

The Catholic Record

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something else, "the strongest of all the purely intellectual forces that dragged me towards the truth." And this is the miraculous youth of "the old religion."

the empire, but at the risk of undoing its work of political organization and reducing it to barbarism. The second was the establishment of the Roman Church, an institution capable of holding European society together in spite of a political disintegration that was widespread and long-continued.

and worse. Self-respecting and freedom-loving Protestants there are who have condemned this recrudescence of Protestant bigotry in unmeasured terms; but this is not enough.

be. In some communities in Canada, the most inveterate breakers of the motor laws are the councillors and other officials of the place.

death of Miss Genevieve Ward, the noted tragedienne, who had thrilled audiences in England and America a generation ago with the depth and intensity of her art.

ADMIRAL'S CALL TO COOPERATE

NECESSITY OF COORDINATING CATHOLIC EFFORT. The need of coordination of Catholic effort for the purpose of insuring proper representation of Catholic interests under modern conditions in America, was emphasized by Admiral William S. Benson in an address before the Knights of Columbus of Minneapolis.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DEC. 9, 1932

WHERE ALL ROADS LEAD

Some little time after his conversion to the Catholic faith Mr. G. K. Chesterton gave an interview to a newspaper representative who desired to make known the famous writer's reasons for this momentous step.

THE DARK AGES

Considerable misapprehension is often evident with regard to the term "The Dark Ages." Historians called—or used to call—by that name the period following the break-down of the old civilization of pagan Rome and the flowering of Christian civilization in the Middle Ages, the term, still in universal use, by which those centuries between the Dark Ages and modern times were designated.

IS IT INCENDIARISM?

The disastrous fire by which the Jesuit College of St. Boniface, Manitoba, was destroyed and ten lives lost gave rise to a rumor that it was the work of some anti-Catholic fanatic or organization.

TRIBUTE TO CATHOLIC EDUCATOR

High tribute to the work being done for education in India by the Rev. Father Mederlet, director of St. Francis Xavier's Industrial School and St. Anthony's High School in Tanjore was recently paid by the Inspector of Schools, Mr. P. R. Acharya.

He closes the second article of the series with this paragraph: "But the rejuvenation does recur; and it is the first fact with which I have wished to start my argument. Its effect on the question of the seat of authority and the limits of communion I may proceed to consider at another time. But, for the moment, I am content to say that we live in one of those recurrent periods of Catholicism on the march; and to draw a more simple moral from it. The real honor is due to those who were with it when its cause seemed hopeless; and no credit, beyond that of common intelligence, really belongs to anyone who has joined it when it is so evidently the hope of the world."

Many of our readers will doubtless read the articles in The Catholic World, beginning with the November issue. Many more will await the publication of the series in book form. In the meantime, during the long evenings of the coming winter may not some wish to familiarize themselves with the works of this writer whose influence has been so great of a generation of readers? We should suggest: The Ball and The Cross; What's Wrong with the World; and Orthodoxy. What he is now writing is the complement of Orthodoxy.

Even in the matter of taxation it must be borne in mind that it was levied for the needs of the whole Church, and not for the individual requirements of the Sovereign Pontiff. It was an age of stress, in which the Holy See had not only to combat the menace of Islam, directed as it was towards the destruction of Christian civilization, but to resist the encroachments of petty European kings upon the rights of both Church and people.

THE COUNCIL EXPLAINED

Summing up his description of the work and character of the National Council of Catholic Men, Admiral Benson said: "Today the avenue is opened to us with the approval of the Holy Father and the appeal of the American Hierarchy to rally behind them in these days of trial when men are asked to think straight and talk straight, to see to it that we do a man's part in a man's way in solving the difficulties incident to our complex modern civilization and finally to see to it that the Magna Charta of our liberties shall not be abridged, irrespective whence comes the propaganda, so that the Constitution and its Amendments, shall go down to posterity undisturbed. See to it that a respect and reverence for the law is maintained and that no clique nor cabal of devilish men shall be

It does not follow, therefore, that the driver of an auto is free of blame merely because the person he hurts has acted foolishly; for he is bound to run his auto on the assumption that a certain number of the people he passes amongst will act foolishly. He is bound to give them a better chance than perhaps they deserve; the law requires that of him; and he is therefore not free of all blame if he runs his car at a speed greater than the law permits, merely because the other person took a chance he should not have taken.

Now, about those speed laws.—It is perfectly plain to everyone who has seen automobiles and the way they are driven that comparatively few drivers take the speed laws with any great amount of seriousness. They are commonly treated as regulations to be obeyed only in the immediate presence of a policeman, and to be laughed at as soon as the officer's back is turned.

MENTION was made in these columns some weeks ago of the

Perhaps we have cause for surprise that there are not more accidents from motor cars. When we consider that the automobile is a high powered engine, capable of great speed, capable of great destruction, able to deal death in a moment, we must conclude that Providence in many cases takes special care of people who have little care for their own safety or that of others. But there are altogether too many accidents, and the number is increasing. During the present year, the number of deaths from motor car accidents has been larger than in any previous year, since the motor car came into common use.

NOTES AND COMMENTS. "THE BENEDICTINE monks for 910 years have been cultivating one of the world's finest forests," says the Canadian Forestry Magazine. "It surrounds an ancient hermitage, about fifty miles southeast of Florence, Italy. This forest is as fine as it was nearly a thousand years ago, though lumber has been taken out of it steadily in great quantities."

THE FAMOUS Bishop Grosseteste is often quoted by Anglican "continualists" as an argument against Papal jurisdiction over England in medieval times. The Bishop, it is true, resisted on occasion what he considered undue demands of the Holy See in the matter of taxation. But that he never dreamed of qualifying, far less resisting the spiritual authority of the Pope, his own words abundantly prove.

NEED OF ORGANIZATION

After explaining the need imposed by modern conditions for the formation of such an organization as the National Council of Catholic Men, the Admiral declared: "The time has come when every Catholic man worthy of the name in this great country will be by the very force of circumstances compelled to inquire why he is singled out from among his neighbors and penalized and possibly ostracized for his faith and the pity of it all is that too many there are who are unable to give an intelligent reason for their faith; when it comes home to these men with the full force of truth revealed they will wonder why they were so blind. Excuses they will advance, but you must never lose sight of the fact the Church has no excuse to offer for her existence, and conscience too is a hard master and will not be denied.

There was another romance, (although to herself and to many others embracing a disappointment in the career of this estimable lady. As a young girl she developed a remarkable singing voice, and under capable instruction gave promise of becoming a great operatic star. She had been trained by Rossini himself, and her first appearance in grand opera was hailed with enthusiasm. But, suddenly, and without warning she lost her voice, and it was then that she turned to the legitimate drama, with the results already indicated. Grand opera lost a great artist, but the drama made a corresponding gain. Her death recalled one of her greatest triumphs in Francis Coppee's "La Couronne," a magnificent Bacon tragedy in which, at the age of seventy, she was associated with Sir Johnston Forbes Robinson and Mrs. Patrick Campbell. We doubt, however, if as an artist she ever reached a higher level than as Stephanie in "Forget-Me-Not," that unforgettable performance which distinguished her prime.

NOT ONLY was Miss Ward's life full of vicissitudes but they followed her to the tomb. After the last Catholic rites had been administered by a Father of the Oratory at her home, her remains were removed to Golders Green where, by instructions of her relatives or executors, they were cremated, and what Catholics fail to understand is, that an Anglican clergyman, knowing the deceased lady to have been a Catholic, took it upon himself to read the burial service of the Church of England over her remains—an act as little in keeping with decorum as with every canon of Christian feeling.

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NECESSITY OF COORDINATING CATHOLIC EFFORT. The need of coordination of Catholic effort for the purpose of insuring proper representation of Catholic interests under modern conditions in America, was emphasized by Admiral William S. Benson in an address before the Knights of Columbus of Minneapolis. Referring to the war-time record of the Knights of Columbus and praising their Supreme officers for the promptness in which they coordinated their activities with the Hierarchy at the time of the formation of the National Catholic War Council, he declared that the War served to bring out for the first time the tremendous force of combined Catholic endeavor.

It appears that as a young girl she met and had become engaged to a Russian nobleman, Count de Guerbel, who married her according to civil contract, and then in spite of his undertaking of the contrary, refused to go on with the religious ceremony. The civil contract is a necessary preliminary in most European countries; but, especially where either or both parties are Catholics, is always followed by the religious ceremony as the law of the Church requires. In Miss Ward's case she sought the intervention of the Tsar, who in response to her appeal ordered the Count to complete the marriage in church, which was accordingly done. But here the bride's romance ended, for realizing for the first time the real character of her husband, she parted with him at the church door, and never saw him again. Nor, although the husband died some years later, did she ever re-marry but remained to the end of her days Miss Genevieve Ward, and as such is known to two generations of playgoers as one of the most stirring actresses of her time.

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