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Most Reverend John Francis O'Hern, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester

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"I would make my office, even in the pausing
of my ring, pectoral cross and soutane, in order to
support a Catholic newspaper."—Pope Pius X.

Editorials

BIGOTRY ON THE AIR

News reaches us from Cleveland that protests have been filed by The Universe Bulletin, a Catholic newspaper, against the attacks on the Holy Father made by Judge J. F. Rutherford over the air. Mr. M. A. Howlett, president and manager of station WHK in reply to the appeal to prohibit the Judge from using the facilities of that station to spread bigotry, made reply that "The truth on any subject as discussed by radio does not require any more definite censorship than the right of the individual to turn the dial of his radio and that right I believe must be left him."

That statement reveals a peculiar state of mind toward the responsibility incurred by the authority controlling such a potential medium of forming public opinion as the radio. If borne out to its logical conclusions, every individual who listened in over a radio could be subjected to a barrage of information on various subjects, vital or otherwise, with no more assurance of the truth of what he heard than was his own ability to personally go to the sources and ascertain the truth for himself. This being to a large extent impossible for the average man, radio would lose its importance as a means of placing facts before the public mind that effect every day life, both socially and economically. If WHK is run on such a policy so much the worse for it. But it is not a policy that cannot be understood when there has been so much high pressure salesmanship in business and "exploitation" in advertising. These three can be placed in the category, but it is not one that carries the label "Truth."

Nor is it hard to understand why such a Station permits the large Catholic population to be insulted and the non-Catholic population to be misinformed concerning one of the greatest of world figures to day. We refer to Pius XI. It follows from the principle of the Station and the evident policy of the Station that concerns itself not with truth, but broadcasting no matter what the broadcasting be. If it happens to be bigotry no quarrel must come between that and broadcasting—event though much broadcasting stirs up feelings of hatred and resentment in the hearts of millions of people.

This paper does not feel the necessity to defend Pope Pius XI against the attack of the Judge. Although it is not given to us to judge the honesty of his motive, we do question the sincerity of his statement that Big Business and political rulers have joined hands with big church men. If such a union has resulted it is because business and politics recognize their failure and have sought out the Custodians of Truth for the solution of their ills. The Judge would do well to follow in their footsteps. If they have not formed such a union, it would be well for them to do so—and we Catholics are praying for this daily—for if Business and Politics would know a new and lasting prosperity they must eventually follow the principle of Truth and Justice laid down in the Encyclicals of the Popes.

Like most bigots, the Judge kills whatever influence he tries to put into his statements with too many words, too little reason, too few facts. His talk, although carrying no conviction—for Pope Pius is too well known for his efforts in favor of the people—does cause much resentment. He would do better by religion and America to stay with his own doctrines of religion and enlarge upon these. Then he would be within his right as a Radio Speaker and head of the Watch Tower Society. Then too would Catholics be less perturbed. They would realize that the Judge and his sect was just just one more religious group that came into existence when the Church of God was already old and will pass out of existence while the Church of God is still young.

We advocate that the Judge be left on the air as a religious leader, but kept off the air as a bigot.

READING AND MORALS

There is a trite saying: "Show me the company you keep and I'll tell you what you are." It might be paraphrased into: "Show me the books you read and I will tell you what you are." As people may be classified by the company they keep, so the books we read and display on our shelves may be taken as an index of our moral and mental caliber. For books are the mental food of those that devour them. And as unwholesome food impairs the health of the body, so unwholesome reading debases the mind, vitiates the moral life and inclines the will to evil. Never has the importance of this truth greater need to be stressed than now. Witness the recent exposure of the sale of salacious literature and pictures in our city. Witness the lurid headlines of certain daily newspapers which use the assumed necessity of giving the "news" as a license to publish indecent, demoralizing reading. Witness the "posters" displayed by some of our theaters which are often an outrage on public decency. All this deplorable corruption arises from the loss of Christian faith, Christian purity and Christian faith are inseparable. Whatever destroys one, destroys the other. And the literature of our day is, for the most part, on the side of the enemies of religion. Some books are designedly and undesignedly

bad. The mere possession of them, when detected, brings the blush of shame to the possessor. But other books are covertly bad, and often under a mask of mock morality, enfeeble the mind, distort the vision and debase the character. None, of course, but the bad or those willing to be corrupted, read the former; but the latter are read openly by millions. Their poison is inhaled by many without being suspected. The venom of immorality and anti-religion is conveyed into the mind, and is discovered only when the religious and moral life of the reader begins to show signs of decay.

Many, even good Christians, are not careful enough about what they read. They often rely too much upon the steadfastness of their faith and virtue and do not hesitate to read works which treat lightly of both. Yet these same people are usually very particular as to the character of their associates. But what is dangerous reading but intimate association with the mind of its author? Those who are unwilling to have their minds prostituted, who wish to cling to Christian faith and morals and to preserve a healthy mind, must scrupulously avoid all such reading. Every Christian man and woman should feel it a duty to co-operate with the authorities, whenever possible, in their laudable efforts to stamp out this pernicious evil, which is corrupting the morals of our youth and has become a menace to society. Parents who wish to safeguard the faith and morals of their children, should keep a close watch over what they read. Clean newspapers, wholesome books, sound magazines and periodicals only should find admittance into their homes. The reading found in the home should indicate the upright Christian character of the household.

THE CHURCH IS ONE

There are four marks by which the True Church of God can be recognized. The first mark is that the Church is One. That means that the Church has a unity of doctrine and moral teaching and is governed under one authority.

In missionary countries especially, the mark of Unity is discernible. It is a remarkable work of Grace by which a people, differing in race, culture, historical background and religious traditions can be taught the principles of Faith and Morals and be induced to submit graciously to a foreigner as far as spiritual discipline goes. More remarkable is this when the direction of the Church passes from the hands of the foreign missionaries into the power of the native Bishops and Priests.

A specific case that illustrates our point is the Unity that is shown in the Catholic Church in China, which is being governed more and more by the native clergy, under the Supreme Pontiff. It is not strange that only in the Catholic Church has such a procedure met with success and failed miserably in non-Catholic denominations.

A non-Catholic leader admitted to the Most Reverend Celso Costantini, the Apostolic Delegate to China, that when his church tried to install native leaders the result was disaster. The minister could not understand it, but for a Catholic the answer is simple.

The Church is the Mystical Body of Christ. He, through the Holy Spirit, governs His Church and is its Invisible Head. His Vicar on Earth is the Pope, successor of Peter. His foundation stone for this Vicar, there is installed in every Catholic heart by Faith, Love and a devoted obedience. Every Catholic is united in heart and mind to Rome the seat of Christianity. Every Catholic priest, no matter what his race or nationality or rite, receives a long and careful training which weaves him inseparably into the seamless robe of the Divine Redeemer. Hence it is, that once the seeds of True Faith have been sown and the native clergy trained in the principles of the Catholic Church, the missionary fathers have no fear of disunion or schism when they turn over to the native clergy the direction of the Church.

To us before whose eyes this great working of grace in China is present, there should come greater gladness and thankfulness that we are members of the great Church of God which is proved to be Divine by the (Oneness) of its doctrine and its authority.

MIXED MARRIAGES

It is well stated that "in the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love." Of course the other seasons of the year are not entirely disregarded for it is love that makes the world go round. This dynamic medium of continuing the family and placed in human hearts by a God of Love is continually at work. And it is good. The ultimate consummation of the young man's fancy results in marriage. And that makes us wonder how happy the marriages of this Spring are going to be. And also how many of these marriages are going to be free at the very beginning from the possibility of family disunion due to a difference of religion between the newlyweds.

Because the Mixed Marriage so often fails to be a happy marriage it seems fitting to call to the minds of parents their obligation in preventing them. This is not an altogether hopeless task—not half as difficult as some parents believe. Of course we concede that once a young man and woman love each other enough to ask for the Sacrament of Matrimony and have decided to be united in marriage, it is too late to convince them that such a mixed marriage has all the earmarks of being an unhappy marriage.

The whole affair should have never been allowed to start or to develop until the inevitable decision to marry was made. It seems to us that as Catholics, parents should educate their children and direct the minds of their children, in such important matters, according to principles of Faith. The Church is a wise mother. She is backed by two thousand years of experience. She has seen generations come and go. Her unflinching solicitude for the salvation and happiness of her children—has urged her to speak and act against Mixed Marriages—not alone because of the existing source of unhappiness in them but because of the great danger of loss of faith and loss of souls that result. Parental responsibility is one of the means to the end of the Church in this regard.

If our parents would supervise the friendships formed by their children, direct them in their social contacts and talk over, in the home, these important and necessary issues, we feel confident that, if the mixed marriage problem would not be solved entirely, it would be well on the way to a solution. There are some responsibilities that parents cannot pass over entirely on the school or on third parties no matter how greatly they are interested. They must face them themselves. The Mixed Marriage problem is one of these.

Diocesan Recordings

Nearly 100 Catholic war veterans have just attended a one-day retreat in Nottingham, England, and about 35 actors and actresses gave up a day for a retreat, both conducted on different occasions by Father Francis Devas, S.J., D.S.O. The laymen's retreat movement is not confined to any class or type. Every man interested in his own personal, spiritual welfare, will find a laymen's retreat, satisfying.

It isn't "itchy feet" that is troubling the young sporting goods salesman who has allowed himself to be buried alive in a steel casket in front of a wayside lunch at Deenville, N. J., as a stunt; it is his head. His friends should "resurrect" him and have his head examined.

Comprehensive, timely, interesting are the radio broadcasts being given by Miss Carolyn Ruth Duran over Station WESH every Wednesday at 5:30 p. m. These talks reproduced in the Elmira-Sunday Telegram make interesting reading and are filled with an informative survey of world conditions and sound, common sense comments about things at home.

Rhode Island Knights of Columbus in their annual state convention adopted a resolution scoring the secular press for its "failure to provide any coherent and constructive leadership" in the present crisis of world affairs and they upheld and pledged support to the efforts of the Catholic press for the reconstruction of society. It is hoped that the New York State Knights of Columbus assembling in Rochester next week will give some consideration to the place of the Catholic Press in the progress of the Church in New York State, especially since the present State Deputy, William J. Armstrong is secretary of "The Evangelist," Albany's official diocesan newspaper, and is cognizant of the effectiveness of the Catholic Press as an influence for good.

The post of "Adviser in Religion" at Harvard University has been eliminated for reasons of economy, states a N.C.W.C. News Service release. Those who pass up the collection plate on Sunday or take advantage of the times to reduce their contributions seem to think along the same lines, that religion is something to be considered only if it entails no monetary sacrifice.

When young girls, filled with the zest of living, forego the pleasures offered on such a beautiful day as last Sunday, in order to attend a

discussion of things which lead eventually to spiritual achievement, the worry about the youth of the land can be eliminated especially for the parents of those girls. About 1,000 young women gathered in Columbus Civic Center Sunday to perfect the first Rochester Diocesan Parish Social Union. Their thoughts were not of the open road and material pleasure, but of service to God and their fellowmen. Their continued sacrifice for the cause they espouse will be rewarded by the satisfaction that comes from service well rendered.

Future events of importance: 2nd annual convention, Rochester Diocesan Council, National Council of Catholic Men in Auburn, May 21, with an excellent program, being arranged; Talk, Sunday evening, May 21, by Father Leffler, S.J., sponsored by the Rochester Diocesan Council, National Council of Catholic Women.

Visit the new Catholic Courier office, 524 Columbus Civic Center.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Catholic Facts But Little Known

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By M. J. MURRAY

THE EXTERIOR MOSAICS OF ST MARK'S, VENICE, COVER MORE THAN 45,000 SQ FEET (NEARLY 50 MILLION PIECES EACH HALF-INCH SQUARE)

This marvellous "Christian Mosque," the chief architectural glory of Venice, is nearly 800 years old, and is the most beautiful Catholic Church built in the Moorish style.

The Congressional Library at Washington contains a perfectly-transcribed copy of the Bible, written by a German monk in the 16th century. There are over 1,000 pages, without an alteration of error, and the initial letters of the chapters are beautifully illuminated.

This Windmill at Reigate Heath, Surrey, has been converted into a (Non-Catholic) church with room for a congregation of fifty.

ST PATRICK'S SHRINE, NEAR TOURS, FRANCE, WHERE THE SAINT SLEPT, ACCORDING TO LEGEND, ON DECEMBER 25th OVER FIFTEEN CENTURIES AGO. SINCE THAT TIME THE WHITE THORN TREE—NOW OVER THE ROOF OF THE SHRINE—BLOSSOMS EVERY CHRISTMAS (while all surrounding vegetation is dead) IN ADDITION TO ITS SUMMER BLOOM.

Back Through the Years

(A Glimpse through the files of the Catholic Courier and Journal)

October 7, 1893

St. Peter's Benevolent Society gave its annual concert. The SS. Peter and Paul's choir sang. A mixed quartette composed of Misses Tillie Young and Libbie Merkel and Messrs. E. Yawman and C. Amerline were heard. A mixed quartette consisting of Messrs. Forest, Schrier, Eberbraut and Knope were also well received. Feature solos were sung by Miss Emie Yawman, Miss Anna Hartz and Vincent Forest. The Flower City Zither Club contributed to the program.

The Immaculate Conception parish hall and parochial school on Edinburgh Street, constructed under the direction of the Very Rev. J. F. O'Hare, pastor, was nearing completion.

At a meeting held in Cathedral Hall, a society to be known as the Young Knights of the Blessed Sacrament was organized for the promotion of the moral and physical welfare of the young men of the parish. Officers named were: Moderator, the Rev. J. J. Van Ness; President, Thomas Naylor; Vice-

President, John Murphy; Secretary and Treasurer, William O'Loughlin.

October 11, 1893

The Total Abstinence Society opened a reading room in St. Patrick's School, Dansville.

The Rev. Father Pasmun of Santa Rosa, Cal., was the guest of the Rev. J. F. Nelligan in Cayuga.

October 21, 1893
The death of Field Marshal MacMahon at Paris was reported. Field Marshal MacMahon was a descendant of an ancient Catholic family of Ireland which followed the Stuarts into Exile. During his distinguished service in the French army, he rose from a student at the Military School at St. Cyr to Field Marshal.

Tribute was paid in the secular papers of the community to Henry Graham, a pioneer Catholic in Seneca Falls.

Sisters and children of St. Patrick's Girls' Orphan Asylum moved into their new home on Clifton Street. Bishop McQuinn celebrated Mass in the chapel marking the formal opening of the institution in which 110 children were being cared for.

The Rev. Thomas F. Hickey of Moravia gave a lecture on Rome in St. Patrick's Church, Aurora.

Spiritual Thoughts

SAVINGS OF ST. BERNARD

Zeal without knowledge is often more dangerous than useful. A magistrate should lend one ear to the preacher and the other to the oppressor.

A false Catholic is more dangerous than a veritable heretic. Idleness is the mother of frivolous conversations and the cruel step-mother of the virtues. It is difficult to say who is guiltier, he who retails scandal or he who listens to it.

Divine goodness permits that, for the preservation of humanity, the more progress one makes in virtue, the less one perceives it.

The repentant sinner pleases God as much as does the just man who has not fallen; but the ungrateful just man displeases Him as much as the sinner who is impenitent.

Those who trust God are shielded by the guardianship of God, and there is nothing they can fear save this one thing—lest they offend Him.

If thou wouldst often think of thy death than of a long life, no doubt thou wouldst more fervently amend thyself.—Thomas a Kempis.

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