

Adds 4,198 Volumes

Quebec—The library of Laval University has been enriched during the past year by the addition

of 4,198 volumes, of which one collection of works on art and history was contributed by St. Mary's Magr. Adjutor Pancher.

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On Guard!

(Continued from Page 1)

Forever in peace may you wait.  
There are some of us who don't know Bachmann's Plane Concerto No. 2 in F from the Irish Washer Woman, but strike up John Philip Sousa's stirring march, "Bears and Stripes Forever," and the blood of Americans everywhere tingles with love of this our native land.

Most Americans find very irritating the recent fracas concerning the salute to the flag stirred up by that strange and grotesque religious sect known as Jehovah's Witnesses. On Flag Day (June 14th) this year the Supreme Court upheld the right of Children of Jehovah's Witnesses to refuse to salute the American flag in public schools as an act contrary to the sect's beliefs. By this liberal decision in favor of the Witnesses, the Supreme Court specifically reversed its own previous three-year-old decision in which it endorsed a Pennsylvania school board's expulsion of two youthful Witnesses for refusing to salute the flag.

Authorities, generally, hail the Supreme Court's reversal opinion as a commendable gesture of political tolerance. Many feel that the Supreme Court "has added new glory to Old Glory," especially since the flag now is not only a symbol of liberty to the saluters but also to the non-saluting Witnesses. Prudence is the better part of valor and no doubt wiser heads have prevailed in this touchy salute the flag case involving the Witnesses and their religious scruples.

Apart from equity and legality, however, there is an ironic fact in the whole argument that no one has mentioned. The Jehovah's Witnesses with their pamphlet and phonograph apostleship are a strong Scripture quoting people. The Witnesses teach that saluting the flag is sinful and idolatrous damage and they base their doctrine on their own private and false interpretation of the Bible.

In refusing to salute the flag on Scriptural grounds, the Witnesses are doing nothing more than logically reducing to absurdity the principle of private interpretation initiated by Martin Luther and established as a prime tenet of Protestantism. Those who defend private interpretation of the Bible when it is a question of the Divinity of Christ, the Real Presence, or the Virgin Birth, will certainly find it a bit hard to swallow when the Bible, privately interpreted by the Witnesses, prohibits a salute to Old Glory.

From Martin Luther to Judge Rutherford, late leader of the Witnesses, the theory of private interpretation of the Bible has been a history of sorry blunders. When Luther enlisted his false theory of private interpretation against the Faith few could foresee that Rutherford would enlist the same technique—and with just as much logic—against the flag. It was, however, a logical denouement.

Hate off!  
Along the street there comes  
A band of bugles, a ruffle of drums,  
A flash of color beneath the sky:  
Hate off!  
The flag is passing by!

Many of us learned this rousing song together with our prayers back in our school days. If you see a man with his hat on the next time the flag comes down the street don't call the F.B.I. or club the poor fellow. He may be only a Jehovah Witness exercising private interpretation of the Bible and his newly won constitutional liberty.

Pastor Collects Picture Cards of Catholic Churches

DUBUQUE, Ia.—The Rev. William Holub, pastor at Placid, Ia., is making a collection of picture postcards of Catholic churches throughout this country and Canada, which he says is an interesting and educational hobby. Father Holub has calculated that there are about 10,000 church pictures to accumulate. Father Holub has asked friends from every part of the country to help him in his collection, and already has received postcards from Massachusetts, California, Florida and Canada.

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