

Waves of the Spirit

By Rev. James M. GURA, C.S.P.

Years ago a professor at Columbia University in the City of New York used to exploit the thesis that Americans are characteristically emotional, hysterical victims of their own quickly varying moods—a view unstable. The English people, he said, are by contrast well-balanced. In consequence when a crisis comes and we Americans are in danger of "flying off the handle" we have to call upon the English to steady us. It sounds insulting, whether or not the professor intended it to be so. We prefer to think ourselves moderately and reasonably excitable as all alert people must be. We think the British relatively slow, heavy, stodgy, phlegmatic.

So it goes—one people sizing up the other and each reaching the judgment that its own type of character is best.

Amongst ourselves we can discuss our own national temperament and admit our own shortcomings, but being human, we dislike to have outsiders tell us what they think our faults to be. Even more, we dislike to have an Anglophile pedagogue making invidious comparisons to our detriment.

This little Anglo-American controversy (if you care to dignify so small a matter with so big a name) came to my mind once again in the past few days because the newspapers are discussing the ups and downs of the national spirit, the rise and fall in our emotional thermometer, the ebb and flow of optimism and pessimism in regard to the war.

The President, you may remember, gave us a warning not to be too sanguine about our chances of victory, or too hopeful that the war would be short rather than long. Immediately the daily papers took up the theme, remonstrating politely with Mr. Roosevelt and insisting that if we had for a moment cherished unduly optimistic expectations and then went down in the dumps, we did so because of official statements emanating from his own Administration.

The New York Times on May 24 said: "We have been hungry for good news, and it has to be said that our Government has ministered to that hunger, both by overplaying good news and by dressing up or withholding bad news. . . . A review of the official communiques since Pearl Harbor suggests that Washington has on occasion held back news for other than military reasons, feeding us bad news when it was thought we could stand it and good news when it was thought we needed it."

In the same paper on the previous day Anne O'Hare McCormick had written in her invariably excellent column on the editorial page: "Mr. Roosevelt attributed the sharp ups and downs of public sentiment to the American tendency to exaggeration. 'Overstatement,' he called it. But the fluctuations of mood are certainly more noticeable in Washington than anywhere else in the country, and it is from that fountainhead of all war information that the alternating currents of good news and bad are turned on, sometimes as if the design were to spare it out or balance reverses with successes. The government controls the flow, at any rate, and if the country veers from overoptimism to overpessimism, it is on the basis of the news and statements released by official sources."

On the 25th of May, the New York Herald Tribune also took occasion to place responsibility for our emotional fluctuations where they thought it belonged on some Washington door-step. The Editor wrote: "A week or so ago something like a wave of optimism appeared to be abroad in the land, compounded out of overofficial statements, too much reticence about bad news. . . . The President, who had given out the sort of complimentary statement on the shipyard's work. . . . had been obliged to counteract this with the explanation that there was a long war ahead and that this was no time for overoptimism. On Thursday an unnamed high official voiced his fears that too much playing up of minor successes would 'create a spirit which will not stand the inevitable disappointments.' Senator George thought overoptimism would bring a 'psychological letdown.'"

As I read these editorial statements, my memory flashed back to the Columbia professor's invidious thesis of years ago. Could he have been right? Are we a mercurial people? Do we run a fever and then suffer a chill upon the least provocation? My own answer would be that of the Herald-Tribune:

"This newspaper does not believe that the spirit of the American people is so fragile that it can be crushed by bad publicity, that if it gets too much cheer one week it can only be saved from a psychological letdown by pumping it full of gloom in the week following. . . . If this people is not adult enough to analyze the war situation from week to week for itself, without having its hand held and its temperance anxiously taken by publicity experts and morale artists, it is not adult enough to fight and win."

To put the matter even more plainly: some of our doctors have erred in their diagnosis. We don't really suffer as much as they think. Our cheeks do not flush one moment and our hearts freeze the next moment. We don't feel like leaping over the moon when the papers give us an optimistic Washington hand-out, and go around looking for a hole to crawl into when the afternoon papers inform us that the earlier news was not so good after all. Perhaps the

FIVE and TEN Years Ago

—in the files of the CATHOLIC COURIER

From June 10, 1937, Edition
His Excellency, Bishop O'Hern officiated at the laying of the cornerstone for the new St. Patrick's Church in Corning of which the Rev. E. A. Flawlinson is pastor, and dedicated a monument in honor of the late Rt. Rev. Magr. Arthur A. Hughes in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Rochester, during the week.

From June 10, 1937
Two Archbishops, the Most Rev. Edward Mooney and the Most Rev. Thomas F. Hickey and about 30 fellow priests attended the Silver Sacrosotal Jubilee Mass of the Rt. Rev. Magr. Charles F. Shay, pastor at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The Silver Jubilee edition of "Lantern," Nazareth Academy Senior Year Book was dedicated to Sister M. Teresina, a member of the faculty.

The Pastoral Care

By Rev. Benedict Elmson

(The June selection of the Catholic Book Club is **FAITH THE ROOT**, a novel by Barbara Frances Henry, published by Dutton. Mary Agnes Dougherty, of the Rochester Catholic Worker group, reviews it for the Catholic Evidence Library this week. A copy will be on hand there for anyone interested.)

In popularly accepted terms, this is not a sensational book. But then people such as Father Germaine are generally not sensational in our present dissociated world. However, in Algoma, a Michigan waterfront parish, people were simple and wise and they knew that the serene, goodly and truly lovable Father "Jerry" was a sensation because he was the heart of their being; he was all things to all men: the butcher, the newspaper editor, Protestant and Catholic alike.

The characters take form naturally and leisurely, with clarity and sympathy. Emma definitely knows her place in this household of Father Jerry and Ted, his devoted dog. On the surface she manages rather successfully at being the stereotyped, unobtrusive housekeeper but is actually so devoted and industrious that when her "career" is threatened with a sudden ending, the real Emma is unmasked. Father Germaine moves among his people always mindful of "first things." There is no condescension in his acquaintanceship with the Rev. Mr. Schultz, the Lutheran minister. He understands the twists of mind in young love and brings to a happy climax the romance between Rose, Bastien and Jack, the son of the minister. His heart is made and but never despairing of the errant Bastien, the once favorite altar boy. Gradually, however, he feels with old age coming upon him, heaviness of spirit, inability to adequately cope with the problems of his office, and most of all an irresistible longing to return to his homeland "La Belle France." He makes careful preparations for his departure but in his own way, God sees fit to fulfill the desire of this man with

"Faith the root whence only can arise
The grace of life that wins the skies."
Father Germaine was a man who did the ordinary things of life extraordinarily well and is real in his heart when caught at odd moments of his daily routine. It may well be said of him: "Blessed are the meek for they shall possess the land." —M. A. D.

The following books have recently been added to the Catholic Evidence Library:

- The Emancipation of a Slaveholder, by Herbert Ellsworth Cory.
- Catholic Literary Progress, by Sister Jerome Keeler, O.S.B.
- The Origin of the Jesuits, by James Brodrick, S.J.
- Heaven and Earth: Sacred Sermons on the Eucharist by Magr. Ronald Knox.
- Progress in Divine Union, Raoul Plus, S.J.
- Good Cardinal Richard, Archbishop of Paris, 1888-1900, by Yvonne de la Vergne.
- Just by the Head, by John Moody.
- Reminiscences of a Convert, A. G. K. Chelerton Omaha.
- ... containing The Nation of Notting Hill, The Flying Inn, The Man Who Was Thursday, A Declaration of Dependence, by Magr. Fulton J. Sheen.
- Christ's Comet, by Christopher Hassard.
- ... a play about the coming of the Magi.
- Feeder of Dreams, by Sister Mary Angeline, S.N.D.
- ... a book of simple lyrics.
- The Heroes of the Alamos, by R. Timmermans.
- The Jesuits in Modern Times, by John LaFarge, S.J.
- The Ancestral Journey, by Anna McClure Sholl.
- ... a beautiful record of conversion to the Faith.
- Westward the Course, by Paul McGuire.
- ... vivid log of a voyage through Oceania.
- The Song of Bernadette, by Franz Werfel (Scourer).
- ... a sublime novel about the miracle of Lourdes.
- Gold and Honey, by Edward Doherty.
- ... memoirs of an ace reporter.
- All the Day Long, by Daniel Sargent.
- ... a life of Bishop James A. Walsh, who founded Maryknoll.
- Herman Cortes, Conqueror of Mexico, by Salvador de Madariaga.
- The Vatican, by M. Therese Bonney.
- ... a description, beautifully illustrated.
- Dark Symphony, by Elizabeth Laura Adams.
- ... the difficult way of a Negro girl into the Faith.
- Admiral of the Ocean Sea, by Samuel Elliot Morison.
- ... a life of Christopher Columbus, engagingly written.
- Places, by Hilaire Belloc.
- ... typical Bellocian essays on such places as Danzig, Warsaw, Moscow, Luxembourg, Prague, Lisbon, Damascus, Nazareth, Capharnaum, and a dozen others.
- Catherine of Aragon, by Garrett Mattingly.
- ... a glowing portrait and fair appraisal of the first wife of Henry VIII.
- Flight to Arras, by Antoine de Saint-Exupery.
- ... an aviator's reflections in the hell of the Blitzkrieg.
- Paddy the Cope, by Patrick Gallagher.
- ... autobiographical novel of cooperatives in Ireland.
- New Hope, by Ruth Suckow.
- ... a novel of simple folks in Iowa.
- Young John Takes Over, by Elizabeth Jordan.
- ... a contemporary light novel by a veteran.
- The Timeless Land, by Eleanore Dail.
- ... historical novel of pioneering in Australia.

officials in the Capital City have been listening to the radio commentators, some of whom try to whip us up with a simulated enthusiasm and others to bring us down with an equally unnatural and unwarranted tone of depression.

Let us assure the President and Mr. Hull and the various unnamed "official spokesmen" that they needn't worry over our alternations of mood. We are not really so excitable. We have more poise than some people give us credit for. After all, that professor at Columbia was mistaken. We may not be so stodgy as the English, but in the long run we shall be found to have just as much self-control as those British paragons.

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EDITORIALS

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FOUR JUBILIANS

Many things can happen in twenty-five years. Two World Wars fit into the period: one still raging in 1917, one just well started in 1942. Both are wars against the invasion of human rights, both are fought to restore that tranquility that will assure men the power to live in the peaceful enjoyment of their God-given rights. The best history of the twenty-five years from 1917 to 1942 concerns not the waging of war, but the living of a normal useful life by the people.

Religion must form part of a normal life. Religious faith and religious practice are essential to the individual and the community. Order in the citizen's life and order in the social groups can not be had without the solid influence of faith in God and the moral implications of that faith. God gives to the world chosen men in charge of the cause of the Church, to labor for souls, to secure for the world the blessings of that peace that can come only from the love of God and the love of our neighbor.

Four such men are celebrating today the Silver Jubilee of their Priesthood. All four have given distinguished service during a quarter of a century to the cause of Jesus Christ and His Church. Their fields of service have been varied. Two have spent all their years in parish work, two have had as a prelude to their parish experience a long period as chaplains at the Academy of the Sacred Heart and also as teachers and officials of the preparatory seminary. Father Kaly and Father Dorschner minister today in parishes outside the episcopal city: Father Luddy and Monsignor Bergan labor in city parishes. All have given a fine account of themselves. The lives of thousands have been guided toward God by their zeal and knowledge. Souls have been sanctified by their preaching of God's word, by their administration of His Sacraments. Little children have looked up to them and called them "Father." Mature groups have found in them spiritual mentors. The aged have found these capable advisers of their closing years, showing a spiritual maturity based on the grace of their ordination. The people of Webster rejoice with Father Kaly on the completion of his 25th year of Priesthood. St. Mary's Parish of Geneseo shares with Father Dorschner the glory of this significant Jubilee Year. Father Luddy receives the felicitations of his parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes, and the congratulations of the hundreds of young priests whose vocations were fostered by him as teacher and as President of St. Andrew's Seminary.

Monsignor Bergan added to his experience as a teacher a career as Chaplain of Auburn Prison, and the assignment in which he is still active as Chancellor of the Diocese. Bishop Kearney has had a special word to say of him because of his work of caring for the business of the Diocese in the Chancery Office. (See Page 10).

A priestly devotion to duty, an unwavering determination to seek always what is best for the Church and her program, an energetic approach to the solution of the diocesan problems that are laid daily on his desk, are part of the equipment that enables Monsignor Bergan to perform so well the duties of his office as Chancellor. A heartfelt interest in the spiritual welfare of his parishioners, a real affection for the children of the school, a touch of Christ-like sympathy for all in need that even the apparent outward sternness of the Monsignor cannot hide, together with an efficient handling of the temporalities of his parish, form a portion of his equivalent as Pastor. St. Monica's people join with the priests and people of the diocese in celebrating the Silver Jubilee of Monsignor Bergan.

May it be the privilege of one who has been close to all four of these worthy priests over thirty-five years of their lives as students and as clerics, to felicitate them on their Silver Jubilee! Much of the preparation for a priest's life comes from seminary discipline, seminary training; with many another the present writer would acknowledge the part in his training that has come from the appreciated association with these four men of God, their pleasing personality, their dedicated lives, their constant good example, their helpful companionship. God's blessing be on them in this, their Year of Jubilee, and for many years of further service as priests of God!

BISHOP CORRIGAN

Most to the Church in America has come deep sorrow in the death of Most Rev. Joseph M. Corrigan, Rector of the Catholic University. He was the sixth Rector of the University since its founding in 1863. His work over his first five-year term had been so fruitful in results that he was chosen in 1941 by the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and University Studies at Rome for a second term. He will be remembered in Rochester for his visit in connection with the Catholic University Campaign, just before his consecration as Bishop.

The work of Christ is carried on through his priests and bishops, and through His devoted children of the laity. Bishop Corrigan is but another example of a life lived for Christ and His cause. Into every diocese of America have gone those whose training in Christian Culture, in the learning for which the Church over twenty centuries the Church has been the recognized Teacher, has been imparted under the direction of this self-sacrificing Man of God. May his soul rest in peace!

THIS MAN RECEIVETH SINNERS

Criticism of the Church of Christ is not to be wondered at. Christ Himself was criticized, and criticized just for His acts of mercy. The Pharisees and Scribes murmured when they saw the Publican and the sinners coming to Christ and being received by Him. There are those today who find fault with the Church because She receives sinners, deals with them, strives to secure their return to greater holiness, their whole-heartedness when they show true signs of sorrow.

Christ turned on His critics with unanswerable logic. He pointed out to them how they would quickly leave the ninety-nine sheep of their flock to seek the one that was lost; how the woman who lost one of her ten greaves searched diligently through the house till she found the great she had lost; how they would be filled with the joy at the recovery of their thing they had recovered. Christ contrasted the pain of the soul for whom He was seeking. We should rejoice in the mercy of Christ, so necessary for each one of us so vigorously effected in the real and conversion of those who have been steeped in sin. Pharisees and Scribes are expected to find fault with God's mercy shown to others; loyal Christians are expected to praise God for such acts of mercy.