

FULTON SHEEN'S

MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST

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SHEED & WARD

FISH ON FRIDAY

BELIEVE IT - - - Not

THIS WEEK:

Monsignor Talbot Smith's view of religious conditions in America thirty-five years ago...

About the time that the Rev. Talbot Smith...

I thought that a belief in the Bible as a supernatural Revelation was better than pure Naturalism...

But the Monsignor exclaimed: "If we could appeal first to natural reason and common sense and then on that solid basis, in a mind free from prejudice from religious bias and fanaticism, show the reasons, the evidence why Christianity must be accepted, then the supernatural must be raised as a superstructure on the natural, not destroying it, nor denying it, but completing it."

Man cannot long exist without a religion. In the lessons of history, the exceptions, if there are any, are individual. The masses of people crave for religion. If they have none, if they have no solution of this mystery of life, they will see one and if there is one at hand they will examine it, not in the light of passion and inevitable prejudice but in the light of pure reason, logic and experience.

He went on to explain how this appeal to the emotions rather than to reason, and in the motion to fear rather than to love of God and our fellow-man, works to the detriment of religion both in those who submit to the appeal, and in those who do not but rather despise it.

Only Deism "Those," he said, "who succumb to the appeal, such as we see in the Camp Meeting and the Revival, act under high pressure. But that does not and cannot last long, and when it ceases, when they cool down, they find themselves more destitute than they were before. Those who do not respond to the appeal in this manner, but who usually better educated, look on first with indifference or curiosity, or perhaps with sympathy or pity for the crowd so affected, but the ultimate effect is one of contempt. They regard as religion that is not religion. That is Christianity! I pity these poor people. But they are deluded and delude themselves. It is not for me. To accept it would be to deny my reason and common sense. To tell me to that effect in the Camp Meeting, or Revival, or that I had found religion, or "found salvation" in that way, would be for me nothing but a leading hypocrisy and a denial of my mind. Of the faculty of reason by which alone I am a man and not a mere animal.

This country has changed considerably since that night on Lake Champlain. The mass of the American people are certainly much nearer now to the bed rock of pure naturalism than they were then. The tenets of Protestantism, as it was understood by the Reformers, have been abandoned, not by one but the inevitable product of a 60 year growth along historical Christianity which a Catholicism remain. Even the revival is now little affected by such appeals as the Revival. The more intelligent and educated classes, the intellectuals, not at all.

Mortality Concerns "Are the American people then nearer to the Catholic Church than they were thirty-five years ago?" To put the question in another form: Are they now able to begin the ascent from the bed rock of Naturalism towards the Church which was the faith of their forefathers, than they were when they accepted the Bible as supernatural Revelation? Certainly, Protestantism as it was understood by the Reformers no longer exists in this country, except among a very small portion of the 100 million, and this small percentage are the more ignorant and emotional. I think Monsignor Smith's view is at least questionable when the problem concerns the group and not individuals. His few may, however, be correct in some future time, now not calculable. Before that time comes many prejudices must die down. But, as the old faith in the Bible and the idea of finding "salvation" and "glory" by such appeals as the Camp Meeting and the Revival go to pieces, the moral conscience, the conception of morality and the sanctions which were based on these beliefs, must also go to the board. That process is already causing alarm to many thoughtful people who are not Catholics and may hasten a willingness to consider the claims of historical Christianity, the Catholic Church.

But whatever may be thought of Monsignor Smith's view as applied to the group or nation, it is certainly historically true of many exceptionally gifted individuals who have reached the Catholic Church ascending from the bed-rock of Naturalism, and after they had on the downward path discarded every other form of Christianity. This is why the subject has come to my mind this evening.

Several Pieces "Last night I was reading a book that I had not seen for nearly forty years, a book that deserves to be better known than it is today—Doctor Brownson's 'The Con-

Acting Rector



Right Rev. Msgr. Patrick J. McCormick, professor of education and dean of the Sisters College at the Catholic University of America, who has been appointed acting rector of the university.

McCormick was formerly superintendent of diocesan schools at Hartford, Conn., and is a former editor of the Catholic Educational Review. He assumes the duties of the Most Rev. James H. Ryan, rector emeritus, who has been installed as Bishop of Omaha.

LITTELY WEEKS HEAD London (AP) The first of a week led in this country, following the continental plan, was successfully concluded in Birmingham. The event had the patronage of the Archbishop of Birmingham and his suffragans.

ver, Brownson began life as a "Congregationalist," and in his quest for a religion that would satisfy his philosophical and logical mind, as he put it, he sought where he could believe without denying his reason, he passed through practically all the forms of Protestantism then known in this country until he struck rock bottom in Rationalism.

And it was from that bottom by using his reason, that he ascended to the door of the Catholic Church, and entering found peace and stability for the remainder of his life.

By the way he spent many years of his ante-Catholic life in this diocese of Rochester and his description of some places is they are in this history in the records of last century. For instance, Auburn, are very interesting.

Fundamentally, the case of Brownson is that of St. Augustine. There are at present in England a host of eminent writers, converts to Catholicism and several of them have passed through an experience similar to that of Brownson in only one Alfred Noyes and Arnold Lunn. And the readers of the column will remember that Mr. Winthrop Chandler also is an adherent to the Catholic Church, the bedrock of Rationalism. But for the mass of the group they have neither the ability to see the illogicality of the process, nor the will and energy to examine it.

It is of interest to note that among the hundreds of more or less eminent converts in England there are two very divergent views on what is called Anglo-Catholicism as a halfway house in Catholicism. Some of them claim that it is helpful in bringing people near to the door. Others deny this and say that it is an impediment to the path to keep them back. Father H. E. Hope once an Anglican, is a convert to the latter opinion. He claims and says this is his experience that Anglo-Catholicism keeps people back who would otherwise become Catholics by persuading them that they can find in the Establishment all they would find in the Catholic Church.

Auburn Deanery News

Devotions at St. Mary's Auburn - Forty Hours Devotions opened with a solemn ceremony at the 10:30 o'clock Mass Sunday morning at St. Mary's Church and continued throughout Wednesday. The sermons were delivered by Rev. John Moore of St. Patrick's Church, Seneca Falls, formerly assistant to Rev. Frederick G. Strawn, pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in East Genesee Street. Father Moore is now assistant to Rev. Bartholomew Quirk, native Auburnian. In the conduct of the services, Rev. Francis Burns of St. Bernard's, Rochester, formerly of St. Mary's, assisted the pastor. Rev. Dr. William E. Cowan and his assistants, Rev. Robert Fennessy and Rev. J. Joseph O'Connell.

Alumni Plan Second of Marriage Lectures By Rev. Dr. Mahoney

Alumni of St. Joseph's High School are planning a series of marriage lectures given by the Rev. Dr. William J. C. Mahoney, C. M., and sponsored by the Rochester chapter of the College of New Rochelle Alumnae Association. The first of these lectures will be given on Monday evening at the home of Mrs. Mary Dooling on Wellington Avenue.

Large Sociality Meeting - Auburn One hundred and seventy-five young women, the largest in the history of the sociality, attended a recent meeting of the Young Ladies Sodality of St. Mary's Church in Lyceum Hall. Rev. Robert Fennessy, moderator, discussed the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, which is Sunday, December 8. Refreshments were served under the direction of Mrs. Josephine Nolan, chairman of the Sociality Committee.

High School Basketball - Auburn Ernest November is president of the Catholic Church Basketball League, which will open its 1935 season Tuesday, Dec. 20, with a formidable array of court talent competing in a six-team tournament. St. Joseph's High School, champion of last season, will be represented by a veteran lineup. Other officers besides President November are Stephen Baran, treasurer, and Timothy Coughlin, secretary.

High Five Opens Season - Auburn - An overflow crowd of enthusiastic basketball fans watched Coach Johnny Flynn's Holy Family High School versus St. Joseph's 1935 season, a 23-18 triumph over St. Francis de Sales High School of Geneva at the

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