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MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

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"I would make any sacrifice, even to the pouring of my blood, for the sake of a Catholic newspaper."—Pope Pius X.

Editorials

CHRISTMAS

Christmas! Be the word repeated how often soever, its sweetness never cloy. Its very sound spells joy to the soul and strikes a responsive chord in every breast. A simple word, truly, but oh how pregnant it is with pure and simple joys. The whole world laughs and is glad. Hand shakes and greetings are given. A Feast old yet ever new, a Feast that with each succeeding year brings to our hearts joys hitherto unmet. The atmosphere of Bethlehem's lowly cave spreads itself over the earth for a time and there is glory to God and peace to men of good will.

Sad it is that of the millions who celebrate Christmas a great number do not realize the real import of the message which the Angels carried from Heaven to earth on the first Christmas night! There is no other day that is the dawn of something better than Christmas is. If they who think otherwise had eyes to see and a mind to understand, they would know that the birth of the Christ-Child was the dawn of our present civilization, of that justice which they profess to honor and serve.

Let us then who know and understand go into our churches and pray even for these. Let us ask for light, light, ever more light from the Star in which the Wise Men of the East read the divine plan of Redemption. Let us ask for light on the ways of science, on the ways of Art, on the ways of those in high places that labor for justice, liberty and human brotherhood.

The world of men is today longing for peace, for such a secure peace that war shall become a thing of the past, and those in high places are formulating plans to bring about this desired end. Will they succeed in accomplishing their noble purpose? No, by force can men always be restrained from injustice to their neighbor. There can be no peace over the whole earth until there is good will among men. Therefore the way to peace among nations is the same that Christ came on earth to show by word and example, obedience to the demands of justice and charity. Treaties and covenants are proper and necessary, but unless founded on principles of right instead of might, they cannot for long be effective.

By accepting the sweet yoke of the Holy Child, and by adopting the maxims of His Gospel, each individual and each community can help in a nearer approach to that millennium when all of earth shall give glory to God on high and shall have for its portion universal peace. At this time when the whole world is so filled with apprehension and suffering, how necessary it is that all who believe in Him should implore the Christ-Child to spread abroad His spirit of love that men may be brought together under the banner of peace and good will! This is the thought which the approaching joyous Feast of Christmas must bring to the minds of all who welcome the Divine Infant into their hearts.

SPAIN MAKES RIGHT TURN

Since the inception of the Hitler regime in Germany, the fury of the secular press has been loosed in stirring editorials and flaming diatribes against the oppression of the Jews by the Nazi Government. We have no slightest desire to condone the attitude of the Hitler Government toward the Jewish race, on the contrary we share the disapproval with which it is regarded by all civilized opinion.

But we have wondered at the strange silence of these newspapers regarding the equally ruthless and tyrannical tactics that have been made use of in Russia and Spain, and outside our very door in Mexico. Indeed, without our available Catholic sources of information, we in the United States would have had but scant knowledge of the fate that has befallen the Catholic Church and our co-religionists in those turbulent countries.

Concerning these cruelties, if any mention has been made, it has been shunted to back pages or placed in obscure columns. What is the explanation? Is it because the owners and editors of our papers cannot conceive their readers are interested in such news, or those upon whom they depend for revenue, their advertisers?

This attitude of the public press seems to have been adopted in particular towards the persecutions in Spain compared to which, "The Communist" says, "all that has been reported in Germany is merely an account of a street fight." It is appalling to read the list of Catholic institutions which were suppressed by the regime. Religious Congregations—hospitals, orphanages, insane asylums, houses of refuge, all supported by charity and care of religious men and women.

Spanish Government supply money to the effect that the principal cause of the Spanish Civil War was the suppression of the Church by the Government. The Government has been suppressed, the Church has been suppressed, the result of it is

top in European scholarship, are in exile. There is no doubt that, by all this wanton destruction, the new Spain had condemned itself to a generation of intellectual decadence.

Fortunately, the Spanish people seem to have had a sudden awakening as to what was happening to their country, and the elections held on November 19 seem to prove that the Socialist-minded Cortes which has ruled Spain with an iron hand since the Revolution did not, by any means, represent the mind of Spain itself. The results of the elections spell the downfall of the Socialist, not the downfall of the Republic, for the overwhelming majority of the moderate coalition's votes were Republican. The reign of terror is over for Spain. The forces opposed to the Church are routed, and she is about to enjoy a period of tranquility. The Socialist regime has been discredited and all who are interested in the outcome may rejoice that peace and security seem to have been restored to the Spanish people, under a Republic which, as "America" puts it, "will have some sense of justice and some common sense as well."

THE ANTI-CRIME DRIVE

The hue and cry that is now being raised against crime and criminals and the shameful records and conditions they have produced is sufficiently widespread to warrant the conclusion that as a nation we have become ashamed and angry at the ugly spectacle stalking in our midst. The clean-up campaigns now in progress have been supported, and at times, inaugurated by the federal government. Gangsters, racketeers, and notorious underworld characters have been rounded up by the hundreds, while corrupt officials have been brought to justice. Plainly it seems to be the case of the people against the criminals, with the people stirred to the fighting point of activity.

But there is another side to the unsightly picture which demands attention. Whose fault is it that crime and lawlessness are rampant? Good people who denounce crime and criminals, who deplore conditions and demand that something be done, are not always free from responsibility for the state of things they denounce. Do they buy those yellow newspapers that have "murder" and "divorce" smeared all over the front page? Do they buy and read those tawdry "sex" novels and books entitled "Blue Murder," "Red Murder," "This Murder," and "That Murder"? And do they pay honest money to see murders and robberies committed and solved on the moving picture screen? If they do—and such books, papers, and pictures seem to prosper—then they are not entirely guiltless. The man who feeds wolves and takes pleasure in watching them is partly responsible for the havoc they would. If all citizens who approve of the clean-up would give it personal support, things would be cleaned up.

Senator Copeland, last week opening a drive against crime in Rochester, told the Chamber of Commerce that the beginning of our fight against crime must be made in the home and schools, for, "until we raise a generation of mentally balanced citizens, trained from their youth in law observance and love of country, we will be facing the same problem." Catholics have always known that moral training is needed, that religion and education must go hand in hand, and for that reason they build their own schools with their own money. They know that the finest education that the schools can give is worthless unless it has molded a character that can withstand the storms of temptation. Education is nothing without moral stability.

Taking the country's educational system as a whole, it is no false estimate to assert that it has failed to give us a really superior race of men and women. When we reflect on the popularity of jazz music and the comparative neglect of the really worth-while music; the liberal patronage accorded to cheap movies and salacious plays; while the better sort of pictures and plays are poorly supported; when we contemplate the immense circulation enjoyed by cheap and trashy magazines and newspapers while the better grade of periodicals languish; the kind of books that are popular; the kind of entertainment that is most enjoyed—we are almost compelled to admit the futility of our so-called "higher education."

Where is the evidence of a higher mentality, of a finer, more elevated tone in the fiber of our so-called educated people? On the contrary, honor, honesty, decency—character and conscience—these ancient virtues are not conspicuous in the modern scheme of society. There is a thin veneer of respectability, a superficial polish to our manners, but beneath the surface the crudities are found. How true it is that the laborer who recognizes the law of God is better educated than the university graduate who ignores it!

WATCH TOWER BROADCASTS

It was a matter of gratification to the Catholics of Rochester and vicinity when our local radio station discontinued the relaying of the Watch Tower Broadcasts some time ago. Similar reports reach us from different parts of the country. The latest station to ban the "Judge" Rutherford broadcasts is WGH, Newport News, Va. The station's action in discontinuing the Watch Tower broadcasts was the result of representations made to its officials by the Knights of Columbus, calling attention to the anti-Catholic nature of the broadcasts.

Recently a petition was circulated among the residents of Cleveland, purporting to be a request that Congress guarantee the right of free speech over the radio. Inquiries revealed that those distributing the petition were agents of the Watch Tower broadcasts which sponsor the fast-fading Mr. Rutherford.

Unsuspecting Catholics signed the petition after they were led to believe that they were supporting the militant radio-priest, Father Coughlin of Detroit. In reality they were petitioning for the return of the arch-reviler of the Catholic Church and the Papacy to the unrestricted air-channels of America. The agents naturally misquoted the facts since the Catholic Church has never opposed freedom of speech; she only condemns license. There is no similarity between the Father Coughlin and Rutherford cases. We note that two Buffalo radio stations still carry these objectionable Rutherford broadcasts.

Diocesan Recordings

A blessed Christmas to our readers, one and all.

"Icy Blasts, Deaths, Plentic Weather as Maine, Texas Vary 100 Degrees,"—a recent headline in the daily press. There is something to be said for the age old topic of conversation, the weather, when it takes up space in the press that might otherwise be given to murder, divorce and other items considered news. But why go from Maine to Texas when right in this section we have jumps of almost that many degrees in temperature either way within 24 hours.

Concrete evidence of the support being given by pastors to the diocesan newspaper was brought to our attention this week. The Rev. E. A. Rawlinson, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Corning, who for many years served as Vice Chancellor of the diocese and thus has an appreciation of diocesan problems, issues a small mimeographed circular to parishioners each week. On last week's copy the following was inscribed in long-hand at the end: "Oh, yes! And do you take the official newspaper of the diocese? It's the CATHOLIC COURIER. Paul Madigan, 133 Columbia St., is the only agent in this parish for the COURIER." Such support from the pastors is most encouraging and will be the means of an ever increasingly interesting diocesan newspaper.

"Taking the boy by the hand and leading him to better citizenship," is the reason for existence of the Boy Scout movement, we learned at a dinner for Scout Leaders held last Friday evening at Bausch and Lomb Optical Company. For a father having five young sons, it was most consoling to attend an affair which revealed the enormous work that is being done by the Scout movement for young boys of the community and to learn of the men who are keenly interested in Scouting. The Boy Scout movement has not only a capable system of awards for meritorious work by the Scouts themselves but also gives evidence of appreciation for the faithful services of the leaders without whom the organization would mean little.

Great must have been the inspiration for those men who give willingly of their time and talents to develop the boys in the various Scout Troops given, by Branch Rickey, head of the Cardinals group of baseball teams, of St. Louis in one of those masterful speeches of his, at the Scout Leaders dinner. We have heard Mr. Rickey, several times and never tire of his presentation of ideas and helpful suggestions. At the dinner Friday, he emphasized the importance of the trivial and used apt baseball and football stories to show that a trifle often means the difference between success and failure. His admonition was not to judge boys too soon. He spoke glowingly of the loyalty and devotion of boys to their "troops" and cited instances showing the importance of good example being set by those boys "hero worship." The boys' friend carries a great responsibility, Mr. Rickey showed.

One of Mr. Rickey's pointed stories proving, he believed, the significance of an unimportant detail told of a young man falling to his death out of a 12 story building in Chicago at a convention there. Knowing the roommate of the unfortunate fellow and knowing that the two young men had lived similar lives, Mr. Rickey inquired from the other young fellow in the hotel what had brought about the death of his roommate and why trouble had not come also to him and the young fellow replied: "The difference was in the first drink."

With the Bishops of the United States actively interested in the Scout movement, the work is growing among our Catholic groups. Prominent at the dinner were: Rt. Rev. Magr. George V. Burns and the Rev. Gerald C. Lambert, for many years interested and active in the work. The Rev. George Vogt, director of Camp Stella Maris and other priests were seen at the dinner. Police Chief Andrew J. Kavanaugh was presented with an award for 15 years service as a member of the scout committee in the Catholic churches. Chief Kavanaugh is at present a member of the executive committee of the Rochester council and chairman of the troop organization committee. He was commended for developing a real feeling of comradeship between youth and the police. Many laymen prominent in sponsoring and developing boy work were present. It may be impractical but we think a similar gathering of Catholic priests and laymen interested in boy work whether it be the Aljo Club, Columbian Squires, Camp Stella Maris or Boy Scouting that they are interested in, would give great impetus to the various movements in the diocese which are essentially to help boys help themselves to be good citizens and true Christian gentlemen.

If you have a real purpose, suggest that you do so and get the boys in your family to read it. We think this space given to the boys serves a real purpose.

STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

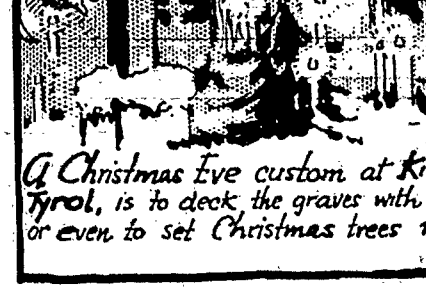
By M. J. MURRAY



IN THE SAVOY CHAPEL, LONDON the chorboys sing the Christmas carols in cassocks & ruffs dating back to the thirteenth century.



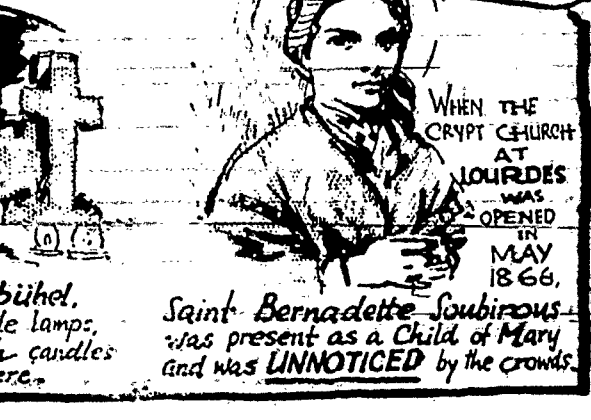
There is no mention of the OP or the ASS in the Gospel accounts of Our Lord's birth.



A Christmas Eve custom at Kitzbühel, Tyrol, is to deck the graves with little lamps, or even to set Christmas trees with candles there.



For his wonderful painting, "HOLY NIGHT," now in the Dresden Gallery, Correggio RECEIVED ONLY 40 DOLLARS!



WHEN THE CRYPT CHURCH AT LOURDES WAS OPENED IN MAY 1866, Saint Bernadette Soubirous was present as a Child of Mary and was UNNOTICED by the crowds.

Christmas Giving

When the three Wise Men from the East appeared, as the star shone forth on the first Christmas night, they bore on their saddles three caskets of gold, frankincense and myrrh, to be laid at the feet of the manger-craddled Babe of Bethlehem. With this old, old journey the spirit of "giving" crept into the world. As those Magi of old came bearing gifts, so do we also—gifts that breathe, gifts that are sweet and fragrant with friendship, gifts that are inspired still by the star that shone over the stable at Bethlehem two thousand years ago.

"But I am so poor this Christmas," says one, "that I can't make any presents at all. I'm afraid it won't seem much like Christmas to me." Heigh-ho! As if one needed to be rich, to fill other men's hearts with Christmas cheer!

A Christmas present may or may not, you see, convey the spirit of the day. It is so easy to drop into a store and buy a gift ready-made and send it, tied with fancy ribbon, to such and such a one's home. Perhaps it may be a token of pure love and kindness. Perhaps! But maybe, too, it is merely a cold, conventional message—as dull as a printed card of holiday greeting.

Is it true, after all, that the trinkets we send about on Christmas Eve are really the best Christmas gifts? Is it only the rich who can give the worthiest gifts and scatter abroad the truest cheer? No, happily, no! We have, all of us, poor as well as rich, a very host of gifts in our breasts that may do better service than all the expensive trifles in the world.

First, there are the real poor. Who cannot help the poor at Christmas time? Find in your neighborhood a family that is destitute and, perhaps, discouraged. Reduce, if necessary, the gifts you customarily give your friends, sacrifice something of your own, and provide that needy family with the material accessories of a happy Christmas. Try it and you will surely find peace in the warmth of their gratitude. Certainly he who is kind and merciful to the poor at Christmas presents a precious gift to the Sacred Heart of the Wistful Babe of Bethlehem.

Too poor to give, you say? What of that sick friend you used to drop in on and cheer—how many months is it since you have darkened that door? Go again, do, with a smiling face at Christmas time. Then there is that man who is struggling to set his foot on the upward slope, give him a word of cheer. And that other one, not poor in this world's goods perhaps, but who has drifted away from his faith; oh! if you could suggest that you do so and get the boys in your family to read it. We think this space given to the boys serves a real purpose.

get him to make a new start at Christmas time. What a Christmas gift—to give a man back his soul!

You are poor, did you say? Oh, the memory of baubles and trinkets and cards fades away with the years. But the memory of a kind word or a kind act, especially at Christmas time, never grows old or is cast away. It is too precious, to pleasant a memory ever to be forgotten or lost.

Gifts are all very well in their way, to help along and express the general cheer and love. But a wealth of nobler and tenderer gifts lies about us on every hand, in the many ways we may find of saying a helpful word or doing a kindly deed at Christmas time. And none of us is too poor to present that sort of a gift.

The Adeste Fideles

As the "Adeste Fideles" is sung in all our churches from Christmas until Candlemas Day, February 2, this word about its origin will be interesting. This beautiful hymn has been used in France and England since the close of the 18th Century. The words have been attributed to St. Bonaventura, but it is not found among his works. It is probably of French or German authorship. Individual authorship it may not have had. The atmosphere of the monastic scriptorium breathes, however, through its melodious strophes. It is in many respects unique in Christian hymnology. More than any other church song it blends prophecy, history, prayer, exultation and praise. If it were printed side by side with the Nicene Creed, it would be found an astonishing verification of that august prose.

It was sung at the Portuguese Legation in London as early as 1797. The most popular musical setting, the one we sing today has been ascribed by Vincent Novello, organist there, to John Reading, who was organist at the Winchester Cathedral from 1675 to 1681.

The hymn was always sung on the Continent in the Latin form, which is so musical that it is memorized almost without effort. It is believed that in many centers of devotion it was delivered also as a recitation, as if in oratorio. Plays drawn from Holy Writ were in vogue during the same period, and the "Adeste Fideles" would have been a congruous incident in either a Passion Play, a miracle play or a Madonna play.

Every line of the "Adeste" is a casket of faith and love. Upon its cadences many hours must have been spent for the crystallization of sublime truth into crisp and dazzling syllables. "Adeste," approach; "fideles," ye faithful; "iseli," joyful; "triumphantes," victorious; "venite," come; "adoramus," let us adore; "Domine," the Lord. How our hearts are lifted up as we listen to the

Spiritual Thoughts

By how much the more a man dies to himself, by so much more he lives to God.—St. Catherine of Siena.

We must often remember what Christ said, that not he who begins but he that perseveres to the end shall be saved.

Not only in solitude, but even in the company of others, we can preserve solitude of heart and familiarly converse with God.

They would ought to be of as much value as they work half; do not, therefore, be over hasty in thy promises, but be faithful in keeping them.

Suffer with Christ and for Christ if you would reign with Christ.—Thomas a Kempis.

To serve the servants of my Master is my victory and honor.—St. Ignatius Loyola.

BETHELEHEM

In Bethlehem's inn that night there was no space When Christ our Lord came down to save

His erring brothers of the human race, So God Almighty came forth in a cave.

"There is no room," too oft we hear it said, In human hearts for Him Who made us all;

For Him Who died, and rose up from the dead And saved us all from the blight of Adam's fall, The world is full of misery and woe,

Men's hearts are thrilled with quest for gold and might, For luxury and pleasure; could they know

Who He is that was born on Christmas night, They would make room so all mankind could see The glory of that Christmas Infancy.

—Mark O. Shriver.

BERNADETTE

By M. D. Barry A simple peasant child, Unlearned, shy, demure, Unknown to the great world, Humble, content, obscure.

A highly favored maid Of venerated name; Chosen by Heaven's Queen, Her title to proclaim.

A hidden, pious nun, Thrilled with the memory Of a grotto that enshrined The Virgin fair to see!

A world-wide honored saint, The chosen few among, Who follow close the Lamb Singing Love's endless song.

majestic strains, inviting all of earth to come to Bethlehem to worship the new-born Saviour!