

Courier

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seems to be a fear of retaliation of some sort. But if our cause has reason back of it, and can be shown as violating the rights of others in no way, why should we fear?

Perhaps we American Catholics still believe that we do not exactly belong here. So long as we are doubtful about it, so long will others be too.

Back to Washington comes a representative with his pockets bulging with newspaper clippings. He brings them to the White House, or shows them to his fellow representatives.

When the Catholic Press, or the Knights of Columbus, or any other group of Catholics, does such service, it stands a good chance of being considered a disservice by some who, we fear, are not fully aware of peaceful working at Washington.

It can scarcely be too strongly stated that no representatives presenting their claims at the National Capital can reasonably hope for favorable action unless evidence has first been presented of intense interest and activity in behalf of the demand on the part of those back home.

TOLD YOU SO'S

Why do we remember some things and forget others? Why, too, does the inconsequential stick, while events of importance fade from memory. In any event, we've had recent occasion to recall a certain football game witnessed some twelve years ago.

At the writing word comes from General George C. Marshall, Secretary of War, in a letter to the League, providing information to be brought into the country.

Current Comment

THE COMING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE TO AMERICA

The advent of the Christmas tree even in its native land, Germany, is still somewhat in doubt. While Christmas trees and decorations of the fir and the pine were customary there a long time back, the first known Christmas tree, erected in a home and decorated with tapers and ornaments, was observed at Strasburg in the Alsace by a traveler in 1822.

When and where was the Christmas tree first introduced in our country? Mr. Camille Schneider, an Alsatian, writing in 1925 in Germany, "The Christmas Tree and its Homeland, the Alsace," declares the Christmas of 1811 to have witnessed the first Christmas tree in the United States.

While there was no Christmas tree to be had in Chicago in 1854, according to family traditions upon which we are able to draw, it was possible to obtain one in the same city a year or two later.

Our contentions are borne out by a remarkable incident, the planting of a Christmas tree, bearing in mind and ending in Mexico, by an officer of the United States Volunteer Infantry during the Mexican War.

In the foothills enroute are many evergreens which gave us the idea of a Christmas tree. I got some four, sugar and apple trees, a couple of young holly trees, a couple of young spruce trees, a couple of young fir trees, a couple of young pine trees, a couple of young cedar trees, a couple of young cypress trees, a couple of young juniper trees, a couple of young yew trees, a couple of young boxwood trees, a couple of young laurel trees, a couple of young myrtle trees, a couple of young rosemary trees, a couple of young thyme trees, a couple of young basil trees, a couple of young oregano trees, a couple of young dill trees, a couple of young parsley trees, a couple of young chive trees, a couple of young onion trees, a couple of young garlic trees, a couple of young leek trees, a couple of young asparagus trees, a couple of young bean trees, a couple of young pea trees, a couple of young lentil trees, a couple of young chickpea trees, a couple of young lupine trees, a couple of young soybean trees, a couple of young mung bean trees, a couple of young black bean trees, a couple of young pinto bean trees, a couple of young navy bean trees, a couple of young lima bean trees, a couple of young broad bean trees, a couple of young fava bean trees, a couple of young vetch trees, a couple of young clover trees, a couple of young alfalfa trees, a couple of young timothy trees, a couple of young clover trees, a couple of young alfalfa trees, a couple of young timothy trees.

It is hardly probable that the custom of the Christmas tree, as it is to the parents without offering any further explanation of his action, had the "Latin farmers" of St. Clair County, Illinois among whom the Engelmanns were of the most cultured and respected not previously, that any Christmas tree in their new home since their coming to America, around 1833. But however that may be, Adolph Engelmann's letter first makes the assertion that the first Christmas tree was installed in America in 1861.

To such an extent was the custom of the Christmas tree, as it is to the parents without offering any further explanation of his action, had the "Latin farmers" of St. Clair County, Illinois among whom the Engelmanns were of the most cultured and respected not previously, that any Christmas tree in their new home since their coming to America, around 1833.

STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY

Illustration of the Sagrada Família in Barcelona, Spain, with text: 'The most amazing spectacle in Barcelona, Spain, is the CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY FAMILY of which THE SHELL ALONE HAS BEEN COMPLETED IN 30 YEARS!'

THE LIBRARY SIGN POST

The director and librarians of the Catholic Evidence Library join in praying that all its patrons may possess the full joy of this holy Christmas tide. For all of us to whom it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, there can be nothing but deepest gladness in the soul.

THE CATHOLIC EVIDENCE LIBRARY RECOMMENDS

- THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST. By Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen. The latest and perhaps the finest work of this gifted American priest who is challenging the respect of sincerely intelligent people throughout the world appropriate reading for the holy season at hand.
THE WOODCARVER OF TYROL. By Rev. Edmund A. Walsh, S. J. The kind of story that haunts the memory like a great love or a great deed of sacrifice: the Library is proud to present this beautiful short story to the Rochester reading public.
THE SACRAMENT OF DUTY. By Rev. Joseph McSorley, S. J. Most helpful and graciously-written essays on such topics as Cheerfulness, Duty, Open-Mindedness, Progress in Prayer, Soul Blindness—keyed to the pitch of the average man and woman of sincere intelligence.
SHINE AND SAINTS. By Daisy H. Moseley. Characterized by a reviewer in the Commonwealth as "most notable for the depth of its spiritual feeling." There is great need for such a book which re-tells the lives of some favorite saints with simple beauty and dramatic power.
N. B. The Library will not be opened on Christmas.
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

THE CHRISTMAS season IS A TIME for JOY AND peace FOR CHARITY towards ALL MEN. WHEN WE read of WARS and RUMORS of war THROUGHOUT the WORLD— WHEN WE hear THAT PEOPLE WILL NOT be BUDGED from THEIR practices WHICH include UNFAIR treatment OF EMPLOYEES OR EMPLOYERS FAILING to FULFILL obligations TO THOSE who HIRE them OR apathy IS SHOWN to THOSE in distress OR out-of-work AND PRESIDENTS ARE DAMNED TO PROTESTS against NEIGHBORS who PERSECUTE neighbors OR THERE are THOSE WHO advocate MURDER AND OTHERS who BELIEVE that PREVENTION can BE anything but IMMORAL and HARMFUL and NATIONS PERSECUTE men BECAUSE of THEIR religion AND THERE ARE citizens WHO PLAN to OVERTHROW all AUTHORIZED GOVERNMENT BY force of arms AND GOVERNORS WILL NOT permit BUSSERS FOR CHILDREN of RELIGIOUS public SCHOOLS AND WHEN COMING sessions OF CONGRESS AND STATE LEGISLATURES WILL BE flooded WITH measures INDICAL to ALL the common-sense PRINCIPLES for WHICH the CHURCH stands AND HAS always STOOD. IT IS difficult TO NOTE the POSSIBILITIES FOR PEACE HOWEVER AT CHRISTMAS time OPPORTUNITY IS given TO APPEAL STRONGLY to THE PRINCE OF PEACE MAY ALL who ARE ABLE RECEIVE the SACRAMENTS and OFFER special PRAYERS that PEACE embracing WILL descend UPON men of GOOD WILL TO influence THEIR minds and BEARTS for BETTER understanding FOR MORE CHARITABLE CONSIDERATION of NEIGHBOR whether NEXT DOOR or NEXT NATION THEN MAY all MEN AND you, AND YOU, the BLESSED CHRISTMAS WE WISH FOR all.

Spiritual Thoughts

There is no devotion more fitting for sanctifying a soul than meditation on the Passion of Christ. Therefore meditate every day on the Passion if you would advance in the love of God. St. Bonaventure
Would you win heaven you must be generous, work hard, and suffer much. For the reward which God has prepared is itself exceedingly great. St. Rose
The Sacrament of the Eucharist is far more powerful for the sanctification of souls than all other spiritual means of grace. St. Denis
The Gift of Jesus Christ to us as our Food was the last step of His love, since He gives Himself to us in order to unite Himself wholly to us in the same way as food becomes united to him who partakes of it. St. Bernardine of Siena
BY THE SWORD
From His words and example we know that Christ repudiated the sword. Consequently He repudiates the sword which He could ask His Heavenly Father and He would send legions of angels to do battle for Him, and protect Him from His enemies Christ did not want His doctrines spread by force, but by peaceful means, by preaching, teaching and good example. The Middle Ages spread the doctrines of Christ by the sword and entire nations were brought into the fold. But their conversions did not last. Any religion that is spread by the sword, will die by the sword. The Catholic Sun.

CATHOLIC EVIDENCE

DO YOU MIND IF WE ASK OUR MOTHER?
Do you mind, dear non-Catholic neighbor, if, in extending to you our heartiest Christmas greetings, we make mention of the little maiden-mother of Jesus, with-out whom, we think, the picture of that first Christmas morn would be incomplete?
On the eighth day of this very month the Catholic Church throughout the world celebrated that stupendous honor conferred by God on the mother of Christ—the Immaculate Conception—a doctrine so fitting and so logical that we Catholics wonder why it is so little understood by many sincere folk of other creeds.
What true Christian does not subscribe with all his faith to the mystery of the Virgin Birth, although no human mind can comprehend it? Is it then so preposterous to believe that the mother of our Divine Saviour was further honored by another act of God, which made her free even from original sin from the very instant of her conception in her mother's womb?
This doctrine is part of the total Deposit of Faith, in the possession of the Church since the first Pentecost Sunday. On December 8th, 1854, Pope Pius IX defined it as such officially that the Faithful might understand it and know it to be one of God's own truths.
Mary, miraculous, the virgin-mother! Mary, miraculously full of grace from her conception to her death! Mary, God's most highly honored creature, both on earth and in heaven! Mary, your mother and ours. Bequeathed to us by the dying Jesus, Mary, now sitting at His Sacred Feet, yearning for our love, listening for our petitions!
Do you mind then, dear non-Catholic neighbor, if we ask our heavenly mother to implore her beloved Son to give to you and us this Christmas day, and every other day, what He knows to be best for us, and that we all shall be given enough human wisdom to have faith in His infinite wisdom?
"O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!"
Catholic Information Society of Northville, Pa.