

The Catholic Courier And Journal

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Editorial Staff... Maurice F. Sammons, Managing Editor

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Friday, February 19, 1932

DO WE READ GOOD BOOKS?

We do read good books. It is heartening to see how frequently the best publishers of secular books publish and feature in their advertising books on Catholic subjects and by Catholic authors.

There is little in the life of Matt Talbot to help the sale of this book. He was not a Danton, nor a Dutton, nor a crusading missionary. He was just a plain Irish laborer, poor, dissipated at times, unlettered, and he worked at commonplace tasks until he died.

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FOUR NEW MONSIGNORS

The elevation by Pope Pius XI of the Very Rev. James Griffin of Corning, the Rev. Arthur A. Hughes, the Rev. John P. Schellhorn, and the Rev. Charles F. Shay of Rochester to the high position of Domestic Prelates, with the title of Monsignor for each, is fitting recognition of the splendid work and noble characters of these devoted priests.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

Two hundred years ago, on February 22, 1782, George Washington was born. All over America, and indeed all over the world, the bicentennial of his birth will be celebrated.

All this will be well. We are living in a day and age when we give too little thought to the spirit and the sacrifices which made America possible.

And what beautiful things we can learn from the life of Washington—truth, honor, simplicity, loyalty, kindness, manliness, fidelity to every just cause, respect for womanhood, deep concern for the welfare of America and for the harmony of her people, and a fine, firm faith in God and the Providence of God.

WHEN TEMPERANCE COUNTS

Catholics are frequently accused of being opposed to Prohibition. Catholics, we believe, are generally opposed to Prohibition at the point of a shot-gun.

The Bishops of our Church in America ask hundreds of thousands of Catholic boys and girls to take a pledge at the time of their Confirmation to abstain from strong drink until they are twenty-one years of age.

Addressing the student body a year or two ago, I said: Young men, if you were to come and say, 'Fathers, out of gratitude to God and to my parents who are slaving and economizing to give me a college education I want to get everything good out of my days at Notre Dame; what is the advice you have to give me?'

Religion and Morality Indispensable

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens.

The spirit of the Total Abstinence Pledge is essentially Catholic. The motives inspiring it are many. We may take it to make a good life. God alone knows how many ruined lives can be traced to intemperance.

We may take it, and this is the highest motive, to honor the Sacred Christ of Jesus Christ and in union with Him to atone for sin, especially for the sin of intemperance.

No day passes, my dear Father, without my saying a special prayer for Notre Dame and her sons. Included in the prayer is a special request to the good God that He will inspire an ever increasing army of Notre Dame men to take and keep the Total Abstinence Pledge throughout life.

THE CHURCH OF HUMANITY

Kings, emperors, premiers, the wealthiest and greatest in the world, wait humbly for audiences with the Pope. But these are given no preference. The Pontiff is Pope of the poor, as well as of the rich; the Pope of the mediocre, as well as of the great.

It's All Written Down

MR. MONEYBAGS swelled his chest and reached for his fountain pen. Said he: 'I'll show the world how good I am to my fellow-men.'

But there's an angel watching. Who doesn't miss a thing; He brings his ledger with him; He's always on the wing. He values every item And doesn't judge by looks. There aren't any errors When an angel keeps the books.

A man came home from the factory and his feet were dragging slow. They had broken the news today, they said they were sorry to let him go.

Movies to see in the theatre, candy to buy in the store, And a chance to save for a pair of skates, and what can a boy want more? Billy looked at it every way, holding his nickels tight, Then he made his choice and a missionary lone was helped by another mite.

And there's an angel noting The deeds of young and old, And some he writes in black ink, And some he writes in gold. And mites may rank as millions, And millionaires as crooks; There aren't any errors When an angel keeps the books.

-Nanky Poo.

give employment to so many men in these days of sad depression.

Work, Pope Pius said, not only enabled them to buy bread, but lack of work means idleness, which is the father of all sins. The workmen cheered him again and again. They left the Vatican a happy and delighted crowd, their hearts warm with love and loyalty for their employer and their spiritual father.

PARISH DRAMATICS

The February number of Catholic Action, the excellent monthly magazine of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, has an interesting article on "Parish and Community Dramatics," by William M. Lamers of Marquette University.

The "Upper Room" started parish school directors thinking of Lenten plays, Dr. Lamers says. Christmas plays are produced in many parishes. But parish dramatic activity is the plaything of a few, he says, the youth of the parish. Older people should take an interest in parish dramatics, and should act parts in plays.

Parish plays should be produced, Dr. Lamers says, so that even the simplest would go away from them a little better than when they came. In concluding his article Dr. Lamers says: This then, is my message. Revive the school, the parish and the community play; and when a play is produced or discussed, think a little in terms of religious drama and say to your directors: "Let us get together and make this an expression of the faith that is in the community."

And let us make it summarize, as much as possible, the activities of the community—each person contributing his best according to his abilities, his occupation, or his interests. And let us not use this for revenue alone. If it is good religion and good art it will probably prove good business. Let us learn wisdom and joy from the middle ages.

WAYSIDE WHEAT

By the Managing Editor. Pola Negri is engaged, but won't tell the name of her new husband-to-be. Maybe she has forgotten his name.

A Japanese volcano, Yakegatake, went into violent eruption Saturday. Which proves the community of interest between man and Nature.

"The most satisfactory part of life is the time spent in sleep," Clarence Darrow tells the world in his recent autobiography. If he would stay asleep longer it would be a good thing for the spiritual life of the world, which he has ridiculed so frequently.

It is amusing to read complaints that "Japan is censoring the news from China." In the World War all Allied nations, including America, not only censored the news, but published as news the vilest kind of lies ever circulated in the history of the world.

A third attempt, just made, to bar St. Mary's High School basketball team from the Lane County Basketball League. Oregon caused a great uproar among sports writers on newspapers in that section of Oregon. Open charges were made in sports columns of the daily papers that bigotry was back of the movement.

CURRENT COMMENT

WATCH THE FANATICS

At the White House Conference last week the President advocated a reduction in the number of federal bureaus and commissions. It is designed as a move in economy. With which we sympathize.

The centralization of all federal activities in education would mean further bureaucratic control over the schools. It is past understanding why there should be a demand for such invasion of the province of the states and local authorities. The abnormal power of the Federal Educational Department to mold, standardize and crystallize education would be a fatal damage to local government, local aspirations and local self respect.

It would not be safe to rely too much upon the sanity of the Congress to defeat the advocates of centralization in government. Their devices are infinite, their perseverance never shaken by defeat. They must be watched and never trusted. Opposition to every move they make must be persistent and constant.—The Southwest Courier.

SHOULD STEP ASIDE

Millions of people imagine that religion should keep out of the way of what they call modern progress, and that its exponents and preachers would do well not to find fault with the ways and actions of men who have performed so many material wonders.—The Casket.

MOST OF 'EM

If some men could come out of their coffins and read the inscriptions on their tombstones, they would think they had got into the wrong graves.—Catholic Columbian.

EASIER

In order to locate his ball when it goes into the rough, a California golfer soaks it in a chemical solution which attracts butterflies. A better plan would be to soak the ball with accuracy.—Brooklyn Tablet.