

# Northwest Review

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1905.

### Calendar for Next Week.

- 7—Sunday within the octave of the Epiphany.
- 8—Monday—Of the octave of the Epiphany. Eleventh anniversary of the election of the Most Rev. Archbishop of St. Boniface.
- 9—Tuesday—Of the octave.
- 10—Wednesday—Of the Octave.
- 11—Thursday—Commemoration of St. Hyginus, Pope, Martyr.
- 12—Friday—Of the Octave.
- 13—Saturday—Octave of the Epiphany.

### A SERVANT OF GOD AND THE PEOPLE

Soul-piercing in its transparent truthfulness is the plain, unvarnished tale of Mark Fagan's career as related by Mr. Lincoln Steffens, under the appropriate title, "A Servant of God and the

People" in the January McClure. Mr. Steffens is a master of the best kind of business style: few adjectives but many facts crammed into a small space. At the very beginning of his story we guessed that his hero, with the Irish Catholic name, was one of us; but we feared that the writer might disguise or minimize this most important circumstance, and we were proportionately delighted that he makes it the fitting climax of his wonderful sketch. Mark Fagan, born of very poor parents, was only six months at school, began life as a news-boy, passed on to be a helper on a waggon, then a frame-gilder, afterwards an undertaker, and found his true vocation in politics, but politics of a new sort, honest, pure, kind, but firm as adamant. He is now serving his third term as Mayor of Jersey City, his native town, which was but lately the most corrupt city in the most corrupt of the United States. Bribery and graft met him on every rung of the political ladder; but he gently said No, and worked honestly and faithfully for the people who adore him. His gentle firmness is a mystery to all who know the little shy man whom everybody calls by his Christian name, or rather it was a mystery till Mr. Steffens, who is an unconquerable searcher, found out the secret and revealed it to the world in spite of the hurt he knows it will inflict on Mark's truly humble soul. Before relating this infinitely valuable discovery in Mr. Steffens's own words reporting a heart-to-heart talk with Mark Fagan, we will condense it into a formula which every enlightened Catholic will readily grasp. The Mayor of Jersey City is a fervent Catholic, a man of prayer, listening to the promptings of the Holy Ghost, going very frequently to confession, and feeding



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the flame of divine love by spiritual reading.

"Why do you care about other people? You seem to like men. Do you really?"

His look answered that, but he went on to talk about his boyhood and his experiences as an undertaker.

"What do you mean by the people? The poor people? The working people? When you address a crowd, do you appeal to labor as labor, to the unions, for example?"

"Oh, no. I never do that. I mean everybody. The poor need the most, and most people over here work, but by people I mean men and women and children, everybody."

"Railroad Presidents? Do you hate the railroads?"

"No," he said, reflecting. "They do a good deal that is wrong. They corrupt young men and they don't care anything about Jersey City. They should stop corrupting politics, but you can't expect them to look

out for us. We must do that." He paused. "I have hated men, almost, some of these corporation men, but I don't any more. I used to hate men that said things about me that weren't true, that weren't just, but I've got over that now."

"How did you get over it?"

"I have a way," he said, evidently meaning not to tell it.

"You must have been tempted often in the four years you have been in office. Have you ever been offered a bribe?"

"Only once, but that was by a man sent by somebody else. He didn't know what he was doing, and I didn't blame him so much as I did those who sent him."

"But the subtler temptations, how did you resist them?"

"I have a way," he said again.

This time I pressed him for it; he evaded the point, and I urged that if he knew a way, and a good way to resist political temptations, others should know of it.

He was most uncomfortable. "It's a good way," he said, looking down. Then looking up he almost whispered: "I pray. When I take an oath of office I speak it slowly. I say each word, thinking how it is an oath, and afterwards I pray for strength to keep it."

"A silent prayer?"

"Yes."

"And that helps? Against the daily temptations too?"

"Yes, but I—every morning when I go up the steps of the City Hall, I ask that I may be given to recognize temptations when they come to me and—to resist them. And at night I go over every act and I give thanks if I have done no injury to any man."

"When you were considering whether you would give out that letter to Governor Murphy, why did you say 'let the consequences go?'"

"Well, when anything is to be done that I think is right, and the rest say it might hurt my political career, I ask myself if such thoughts are tempting me, and if I think they are, I do that thing quick. That was the way of the Murphy letter."

"They say you want to be Governor of New Jersey?"

"I know that I don't," he said quietly. "I have asked myself that, and I know that I don't. I don't think I would be able to be the Governor, I mean able to do much for people in that high office."

"What do you want to do, then?"

"Why, what I am doing now."

"Always? Do you mean that you'd like to be Mayor of Jersey City all your life?"

He looked up as if I had caught him at something foolish or extravagant, but he answered:

"If I could be—if I could go on doing things for the people all my life, as Mayor, I should be very happy. But I can't, I suppose, so I shall be satisfied to have done so well that whoever comes after me can't do badly without the people noticing it."

"Well, what do you get out of serving others, Mr. Mayor? Try to tell me that truly."

He did try. "I am getting to be a better man. You know I'm a Catholic—"

"Yes, and some people say the Catholics are against the public schools. Why have you done so much for them?"

He was surprised. "I am mayor of all the people, and the schools are good for the people."

## WRITE FOR OUR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY SALE CATALOGUE

HERE are some lines of staples taken out of our January and February Sale Catalogue. The prices illustrate the kind of values we are giving in every department of our Store.

The Catalogue will be found of value to all who are anxious to save money, and it is sent free on request to all who cannot possibly visit our Store.

No matter where you live you can participate in this Great Sale. Our Mail Order Department is in better working order now than it has been since we opened in Winnipeg, and we bespeak prompt service and satisfaction.

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- 11-9020. Rich Satin Damask Table Linen, dew bleached, entirely new designs, made from pure flax, 72 inches wide, per yard. Special Sale Price .61
- 11-9021. Double Damask Table Linen, grass or dew bleached, superior in quality and finish, handsome design, every thread linen, 72 inches wide, per yard. Special Sale Price .82

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- 11-9023. Half or three-quarter Bleached Table Damask, superior quality, new patterns, 64 inches wide, per yard. Special Sale Price .29
- 11-9024. Heavy Three-quarter Bleached Table Linen, Irish manufacture, will bleach easily, new designs, 66 inches wide, per yard. Special Sale Price .36
- 11-9025. Pure Linen Three-quarter Bleached Table Linen, fine even weave, made from pure flax, 64 inches wide, per yard. Special Sale Price .42

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