

As We See It

By DAN PATRICK

Within the next few weeks you will read and hear and talk about San Francisco.

It is quite true that more spectacular news may come from the battlefields. It is conceivable that the intricacies of diplomacy may rob San Francisco of the dash and color that make headlines.

But despite all this San Francisco holds the hopes and fears of generations to come. The fate of this present generation was not decided on the battlefields of France. It was furnished away in the halls of Versailles.

By the same token, the fate of tomorrow's generation will not be settled on Europe's eastern and western fronts nor in the waters of the Pacific or Japan. It will be decided, to a large measure, in San Francisco and at other San Franciscos to come.

History will judge the great nations of the world not so much by what they do on the fields of battle but what they do in the halls of diplomacy to foretell battles of the future.

The conference at San Francisco is less than three weeks away but there are clouds over the horizon. Russia is the biggest.

The Red demand that Poland's Lublin regime be given a seat at San Francisco was quite contrary to the decisions at Yalta where it was agreed, reasonably at least that the Big Three would eventually accord recognition to a duly chosen government to represent the various conflicting elements.

Another negative factor as far as Russia is concerned is her representation. Instead of Molotov to match Eden and Stettinius, Stalin has picked the Rumanian ambassador to the United States, hardly a top-drawer selection.

As pointed out on the opposite page, Russia's steady nibbling at various elements in this country—including the Catholic Press—is hardly conducive to that cohesion of thought and spirit so necessary for any success at San Francisco.

Perhaps the most disquieting factor of all has been the 6-3-3 voting proposal in the General Assembly of the Security Council to be set up along the Dumbarton Oaks outline.

Great Britain was to get six votes (United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, India, New Zealand, Scotland) while Russia would get three for the Ukraine, White Russia and the rest of the country while the United States reserved the right to ask for three votes.

This multiple voting strength of the "Big Three" is certainly foreign to the general conception of equality with other (i. e. smaller nations). In other words it gives the major powers sufficient voting strength to run the show and series to stifle any initiative which the smaller powers may wish to show.

It is heartening to learn that President Roosevelt has decided that the United States will not exercise its option on the three votes but be content with one. Moscow, Stalin and Churchill please copy.

Despite those clouds in tomorrow's skies, there is no reason to despair the outcome of the San Francisco meeting.

The very fact that forty "peace loving" nations have gone so far as to send representatives to a conference with the avowed purpose of securing the future peace is a milestone in these days of mutual suspicion.

The earnest people want a secure and lasting peace. Their sons are dying on battlefields the world over as proof of the sincerity of that desire. Whatever may be our personal opinions about the results of San Francisco, it should be the ardent prayer of everyone that some success be achieved.

Surely there must be enough men of good will in the world today to make that possible.

"WE SHOULD seek if there is to be a genuine and lasting world peace, the international organization should demand as a condition of membership that every nation promises to law and respect in law the freedom of man, freedom and autonomy of their civil and religious life." — Press statement of Dr. St. John's on International Order.

No love reduces the beauty of silence, the ineffable loveliness of the profession of quiet, the sense of distance, from the first and purest of things of the nearness of the divine kingdom on earth.

And when you are not bound to the right and wrong of the world, you are free to live and let others live, to let them handle and bear the burden of their own lives.

There may be no time like this, but there will never be another like it again or never again in the present century. — Cardinal John Henry Newman.

With your permission, we will now proceed to the second section of our column.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Little-Known Facts for Catholics

M. J. MURRAY



The Literary Cavalcade

Invasion From the East

By John O'Conor

Each Low Sunday we are reminded of one of the great missions of the Church. It is that of the conversion of the Orient—the imperial and "mystical" Orient. India presents the greater problem, for the more down-to-earth philosophy of the Chinese is apparently easier to direct into Christian channels than are the severely formal doctrines and practices of India.

Curiously enough, it was Thomas who believed in shocking reports by the testimony of the five senses—who ended his spiritual career a martyr in India. The people he worked among in both thought and deed, had little in common with the thorough-going realism of the Apostle of the East. Yet converts that have been won in Eastern lands have been won by highly practical men like Francis Xavier, whose deeds have revealed the supernatural grace of their mission.

The East has never had an Aristotle, not to mention an Aquinas; it has been characterized either by a confused paganism or by a false and misleading mysticism. And we know from the Eastern influence in English literature—for example, in the Babylonia of Omar Khayyam or the Brahmas of Emerson—it is a mysticism that does away with the personality, with discrimination and definition, and which presents as the ultimate objective of life, Nirvana, a state in which the individual consciousness is lost, responsibility vanishes, and the individual becomes, in the words of an old Jesuit professor of ours, "a wretched as the crew of the Abattoir." Actually, the material working out of such doctrine in the western world can be found in communism or the Nazi or Fascist supervisory forms of government.

H. G. Kipling is responsible for the somewhat stupid statement about the East being the East and the West being the West and the two not meeting. The fact is that for the last two thousand years East and West have been colliding. They neither—and never will—have lost the way in which they have been colliding. In the last two centuries presents a rather disturbing contrast to our history and a direct challenge to Catholic and Christian writers.

The change today is that Western Civilization may well be succeeded by Eastern Imperialism.

Editor: Bishop Benedict Eustace

THE APRIL CALENDAR

There are only two saints in the April calendar about whom there is any available literature, save that of the Father Louis of the Palms. They are St. Vincent Ferrer (April 5), and St. Catherine of Siena (April 29).

Honoré de Balzac, in his very popular style and manner, gives us the only book we have on St. Vincent Ferrer, that very odd and eccentric Dominican of the 13th century who fired Europe with a flame of contrition and penance for the Passion of Christ. About St. Catherine of Siena, who was also a Dominican and saint of the 13th

century, there are more books, the most thorough by Mother Ursula, the most intuitive are perhaps by Johannes Jerguson, the simplest by Ignatius Kats (called *The Flame*).

Many readers of this column will appreciate being introduced to the work of the Pio Decimo Press in St. Louis, Missouri. Named after Pope Pius X, this little private printing enterprise has worked along humbly and lovingly to promote a deeper and finer Christian living through the apostolate of the press. Its guiding spirit is Miss Mignon McNamee, a lady singularly blessed with the seven gifts of the Holy Ghost. The *Pio Decimo Press* issues four sets with Christmas and Easter cards, the kind that are modeled on the Church's own impressive symbols for the great feasts, while at the same time avoiding the erratic, bizarre effects of certain coterminous in the field of contemporary Christian art. From these first steps, it has moved forward to the point where, recently, it made a position to publish its first book—a small one, to be sure, but with all the more point and impact because of its brevity. This book is *The Sacrament of the Mass*, and was written by Monsignor Martin Hollriegel. It is a gem in content and format, and should prove most helpful to the Catholic who thinks (rightly so) that he is never satisfied with his study of the Mass. (\$1.00 a copy).

The way for this book was prepared by publication of a smaller book, not bound in boards, called *Our Children's Year of Grace*, by Mrs. Therese Mueller. It presents a series of valuable suggestions for home-makers on how to create a proper and graceful religious atmosphere in the home for the benefit of the children. The book starts on the principle that the parents are the primary religious educators of their children, and that they cannot fulfill that duty by a casual hearing of the catechism answers; and then it proceeds to show how simply and effectively the child can be formed in the truths of God by the carrying out of little domestic exercises and customs which draw their inspiration from the dramatic liturgy of the Church. (50 cents a copy).

The *Pio Decimo Press* also publishes a small quarterly magazine, called *The Living Parish*, with simple and inspiring articles on all phases of the parish—ecclesiastical life and action. It is consistently marked with the *Paraclete* touch. (50 cents a year).

Besides Christmas and Easter cards, the *Pio Decimo Press* has extended its repertoire to include Mass cards, cards for the sick, memorial cards, baptismal announcements, baptismal and confirmation certificates, the blessing of a mother, the *panaché* blessing card, and a little leaflet of prayers for the dead (called *Pax Aeterna*).

The Blessing of a Mother contains the translation of the Church's Ritual Prayers for what is called the *Churching of a Mother after Childbirth*. The card is most attractively gotten up. An envelope comes with it so that it may be sent by relatives and friends as a congratulation to the happy mother. (25 for \$2.)

The *Panaché* blessing card (at 15 cents) contains translations of the Church's blessing for the Easter lamb, for Easter eggs, and for bread. These prayers make a good prelude to the Easter dinner, especially if the mother has made a special Easter lamb for the meal, in honor of the Paschal Lamb who was slain for the sins of the world. The children will like the blessing for the Easter eggs.

The *Pax Aeterna* leaflet (at 10 cents for single copies, or five cents each for ten up to a hundred) is suitable for group giving at the time of a "visit." Drawing its prayers from the Office of the Dead, it will be used to recall the deceased with the strong prayers and novenas of the Church, and will focus the wife and family's greater attention to their intercession for the deceased. The front cover of *Our Father* and *Hail Mary* looks to heaven rather on such occasions.

The address of The *Pio Decimo Press* is Box 34, Union Station, St. Louis 15, Mo.

Book Review Panel

The two largest sections of the present year will be devoted to the study of the *Book Review Panel* and the *Book Review Column*. They will be discussed in detail.

Our next topic:

Then the editor speaks in a short note on the new *Book Review Panel*.

Our third topic is that Western Civilization may well be succeeded by Eastern Imperialism.

Our fourth topic is that the *Book Review Panel* and the *Book Review Column* will be discussed in detail.

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