

## Catholic Courier

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with the Approval of the  
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Bishop of Rochester.

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In plain language, the religious people of this country have in the matter of public school education been playing into the hands of those who have no religion and who regard religion as of no value to the nation.

The testimony of so great an expert in education as Dr. Butler should help to intensify the interest of Catholics in their school system. It should help in making them realize that they are playing a great patriotic as well as religious part. What Dr. Butler said is further justification of the tremendous burden, self-sacrificial strain borne by American Catholics in building up and maintaining their own schools.

These schools, their kinds and purposes, will receive special consideration in the August 22 issue of the Catholic Courier.

JOHN E. MASSETH.

## GERMAN ANTI-CHRIST

Everybody outside of—and many within—Germany have lately been blinking in startled surprise, to put it mildly, at the orgy of paganism springing up from a supposedly Christian land.

At the recent revival and celebration of the ancient pagan ceremony of honoring the summer solstice practiced by barbarians who once roamed the Northern wilds, one may have laughed. But perhaps one should have wept. For there was evidence of fanatical earnestness there.

The Nordic pagan religion of today employs the *Edda* as its holy scripture. It is part of early Icelandic literature. The *Edda* consists of lays celebrating the deeds of gods and goddesses and mythological heroes. The pagans of Germany find here the blood and iron they desire for. Christianity is too weak for them. It encourages weakness. It debilitates.

The Nordic pagan teachers claim for their religion even more distinguished origins. They hold that the sources of their faith movements are to be found not only in prehistoric mythology but in no less an intellectual source than the philosophic idealism of Fichte, Schopenhauer and Hegel.

It seems likely that if certain National Socialist chiefs had not decided to take notice of the pagan movement it would have smoldered on as a wholly insignificant sect—a refuge for cranks, as it had for the last half century. But the younger generation noted the resemblance between statements made by Nazi youth leaders and the propaganda of the heathen. It was realized that Alfred Rosenberg's violently anti-Christian teachings had been recognized by the Hitler regime through his appointment as Cultural Director of the National Socialist party and all of its subordinate organizations.

Concerning Alfred Rosenberg an article by the Belgian Professor Charles Sorel appeared in Current History of June, entitled "The German Anti-Christ."

According to Professor Sorel, Rosenberg's book, "The Myth of the Twentieth Century," has had on the new Germany an influence second in importance only to Hitler's "Mein Kampf."

Called by his opponents the German anti-Christ, Rosenberg repudiates and repudiates such an appellation. He professes to admire in a vague and distant way the personality of Christ. But the personality of Christ has been distorted, has been made unrecognizable by Jewish fanatics like Matthew, by materialistic rabbis like Paul, by African hordes like Tertullian, by mongrel half-breeds like Augustine.

Thus Rosenberg is repelled by the personality of Christ as handed down to us. It has been disfigured, "institutionalized," Christianity has done that. Hence his passionate opposition to all Christian Churches. To him, they have been a source of decay; their creed a creed of slaves.

Over against the Christian Cross Rosenberg places the Nordic swastika, the symbol of the "Sun God"; against the demoralizing religion of the Universal Spirit and human brotherhood, he opposes the living religion of "Race and Blood"; against the Christian virtues of pity and charity, he sets up the elemental German virtues of honor and freedom.

According to Professor Sorel, it is the aim of Rosenberg and his kind to eliminate "the spurious moral values of the Sermon on the Mount, the elimination of the dogma of original sin, of the doctrine of Grace. He demands the suppression of the Cross, and instead of the dreary and degrading dogmas and malignant symbols of the present churches he wants the new German Church to substitute the Nordic myths and sagas and fairy tales which, since the beginning of time, have expressed German aspirations and ideals and represented German moral values."

With Rosenberg this is an issue of life and death. The old Nordic values must be brought back. With the aid of the Nazi State, the German people must be purified and rejuvenated through their liberation from the corrupting influences of Jerusalem, Rome and Wittenberg and by enthroning above them the mystical religion of the blood and fire and the heroic religion of honor and valor.

Alfred Rosenberg has been placed in several government key positions of power. Because of this, millions of readers feel that behind whatever he writes is the force and prestige of an omnipotent State. In addition, Professor Sorel sees Rosenberg as an original journalist and a controversialist of the first rank, and again still much more than that. He combines the parts of a missionary, an apostle and a Father of the Church.

Such men as Alfred Rosenberg, working upon a people disillusioned, embittered, surfeited with tragedy, could wield, especially upon youth, an influence conceivably more formidable than that of the Hitler-Gobbel-Goring triumvirate.

## Bible Anniversary

By Rev. John M. Lohr, O. M. Cap.

THE FIRST ENGLISH PRINTED PROTESTANT BIBLE AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

The University of Missouri News Service on July 15 announced that Dean Walter Williams, since deceased, had accepted "appointment as member of the Western Regional Committee which will plan commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the printed English Bible." Williams said: "There came from an unknown press the first sheets of the first printed English Bible, in the text prepared by Miles Coverdale. The event referred to is to be celebrated all over the country, and a National Committee is preparing for the event."

The English edition of the Bible prepared by Miles Coverdale in the first complete Protestant English version which was printed very probably by the Protestant printer Christopher Proctor at London in 1534. The printed sheets were sent for binding and distribution to James Nicolson, printer at Southwark, London. This Bible is a small folio in black letter, unembellished by woodcuts and initials and bearing the title: "Biblia, the Bible, that is, the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, latently and truly translated out of Douche (German) and Latin into English." A second edition appeared in the same year 1534. Nicolson printed in 1537 two editions, one in English, one in folio and the other in quarto. On the title-page of the latter was printed the significant words, "set forth with the King's most gracious license."

English Bible in pre-Reformation times

There exists no divine injunction to write, read or distribute the Bible. Yet we find that the Bible was translated into all European languages in pre-Reformation times, was read, studied by clergy as well as lay, and what was more, was constantly used in the book of prayer and meditation. This fact is an indication that our Protestant English Bibles are a continuation of a tradition which is synchronous with the first attempts at rendering the Bible into the vernacular language of the people. The English Bible in pre-Reformation times was translated throughout eight centuries into various European languages. This fact is an indication that our Protestant English Bibles are a continuation of a tradition which is synchronous with the first attempts at rendering the Bible into the vernacular language of the people.

George F. Johnson, Protestant author of an anti-Catholic book, tells us that up to the year 1600 "Latin was universally accepted as the language not only of scholarship but practically of all literate men."

Johnson, vol. 1, p. 13. During the Reformation and long after, in the latter part of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Latin was the language of the learned, of the clergy, of the courts, of the universities, of the printing office. We find that for nineteen centuries of the books that were being put into shape, the text was in Latin. The works in jurisprudence were, with hardly an exception, printed in Latin text, and the same was the case with works of medicine and natural science. The fact that all the great universities of Europe, during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the larger proportion of the lectures in these several departments were given in Latin, served, of course, to maintain and extend this universality of learning of literature, and of science.

(Books and Their Makers, vol. II, pp. 201-202). Mercantile expressed the same fact in his wretched terse style. "In the time of Henry the Eighth and Edward the Sixth, a person who did not read Greek and Latin could read nothing, or next to nothing. The Latin was in the sixteenth century the language of courts as well as of the schools. It was the language of diplomacy; it was the language of theology and political controversy. A person who was ignorant of it was shut out from all acquaintance, not merely with Cicero and Virgil, not merely with heavy treatises on canon-law and school-divinity, but with the most interesting memoirs, state papers, and pamphlets of its own time, nay even with the most admired poetry and the most popular tales of the day."

(The History of the English Language, by Lord Bacon, since all these literary productions could be read only in Latin.

According to the books printed and read by Catholics as well as Protestants during the Reformation and long after were preponderantly Latin books. In England as well as on the continent during the lifetime of Henry the Eighth, Luther and other Reformers more Latin books were printed, bought and read than books in the vernacular language.

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

Catholic Facts But Little Known

(c) 1932, by N.C.W.C. News Service

By M. J. MURRAY



## THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

An attractive paper-covered booklet, called "The Apostles' Creed," was sent some time ago for review to the office of the CATHOLIC COURIER. Its author is the Rev. Richard Felix, O. S. B., who prepared its chapters originally for presentation over the radio. The style is simple and direct, as such doctrinal treatises should be. It is a most admirable booklet for popular hearing and reading; but it seems to be too bold and undomestic. I hold no brief for elaborate rhetoric and ornate flourish in religious instruction. But our divine Lord chose the language of imagery and color in His discourse, even when He was not speaking in parables. I venture to suggest that Father Felix's radio instructions would enlighten and enrich even more souls than they doubtless have already if their language were of that attractive eloquence which wins the heart while it instructs the mind.

I consider the English Jesuit Father Martinelli's pulpit and radio style the best suited for modern religious instruction and exhortation. There is a leap and verve to it which must keep any audience on the qui vive. See for yourself by reading his broadcast talks, "What Are Saints?" as Naturally Latin Bibles were also in demand by Catholics as well as Protestants by the clergy as well as the educated laity. (To Be Continued)

This year marks the centenary of the birthday of Pope Pius X. Those who revere the memory of that saintly prelate may be glad to know that there is a "Life" of him in the C. E. Library.

The following recent books on war and peace are recommended by the Cardinal Hayes Literature Committee.

THE PRICE OF PEACE. By Frank H. Simonds and Brooks Emsw. PEACE AND THE PLAIN

## THE CATHOLIC EVIDENCE LIBRARY RECOMMENDS

The following *Armful* of Novels for Summer Reading:

MARY OF JERUSALEM. By Jean Ravennet. One of the most beautifully written books in English on the life of our Saviour's Blessed Mother; admirable for meditation during this Assumption-tide.

LABORERS IN THE VINEYARD. By Giovanni Papini. Chapter-biographies of such great men as Petrarch, Michelangelo, St. Francis of Assisi, Jacopone da Todi, St. Ignatius Loyola, and (from our own day) Pope Pius XI, by one of the most challenging of contemporary writers.

CHAUVER. By Gilbert K. Chesterton. Full-length biography and commentary on the first great English poet, with many typically Chestertonian digressions on a score of things which moderns misunderstand about the Middle Ages.

THE QUEEN'S PILLET. By Canon Sheehan. Dramatic novel of the French Revolution.

CATHOLIC EVIDENCE LIBRARY

HOURS—Afternoon—3:30 through to 9:00 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

PLACE—Lobby of Columbus Civic Centre Building, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester, N. Y.

DAILY RENTAL—One cent for each book.

## Diocesan Recordings

School children of the diocese are not, generally speaking, counting the days until they hear that first bell in September. They have not arrived at the age when they can realize fully just what their courses of instruction will do for them. Members of the Rochester Parish Sodality Union, however, many of them fresh from attendance at intensive sessions of the Catholic Action Summer School in Boston are planning a night-school course in Catholic Action from September 16 to 20 in Columbus Civic Center Building to which they are looking forward with anticipation and eagerness. They invite all Catholics in the Rochester area to attend, men and women, at a small nominal charge. There is a great need today for such a course. Catholics can no longer put their foot inside of church on Sunday for the late Mass, go to the Sacraments, all too infrequently and still be Catholics. The laity under the program of Catholic Action is called upon to be informed, to be alert to occasions requiring a spokesman to make their rightful claims articulate and to be an example to others thus gaining respect for principles they profess and practice. The first Catholic Action school in the diocese should be well attended. It should be the beginning of a movement that will grow in the diocese.

It is an excellent thing to protest against religious persecution in Germany. It is an excellent thing to protest against religious persecution in Mexico, and in Russia. In fact, no country should be allowed to use restrictive measures against man's inherent right to practice his religion as his conscience dictates, without vigorous protest.

During the 7th National Eucharistic Congress in Cleveland that city will commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the first Mass offered within the city's present territory. The Congress will also commemorate the year of Catholic history on the North American continent. The closing procession of the Congress from the Public Hall to the Public Stadium will take place on the last day of the North American Martyr. And the same Holy Eucharist of the Last Supper, also brought to the Indians by the Jesuit Saints, and also consecrated in the Mass 100 years ago, will be adored by the multitudes in Cleveland at the impressive ceremonies of the Congress.

While some folks may consider amateur hours on the radio, "crime," parents are beginning to believe that the so-called "crime hours" for children over the radio are just that. "The recent trend against this type of program is not of the negative sort that is received and forgotten with an indifferent shrug," says the Christian Science Monitor. "An embittered parent is a dangerous adversary for any institution no matter how big, to face School officials and educators in general have repeatedly emphasized the demoralizing effects of these programs. Highly strung children are kept up to an uncomfortable pitch by radio strikes and horror stories, and even the most phlegmatic child is apt to have his vocabulary corrupted and his standards warped in formative years by what might well be described as the Children's 'Crime Hour'."

"The sheer impudence of an appeal to any child in the home, over the parents' heads, in behalf of an advertised product might be enough to give the sponsors pause; but combined with the ill effects of such programs upon the child, as shown by Professor Busch of New York University and others, and the resentment kindled in grown-ups, it would seem that, even if advertisers do not, the radio powers that be would take heed in their own interests."

OUR QUEEN  
Spotless dove, Rarest rose,  
Peaceful waters, Harmony,  
Truest justice, Divinest mercy,  
Love's wondrous ecstasy,  
And all the admirable and sublime  
Show us such beautiful traits  
Of thine,  
God's Mother and mine  
Frank C. Kiley

MAN BY NORMAN ANGELL.  
WAR IS A RACKET. By Smedley D. Butler.  
They are not in the C. E. Library, but can very likely be found in the Public Library.

THE CATHOLIC COURIER

School Edition, next week, is not alone for school children, but for all interested in promoting and maintaining our Catholic Schools.

## CATHOLIC EVIDENCE

MODERN MINDS SHALL PASS AWAY, BUT—

Nineteen hundred years ago a Roman orator was publicly scoffing at the teachings of the followers of Christ, and while he was speaking a priest in the catacombs was saying a Requiem Mass, while a woman was weeping and smiling and praying.

She was weeping because of the loss of a beloved husband. She was smiling because he had confessed his sins to a priest and had gone to his death with his God in his breast. She was praying because she believed God would heed her entreaties to take her husband home from Purgatory into Heaven.

Today in a famous cathedral a "moderate" cleric is preaching against the "absurdities" of Hell and Purgatory and other fundamental Christian beliefs; and while he is preaching other faithful Catholics are weeping and smiling and praying for the exact same reasons as had the woman in the