

ARCHBISHOP RYAN

On the Superiority of Christian Civilization

AND THE PERILS THAT THREATEN IT.

A Masterly Survey of the Church's Benefits

TO THE HUMAN RACE.

(From the Philadelphia Catholic Standard, March 23, 1889.)

Not since the days of the Very Rev. Dr. Marcellus O. S. A., and Very Rev. Father...

Before the time came for the Most Reverend lecturer to make his appearance, invited guests...

ARCHBISHOP RYAN'S LECTURE.

The Archbishop had been announced to deliver a lecture on "Christian Civilization and the Perils that Now Threaten it."

I propose to speak to you this evening, Irish and gentilemen, on the perils that now threaten Christian civilization.

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Principles of Cohesion Necessary to Society. The spirit of self-sacrifice is essential to the continued existence of civilized society.

Paganism Christianity and Civilization. To do this intelligently and effectively, we have to fully appreciate the connection between Christianity and the civilization to which it has given name.

Historical Importance of Christianity. Christianity is a fact in the history of the human race, the most mysterious in its nature, the most stupendous and universal in its effects.

The Church Legislating against Child Murder. Sublime dignity of these little ones! God's angels are their angels also, appointed to shield them, and only wait the Divine permission to strike down the scandalizers and persecutors of their charge.

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and the creature, such a one can never adequately understand the philosophy of human history. Christianity refashioned the whole being of man, politically and socially, as well as religiously.

Relative Condition of Woman under Paganism and Christianity. From the consideration of childhood under pagan and Christian civilization we come naturally to consider the condition of woman under their influences.

The Mother of Christ the Model of Womanhood. Woman was exalted in the person of the Mother of Christ. Therefore it was, as it were, the triumphant "Magnificent" canticle of liberated womanhood.

By Christ's Coming Infancy was Sanctified. Behold, then, the appalling spectacle! Helpless infancy exposed, killed, cast to dogs. See the yellow Tiber, as it sweeps by the marble palaces, by the temples and luxuriant baths of ancient Rome, bearing upon its water the floating bodies of pure, innocent, holy childhood.

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withering glances of our Common Parent is upon her. Nervously she draws from beneath her shawl the concealed offspring of her sin.

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when Judas betrayed and Peter denied, and even John followed but at a distance, she ever remained the same devoted, penitential lover.

How Cruelly Prisoners were Treated of Old. Passing to another class of the unfortunate sufferers of our race, let us consider the condition of prisoners, even those of war, usually supposed to be privileged.

The Change Brought about by Christ. Thus was paganism treating its prisoners when there stood in the hall of Pontius Pilate the Roman governor of Judea, a prisoner.

Abolition of Gladiatorial Combats. You know how the dreadful gladiatorial combats were finally abolished. Men continued them in spite of the Church's protests.

An Order for the Redemption of Captives. Time and suffering quenched not the fire of zeal in the old Church. On the contrary, we behold her in the time of the Crusades establishing that wonderful Order for the "Redemption of Captives," the members of which bound themselves by vow, not only to collect money to redeem the Christian prisoners, but to fight the Turk and to bound in the name of God to desert.

Far-Reaching Effect of Christian Principles. We beheld the same spirit animating the various religious Orders, as we saw in the Middle Ages, during the civil war, in a less heroic degree, it is true, because such sacrifice was not demanded, but still influenced by the same principles and motives.

his wife, who inherits what, with all his faults, distinguished her gifted grandfather love and pity for oppressed nationalities, shared his sentiments.

The Church and Oppressed Nationalities. What was true of individual prisoners was true also of oppressed nationalities. The Church has ever of its people and with its people.

Christianity and Slavery. The action of the Christian Church in relation to the abolition of slavery is so well known that it needs but a passing reminder.

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SAVED FROM AN INSANE ASYLUM. (Columbia, City, Ind., Oct. 18, 1887.) A lady well known to me and of whose family I am a friend, was afflicted with a nervous disease for a long time and cured at last by Rev. Pastor Koenig.

Our PAMPHLET for sufferers of nervous disease will be sent FREE to any address, and POOR patients can also obtain this medicine FREE of charge from us.

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