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"I would make any sacrifice, even to the pouring of my blood, for the Catholic cause, and in order to support a Catholic newspaper."—Pope Pius X.

"With prudent counsel from men of good judgment and of experience in business affairs, and with the approval of the Diocesan Board of Censorship, we have constituted The Catholic Courier and Journal as the official Catholic newspaper for the Diocese of Rochester. We ask God's blessing on the undertaking; that it may serve to bring to our people timely information on religious topics, instruction in the doctrines of the Catholic Faith, messages of an eternal nature from the authorities of the Diocese, and we would urge all to be numbered among its subscribers." MOST REV. JOHN FRANCIS O'HERN, D.D., Bishop of Rochester, March 15, 1929.

Editorials

It will be on May 26 and 27, KNIGHTS COMING 1933, that the Knights of Columbus from all parts of New York State will come to Rochester for their annual meeting. It was announced this week by Grand Knight Dr. Walter E. O'Neill of Rochester Council. Upon Rochester Council rests the responsibility of receiving their fellow members and seeing to their comfort and conveniences while here. A convention of this sort brings forcibly to the minds of all citizens of a community the organization convening and that which it symbolizes. It will be an excellent opportunity for Knights of Columbus to point out to their fellow-Catholics and their non-Catholic friends, the reasons for this organization's existence and the achievements that have been responsible for its growth. Members of the local Council will start immediately to arrange for the meeting. The Elmira Council, last May conducted an excellent state gathering and accomplished much for themselves and for the Knights of Columbus as an Order. Rochester Council can well afford to study Elmira's system.

Members of the Hierarchy of BAD LITERATURE the United States and included CONDEMNED among them, His Excellency, Bishop O'Hern, at their annual meeting in Washington, last week, at the Catholic University of America expressed forcibly their unanimous condemnation of "The Indecent Literature" which is being circulated in all parts of this country. In their resolution of condemnation, the Hierarchy said: "It would be blindness not to recognize the looseness and laxity of morals which hastened the economic chaos of the world and now plays its part in extending laxity in public morals, loss of decency and consequently, a lowering of standards of citizenship."

Representing as they do all parts of the country, the two Cardinals, eight Archbishops, and more than seventy Bishops who attended the meeting speak with an authority based upon knowledge. The public newsstand today has an attraction for many because of the flamboyant manner in which periodicals are printed and because of the appeal made to the unthinking and often evil minded. The Hierarchy know the insidious manner in which the publications they condemn get into homes, especially where there are young people who are effected more than parents realize. At the Diocesan convention of the National Council of Catholic Men, Monsignor Burns talked against "the Indecent Literature" of the day and urged the men to do all in their power to show news dealers the aversion Catholic men have to the display and sale of such filth. The Hierarchy have spoken as one against the sordid, immoral publications; the faithful will take heed.

Special religious services, conducted throughout the country IN REMEMBRANCE by Catholic, Protestant and Jewish clergymen brought to a fitting close on Thanksgiving Day the official observance of the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington, the first President of these United States.

Sponsored by the United States George Washington Bicentennial Commission, exercises were held during the year of unlimited variety commemorating the deeds of him who is called "The Father of Our Country." Inspiration and courage were gathered from Washington's achievements. Although two hundred years have elapsed since his birth, the principles he upheld are still applicable. Take the following statement of Washington and see if his words are not as true today as they were during his life time: "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 would labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public society. Let it simply suffice, where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the public mind, and the obligations of duty be dissolved by the selfishness of individuals."

"We have already shown how conducive it is to the common good that wage-earners of all kinds be enabled by economizing that portion of their wages which remains after necessary expenses have been met, to attain to the possession of a certain modest fortune."—Pius XI.

investigation in courts of justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."—George Washington

Current Comment

THE END OF AN ERA? In the 1928 election, Alfred E. Smith won 87 electoral votes and his opponent 444. In the election just concluded that same opponent 472. As Mr. Smith said in his Boston speech, "there can be no resentment in the Catholic heart," and neither can there be feelings of revenge, but it is impossible not to see in the result just attained a certain sort of poetic retribution. The unworthy means used by Mr. Hoover's party to win the 1928 election put him into the White House with a blot on his record. These means were repeated in 1932, but they were directed against Mr. Roosevelt. The Protestant "underworld," as distinct from the reputable members of the Protestant churches, flooded certain doubtful States at the last minute with anti-Catholic literature with Mr. Smith's Newark speech as a text, with the open purpose of defeating Roosevelt, while, before that, Smith's alliance was being used to inflame Catholics against the same candidate.

We are now able to see, however, that this bigotry campaign was merely a part of a system which has now been repudiated by the American people. An even clearer revelation of this system was the open willingness to risk a financial and business panic in the event of a Roosevelt victory that was all but certain. This willingness to ignore the general good for private privilege and to use every means, foul or fair, to gain special ends has characterized public life for the last twelve years. It was merely a reflection in politics of the whole low ethical standards of American business. It took the depression to make us see it as it was, with all its essential selfishness and ineptness.

The victorious party will make a serious mistake if it falls to see its triumph in its true light. It is certain elements in it think that the people wanted a change of faces and names, and nothing more, they will make a serious mistake. A Virginia paper was right when it said that the election was not merely a political revolt but a social revolution, at least in the intent of the voters. The defeat of Senators Smoot, Watson, and Moses, in widely separate areas, shows that the system itself, with its corruption and defiance of the common weal, has at last been exposed and rejected. The voters are clearly calling, not merely for new men in high places, but for new policies, framed with a view of social justice and not of private privilege.

To the President-elect we offer our sincere congratulations. We also pray for him the grace and light to see his victory in its true proportions. In his Detroit speech explicitly, and no less firmly though implicitly in others, he preached a gospel of social justice. With this gospel Catholics are in accord and will be ready to give him the fullest assistance in bringing it to realization. He has no easy task. As Mr. Smith said so well there are elements in his party who few can trust: there are demagogues who would push radicalism to a new kind of injustice and there are "stand-patters" who will wish to perpetuate present injustice. It will be the new President's task, while standing for his "new deal" of opportunity for all and privilege for none, to hold a firm hand over both sides and to use their very extremism to his own purposes. Skillfully exercised, devotion to his ideals of social justice will transform American life.—American (New York).

A CASE IN POINT A few years ago a Kentucky woman, resentful of an innovation reminiscent of Catholicism, smashed the organ that had been installed in the church attended by her against the will of a minority adhering strictly to the traditions of their sect. For this happening in a mountain hamlet of Kentucky excuses may be offered: the religious heritage of the people this woman represents, their isolation and ignorance. It is more difficult to account for the attitude of the Anglican divine of whom the "Saturday Review", of London, speaks in the following editorial published on Oct. 22:

"Whatever unrecorded dreams Gerontius may have had, none can have been more fantastic than the fate of that set to music by Sir Edward Elgar in having the doors of Peterborough Cathedral banged in its face. Newman's "Dream of Gerontius," it would seem, is a nightmare to certain worthy persons, and among them Dean Simpson. Are we really to believe that the name of the Virgin Mary, delicately muffled playing of an Oratorio with passages based on the music, profanes a Protestant cathedral? That the doctrine of Purgatory endangers the security of Anglican faith? Is not the Wedding March from Lohengrin played at countless weddings without shrieks against the work of so notorious a pagan (Parsifal notwithstanding) as Wagner? Have not we heard on the organ extracts from the Yeoman of the Guard and yet not one of the congregation rose in wrath?"

Ah yes, of course! But there is a difference: None of this music threatens to arouse in those attending an Anglican church yearning for the faith of their fathers. The music banished from Peterborough Cathedral is apt to create nostalgia for what was lost in the Reformation.—C. Y. Service.

Perhaps people are forsaking the ordinary brands of commercial entertainment during this time of financial stress and again perhaps pastors are coming to a greater appreciation of the parish house or hall as a center of amusement and culture. Be that as it may, The New World, official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Chicago, took a column last week to outline the forum courses which will be important among the Catholic activities of the big city by the lake during the present winter. This is encouraging, for it goes to prove that there is an interest among our people in cultural affairs and it likewise proves that the Church has attractions to offer which although not forming a part of liturgical service are allied with it.—Indiana Catholic.

"The monster who blazed his way through the woods with an axe, remarks a Canadian paper, has a grandson who does the same thing with a cigarette."

Diocesan Recordings

This week's issue of the Catholic Courier and Journal is going to press one day earlier because of Thanksgiving Day, so if the item sent in late does not appear, the reason is given.

In the local news items coming in to this newspaper appear many giving publicity to events being held to take care of the unfortunate at Christmas time. If those who are helping to swell Christmas funds could have a sort of television reproduction of the joy on the faces of those they cheer at Christmas, even more sacrifices would be made to make others Christmas this year, a joyful one.

Next Sunday, the collection will be taken up for the Catholic University of America. Other schools of learning in the United States depend upon those blessed with more than an abundance of this world's goods to support them. Our Catholic University, a vital factor in the Church's intellectual mission in this country, is maintained by the good will and generous support of the average layman and laywoman. Such support is looked for by the Hierarchy of the country, next Sunday. Will you be a "Friend of the Catholic University of America?"

Catholic young men went out of high school and many out of college participated in the opening of the Catholic Basketball League in Columbus Civic Center auditorium, Sunday. Excellent basketball resulted in this, the beginning of the first Catholic Basketball League in Rochester. The thing back of this participation in athletics as we saw it was not the physical benefits alone, but the gathering of young men of working age together in a place where proper supervision is assured. This is movement in the right direction and it is hoped that all who care for clean athletics and sportsmanship among our Catholic youth will support these games, Sunday afternoons in Columbus Auditorium by their presence.

This newspaper is doing all possible to encourage Catholic boys and girls, young men and young women to write for Catholic publications. In this week's issue appears two excellent articles by eighth grade boys. Our Catholic high schools are sending in material each week by student writers. The Rochester Sodality's Union is furnishing an original column this week. Catholic writing for the Catholic or secular press is not easy and requires training. The best training is actually doing the writing. We are doing our best to encourage and train youthful writers.

With the opening on Tuesday of this week of the new entrance to Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, it is brought to mind what has been done by Bishop O'Hern, officers and staff of the Cemetery in furnishing employment for men who otherwise would be without work. All improvements have been made with the idea of making work for men. The new entrance, new roads, and other improvements have meant the removal of old trees which were landmarks of the city, but the project has meant employment to scores of men. The result is gratifying for the Cemetery grounds were never more beautiful.

Help for Young Readers

By ANNE CONNELL WALSH in "America"

In this matter of developing a Catholic literature in our country, and specifically of developing readers for a Catholic literature, more attention could well be paid to the development of readers among the young. The training of young writers is of the highest importance, without doubt; but the training of young readers surely approaches this in importance. No institution realizes more keenly than the Church that early years are the ones for the inculcation of principles and the formation of habits. It is consistent, then, with her wisdom that children be trained early to be patrons of Catholic letters.

This paper will concern itself with the training of readers of high school age. Certainly the bringing up of grade-school students on Catholic juveniles is greatly to be desired. Likewise, lively interest in Catholic letters on the part of Catholic students on college level is necessary, if a Catholic literature is to flourish. However, the cultivation of a Catholic literature sense, as it were, in high-school students, is of distinct importance for many reasons of which the most obvious is that the great proportion of these Catholic students never receive any formal education beyond that given in high school. Furthermore, from that comparatively small number of these high-school students who enter institutions of higher training, greater results may be expected in the way of their becoming writers of representatively Catholic material, or even readers of it, if they have acquired in their high-school days a background of Catholic reading.

Selection Needed

Before considering some special means that might be used to add vigor to the work for Catholic books being done in Catholic high schools, this paper would call attention to two facts. The first of these is the fact that high-school students are not mature persons. From this fact it follows that Catholic books of various kinds that work good among Catholic adult readers can do positive harm to younger ones. These sorts of books include not only the highly realistic productions of some Catholic authors, the "speckled books," so designated by the Rev. Francis Tabot, S.J., recently in these columns, but others in which religious controversy with an exposition of the case both for and against Catholic doctrine serves to confuse the young reader; and still others in which the treatment is so subtle as to require a penetration lacking at the high-school age.

A second fact to be held in mind is that the success of any scheme to stimulate activity in regard to Catholic literature in our secondary schools depends on the instructors. It is trite to repeat that the living instructor is the factor of most importance in any enterprise in the school. Now the average instructor in Catholic schools can in all truth declare that time does not permit him to keep informed on Catholic literature, and more especially on the splendid Catholic output of recent years; consequently among the best plans that can be brought forward in this connection are plans that aid the instructor; more specifically, plans that give him the information about Catholic books that he may require before he can exercise as he would desire his zeal to promote so

fine a cause. These facts being regarded, consideration can now be given to some means of making Catholic literature more accessible to Catholic instructors and their students. First, it is suggested that there be made available for instructors copious lists of the very newest lists either of Catholic books exclusively or of Catholic books among which Catholic ones have their place. These lists, to be of any aid in suggesting readings, must be elementary to work in various classes, particularly in literature, in religion and in history, should supply with each title such significant information as to enable an instructor to make selections according to his purpose or his taste. These lists should be of readings of various types, lists of fiction, of biographies, of essays, of dramas, of poems, of historical readings, of books of travel, of books of science, and perhaps others. Lists prepared for adults and lists made under the auspices of agencies not Catholic are both only relatively useful for Catholic high-school purposes; the books listed require a further inspection that the individual instructor can find only little time to make.

What agencies already existing or to be created should prepare these lists is a question. Perhaps the Catholic Library Association or the secondary-school department of the National Catholic Educational Association could be prevailed upon to assign such a task to a standing committee. Perhaps the organization of a sort of National Council of Catholic Teachers of English will come some day to accomplish this as well as other items in a program for promoting Catholic reading among students. In the second place it is desirable that for instructors of high school students there be published by some periodical, reviews of new books treated from the point of their suitability for school reading. Just as the admirable lists of the Cardinal Hayes Literature Committee are inadequate for the information of the Catholic high-school teacher, so the average reviews in the Catholic periodicals leave him waiting for the last word on the fitness of the work for the immature student. Perhaps this word of enlightenment to the high-school instructor could be included in the new feature suggested by Father Tabot in America of July 2 for Catholic Library World, namely a catalogued list of the current Catholic book publications. Perhaps, again the purpose would be better effected if some one of the Catholic school journals would devote a department to reviews in which shall be indicated the suitability of the books for the reading of students on high-school and other levels. As by the list makers, so by the reviewers, not only Catholic books, but worthy ones not Catholic could be taken care of.

A third means calculated to make for the appreciation of Catholic reading matter by young students is the establishment of a book club for them exclusively. The selections of the Catholic Book Club are not always suited to high-school purposes, nor is there any reason why they should be. The other book clubs advertised by the Catholic magazines as making selections for younger readers, seem to cater to juvenile rather than high-school readers. At least one of the book clubs, not-Cath-

olic, of the day is choosing each month books for two or three groups of young readers of various ages and thus caring for high-school students. The practicability of carrying on such a book-a-month club to name new books for Catholics of high-school status may be doubtful; in encouragement of the idea it may be mentioned that many Catholic students are subscribers of the young people's book clubs not under Catholic auspices, and moreover that if the enthusiasm of instructors is enlisted, subscriptions might be solicited not only from individual students, of whom there are thousands in our Catholic secondary schools, but also from classes, sodalities, clubs, and school libraries, of which there are now thousands likewise.

In the fourth and last place, it is suggested that school-editions be prepared of some of the Catholic books which in their original state are not adapted to the reading of the immature. Expurgated editions of other works are used in quantities by schools; if adoption of revised Catholic books were wide, and as a consequence quantities of these books were required, their manufacture might be undertaken by Catholic or other publishers. No one laments the presence of the "specks" in the "speckled books" more truly than the teacher of young Catholics. There is in some of these books so much excellence that he is obliged to use for his classes, that he is altogether exasperated at the "specks," which while they may not affect greatly the books as reading for himself, certainly do seem to him calculated to make an unfavorable impression on his young charges. Judicious elimination from some of these books would fit them surpassingly well for treatment in class or for assignment as outside reading.

The splendid works of Madame Underd are among the first to come to the mind in this connection; one wishes intensely that from her masterly trilogy, for instance, its edification and eminently valuable vicarious

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