

Catholic Courier

Vol. VIII JANUARY 30, 1936 No. 5

Official Newspaper of the Diocese of Rochester With the Approbation of the Most Reverend Archbishop Edward Mooney, Bishop of Rochester.

MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION SUBSCRIBER TO N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE

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MEMBER OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

National Advertising Representative: C. J. Chamberlain, 51 Chambers Street, New York City

Published by CATHOLIC COURIER AND JOURNAL, Inc. 35 Chambers Street, New York City

Editorial: I earnestly beseech for the CATHOLIC COURIER the united and generous support of our friends and people...

Editorial: The happy warrior; this is he that every man in arms should wish to be...

Editorial: Answers seethe within us and throng from without, but there is not enough space to deal with all.

Editorial: As it seems to us, one of the first purposes of a Catholic newspaper is to instruct. We could let it go at that...

Editorial: "Religion's all or nothing. It's no mere smile of contentment, sigh of aspiration, stir like its likeness or its willingness..."

Editorial: We pause to wonder what Browning would have said of those who, playing into the hands of the enemy, would separate religion from that part of life called "politics..."

Editorial: If "politics" is good, it is religion's part to keep it good. If "politics" goes bad, it is religion's duty to make it good.

Editorial: Or maybe it is religion's part to run away from life and its needs, and shut itself up in church and sanctuary.

Editorial: And maybe wink at what is ruining men and women; children of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ.

Editorial: Communists and Socialists have us there to a certain extent. The "dope" of resignation when things are going wrong with the world...

Editorial: "The Kingdom of God is within you." Will you seat it out when you go certain places, when you engage in certain activities?

who seem to say—alto voce, of course, "Say a prayer—and let God do it." Which sounds to us like, "Let George do it."

Of course, Browning was right—"Religion's all or nothing." At the peril of being lengthy, we are going to give you the comment of A. Longfellow Fliske, a convert Protestant minister, which appeared in AMERICA of July 27, 1935.

"I think it was gypsy Smith, the evangelist, who several years ago accused his Protestant brethren of taking the old hymn, Onward Christian Soldiers, a bit too literally. The hymn says,

Onward Christian soldiers, Marching as to war.

That, said Smith, is what exactly too many Christians are guilty of, they march as to war, as though they were tin soldiers, merely playing at their religion.

"Catholic Christians, marching 'as to war'! Catholics who would practise their religion by a sort of vicarious atonement, expecting the Religious and the priests to do their 'practising' for them."

"A legitimate part of the business of the Church is to prove to the materialist and the infidel, to those who think of religion as mere intellectual ensuistry and a subject for parlor discussion and speculation, that they are wrong both in their premise and conclusion. The Church must prove to thinking men and women that religion is 'all or nothing,' that it is not a mere sigh of aspiration, but is 'life of life' and 'self of self.' It must take religion out of books and Bibles, and sermons and somehow connect it with social and political action and thus build the Kingdom of God among men."

And so would it not be fitting for a Catholic newspaper to fly a banner, the banner of the words of Browning, the Roman writer of old?

"Nothing human is foreign to me." Here in part—a primary and essential part—it what directors, the staff, friends of the CATHOLIC COURIER would wish it to be.

Whether or not it can approximate this ideal will be answered at the conclusion of the present Student's Crusade for new subscribers.

JOHN E. MASSETH

THE COMMON MAN

George Washington, first president of the United States, for his first two advisors chose Thomas Jefferson, as Secretary of State and Alexander Hamilton, as Secretary of the Treasury. This is what James Truslow Adams, in his "The Epic of America," says of Jefferson and Hamilton.

"Jefferson had been born on the Virginia frontier. Hamilton, living his life among the moneyed class in New York, with its intensely corrupt politics, had no belief whatever in the capacity of the common man to govern himself or others. Jefferson, influenced by the French philosophers to some extent, and living among the yeomanry of one of the best frontier sections of the country, had complete faith in the ordinary citizen, so long, at least, as the nation might remain agricultural."

You will note that Mr. Adams is not in accord with the full-faith picture usually given us as representing Jefferson's views—"so long as the nation might remain agricultural."

Howbeit, this is where the distinction arose in this country between faith and no faith in the ordinary man as far as self-government is concerned.

In the prayers after a Low Mass we say—"That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ."

Would we be any more worthy of the promises of a new and better social order? The common man was fooled by Hoover with a full dumber pail. He has been fooled by Roosevelt with a full belly. He is "lazy, selfish, brainless, indifferent." He isn't worth your effort. He will "run out on you."

According to his radio statement of last Sunday, this is what Father Connelly was told by a gov. haired, hard-boiled Washington newspaper correspondent. This is cynicism, pessimism. Any ground for this lack of faith in the common man, this contempt for the common man? Before you answer, consider what Gilbert Chesterton has to offer in the January issue of THE AMERICAN MERCURY—"It is quite certain that many modern-thinkers and writers honestly feel a contempt for the Common Man; it is also quite certain that I myself feel a contempt for those who feel this contempt."

"To put it briefly," continues Mr. Chesterton, "it is now the custom to say that most modern blunders have been due to the Common Man. But I should like to point out what appalling blunders have in fact been due to the Uncommon Man. It is easy enough to agree that the mob makes mistakes. It is easy to weary of Democracy and to cry out for an intellectual aristocracy. But the trouble is that every intellectual aristocracy seems to have every utterly intellectual. Anyone might guess beforehand that there would be blunders of the ignorant. What nobody could have guessed, what nobody could have dreamed of in a nightmare, what no morbid mortal imagination could ever have dared to imagine, was the mistakes of the well-informed. It is true, in a sense, to say that the mob has always been led by more educated men. It is much more true, in every sense, to say that it has always been misled by educated men."

There's a thought. J. E. M.

Current Comment

"STATISTIC GOSSIPS"

Statistic gossips took another one on the tin last week. Some time ago the American Neurological Association appointed a committee to make a scientific study of degeneration and its social effects with particular reference to mental defects and feeble-mindedness. A grant was made by the Carnegie Foundation to finance the study.

The "statistic gossips" would have us believe that the "feeble-minded" are so rampant in the country that the immense increase in so-called mental defectives is rapidly bringing about a picture of degeneration as the birth controllers do of over-population. Leading its guns, the committee sent a broadside through the glibly sterilization statistics.

It reported that that statistic gossips had exaggerated fear and emotion for science and reason. Commenting upon the report, the New York Times said "statistical gossips have taken the place of sound judgment." "Properly interpreted, statistics do not show that social and mental defectives are exempting the country. The huge families of the feeble-minded are purely mythical. So-called psychotic individuals are not as fertile as the general population. The feeble-minded do not breed more rapidly than the lower animal classes, and the death rate in all forms of mental disease is definitely higher than the average."

Speaking about taking it on the chin last week, so the birth controllers, Mahatma Gandhi's fellow countrymen gave Mrs. Massey a secret warning a few warm rounds. Mrs. Massey, under the guise of the intelligence of the Asiatic Indian, they picked her up and threw her into the ring, forcing an admission of her own bias. It was not a fight of words, but a fight of facts. The same can be said of birth control.

Another healthy development of apostolic zeal in Rochester is the St. Peter's Choir Society which brings negroes and white people together in a study of religious music and work of social problems. The membership is not restricted to Catholics. If you are interested, communicate with the Rev. George Weismann, Church of the Annunciation, Norton St.

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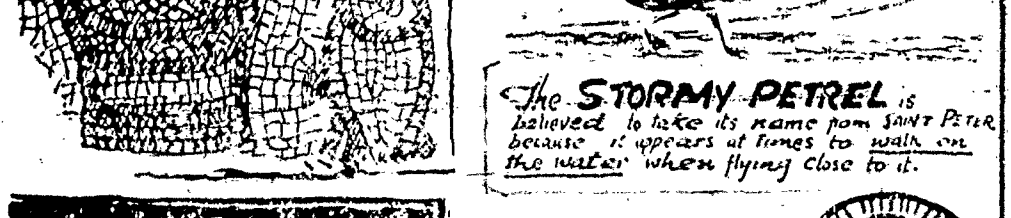
STRANGE BUT TRUE

Catholic Facts But Little Known

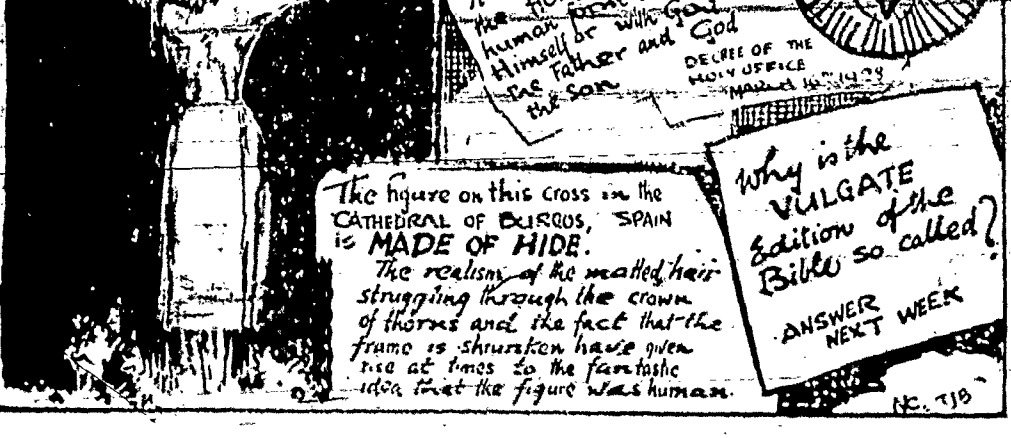
By M. J. MURRAY



The STORMY-PETREL is believed to take its name from SAINT PETER because it appears at times to walk on the water when flying close to it.



The figure on this cross in the CATHEDRAL OF BURGOS, SPAIN is MADE OF HIDE. The reality of the matted hair, struggling through the crown of thorns and the fact that the frame is shrouded have given rise at times to the fantastic idea that the figure was human.



AN HE SAW IT. One of the most interesting facts in Catholic history is that there has been one who has seen the Virgin Mary in a vision. This is the story of the 'Our Lady of the Sign' which is the subject of the new book 'The Sign' by Rev. George Weismann, Church of the Annunciation, Norton St.

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Diocesan Recordings

A Catholic press youth movement will be launched in the Diocese of Rochester next week. A group of the Catholic Courier staff, the Diocese has given a grant to the youth movement.

The editorial staff of the CATHOLIC COURIER keeps in touch as much as possible with all movements in the Diocese. Office of the Diocesan Office for Social Action, 100 State Street, Rochester, N. Y.

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