIGHT OF EDUCATION

Millions the nation spends annually on Education. Millions the nation spends in fighting a losing battle against crime. The youth is being educated. Never before have so many cases of crime by minors been brought before our courts.

There is one conclusion: Education without God may produce intelligent citizens, but it does not guarantee good citizens. Illiteracy may be reduced to a practical minimum, but more is desired in citizens than ability to read and write.

In the whole United States there is no greater influence for loyal and law-abiding citizenship than our Catholic schools. In our schools the young are taught their duties to God and being true to God the products of our schools must be true to our country and its laws. In our school Education realizes its full and natural significance. True Catholics and true citizens are proud of our contribution to the moral wealth of the country we love.—The Evangelist, Albany, N. Y.

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor

News dispatches tell us that the new Einstein theory joins electricity and gravitation in one structural whole. Maybe we won't have to wash the dishes or carry out the ashes any more.

Starting in December the Catholic Radio Hour will become the Catholic Half Hour. The reason given for the change by the National Broadcasting Company is that there is too much time allotted to religion on the air.

Our Uncle Mike, from Mountmellick, Ireland, lived to be 126 years old, and died of an unfortunate fall. We have looked upon him as a champion. Not now. Dolores Mesa, of Santiago de Cuba, died last week at the great age of 136 years. And youngsters we know are complaining, some of them, of stiff knees at eighty-nine.

In Arkansas the other day a judge fined a minister one dollar for flogging a man who spent his wages on liquor and left his wife and three small children hungry and penniless at home. Then the judge paid the fine for the minister. Many a good Irish priest, in the old days, used his cane on the backs and legs of similar fathers. "More power to you, Father," his people said to each priest. We vote the same way for the Arkansas minister.

Ninety per cent of the cases brought before the Superior Court grand jury in Atlanta, Ga., had their inception "in the illicit sale of spirituous liquors," the jury recently told the presiding judge, and by a unanimous vote the jurors recommended that the Volstead Law be repealed. "Normally law-abiding people take a delight in breaking the prohibition laws," the jurors said, and a law treated in this light should be repealed, the jurors said.

True unselfishness consists, not in always denying one's self but rather in simply ignoring self. The former implies duty; the latter love.

The grace which is conferred upon us is the fruit of the merits of Jesus Christ and is like an influence spread from the head over the members.

Rejoice often at the infinite felicity of God and the perfect love which millions of angels and saints bear to Him in heaven.

When You Make Your Will

Always, in every Diocese, there are churches and institutions which have heavy financial burdens, and whose work is handicapped by these burdens. When you make your will, the best way in the world to help these needy ones is to insert a paragraph something like this in the will:

"I give and bequeath to the Rt. Rev. John Francis O'Hern, D.D., Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Rochester, N. Y., or his successor or successors in office, the sum of \$_____ to be used at his or their discretion for the work of the institutions of the Diocese."

If you are interested in some particular church, charity or institution a clause like this may be added: "I am interested particularly in _____ Requests, large or small, are a great blessing to religion, and it is highly edifying to read of them in any will. No Catholic will should be without one or more such bequests."