

## Catholic Courier 1939

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## They Want No War

ALONG THE WAY

By Rev. Daniel A. Lord, S.J.

I confess that my observations

lack the thoroughness of a Gallup

poll. But just the same, I've been

talking to a variety of people

lately in various parts of the

East and Middle West, and thus

far I have not discovered a single

person who wants our country

involved in any war across

the water. I find a growing and

very vocal sentiment of any at-

tempt to link us with any side in

European conflict. Brown write-

rings in his editorial as the Presi-

dent makes some speech that

seems to push us closer to mili-

tary alliance. When any politi-

cal figure starts talking about

"our duty to the world," I find a

singular lack of sympathy on

the part of those who listen

or read.

The plain fact seems to be that

the American people know their

country is not involved in any-

thing. The country called England

may be democratic in its home

institutions, but we Americans

are smart enough to realize that

the British Empire is anything in

the world but a democratic insti-

tution. As for France, it is ad-

mittedly a military dictatorship,

and nothing could be sadder than

to see the United States in the

same category as the D. R. A.

If the European nations must

have their daylight, if they just

can't get along in peace, but must

cut each other's throats, that is

their personal business. Said a

naval authority to me: "In the

quite distant future there may be

planes that can bomb America;

right now there are none, and it's

wilder to say 'if there were' than

to say 'And if the European

nations go to war, there won't be

money or men enough to make

or man those planes when they

come. It's a long time from now."

I find a universal and useful

reminiscence of the fact that we

financed the last war and the

race for armament that followed

that we and that we are now

being invited to finance the next

one too. Which strikes John Q.

Average American as pretty silly

business. We were invited to the

party once, paid for the party

and now we're being asked to

pay home this time and play in

our own back yard.

Among Catholics I find an

amusement that we are so dis-

turbed about European dicta-

torship and not in the least dis-

turbed about the crushing dicta-

torship in Mexico, our nearest

neighbor. We talk of sending

money to the democratic nations,

and being "good neighbors" at

home; and while Chile lies in

ruins from its horrible earth-

quake, our politicians never men-

tion how easy it would be to

send them "good neighbors" at

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## Community Aid Urged

In Drive

(Editorial in Rochester's daily

newspaper, this week, urges

operation of all people in the

"Bishop's Campaign Against In-

decent Literature." Following are

the editorials reproduced from

the secular papers.)

From Rochester Evening News

(April 22, 1939)

Cheap erotic literature and pic-

tures have been in circulation al-

most since the invention of the

printing press. Every language

and every country has its share

of the literature. It is the

desire to find a shabby

thrill from the pages of indecent

reading material has its roots in

the nature of mankind as deeply

as its appetite for drink or

sexual excitement. It is a

drunkard and thrill-hounds

have a low place in any neigh-

borhood. So does the man who

refuses to clean the garbage out

of his back yard in the interests

of sanitation. Most of all is the

man a misfit who refuses to

clean the mental garbage out of

his neighborhood—the man who

refuses to admit the filthy and

poisonous mental factor in the

breed in pornographic magazines

and pamphlets.

From some twisted streak of

humor, men like to chuck in fur-

tive groups and chuckle sheep-

ishly at some low bit of paper

presumably having learned to

balance their emotions and de-

rive rightful values.

Campaigns such as this one

now being waged by the Roch-

ester Catholics against such

reading-matter are not di-

rected at adults, but only grown

people can wage them.

For the sake of children and

adolescents, these magazines and

pamphlets which excite spurious

emotions should be cleaned out

of Rochester.

How is a young boy, just turn-

ing into the best years of his life,

going to stabilize his emotions

and find a sort of true values,

when headlines on lurid sheets

and bright-colored magazines

scream at him from every news-

stand.

An example of such objection-

able stuff is the recent Rochester

Times which made its appear-

ance on local newsstands. The

credit goes to District Attorney

Daniel J. O'Mara for wiping out

the filthy sheet, so that its ap-

pearance is scarcely noticed by

Rochesterians.

Other examples are too numer-

ous to mention. Postal cards,

magazines, pamphlets, they all

are written and printed by men

to reach an audience of school-

age boys and girls. Traffic in

pornography should come under

the head of other banned trade

such as opium, marijuana, dope

and so forth. It is a disgrace

and a disgraceful thing to be

as a harmful, and should be as

vigorously stamped out.

From Democrat &amp; Chronicle

(April 25, 1939)

## Readers' Choice

'LIBRARY SIGNPOST'

A hundred years ago over in

England there was a "Protestant

gentleman named William Cob-

bett who felt and spoke and

wrote very strongly against the

social injustice of the new indus-

trial revolution. He travelled

much and down the roads of

England, always with open eyes

to see things as they were. And

as he saw them, they were very

unpleasant.

John Ruskin, also, was angry

with the defilements of the new

machine age, but, rather

more emphasis upon the despoil-

ing of the beauty of the English

countryside by smoke and slag

and ugly buildings, William Co-

bett, on the other hand, written

at the spoiling of human lives

by this inhuman slavery. His

rides over the English roads

brought him into contact with

thousands of the destitute and

dispossessed; and because this

bondage was a new thing on the

face of England, there was no in-

crease of despair or cynicism in

his protest against it. It was

not yet that complication of fac-

tors in economic life which to-

day gives a headache to social re-

formers. There were no holding

company, no stock markets, no

monopolies, to befuddle the

issue. There was the simple fact

standing out clearly that machines

were displacing men, and reduc-

ing to beggary the poor prod-

ucts which they were multiply-

ing.

It must have been an appalling

picture which Cobbett saw, with

none of the mitigation of its

harsh features by social legis-

lation later introduced with

great difficulty by an aroused

public conscience. This surely

was not Morris England. If there

ever was a Morris England, what

awful calamity brought this

shameful change?

To answer this question, Wil-

liam Cobbett studied the hidden

history of a forgotten England

class, an England of the poor

holders and tradesmen, an Eng-

land of wider justice and char-

ity, the England of the Middle

Ages. He found the breach which

split this social union and let in

the forces of greed and conflict.

It was the Protestant Reforma-