

FACE TO FACE WITH CHRIST?

A SHORT REVIEW BY "CRUX"

In the "American Catholic Quarterly Review," Rev. A. J. Maas, S.J., has an admirable contribution under the title "Face to Face With Christ?"

The author starts out with the assertion that at no other period was the earthly life of Christ subjected to more minute criticism than in our age.

A DISTINCTION.—But here comes the crucial test of the world's knowledge to-day. We know more about Christ, His appearance, His acts, the land He lived in, the people He associated with; the clothing He wore the food He used, the style of language He spoke.

These are the three propositions that Father Maas sets out to establish and prove.

FIRST PROPOSITION.—"1. We said that modern science tends to lead us away from faith in Christ's divinity, because it tends to destroy the supernatural element in the life of the Master."

by Jesus must be reduced to those cures which even at the present day physicians are able to effect by physical methods, as, more especially, cures of mental maladies.

"We quote those attempts to naturalize the virgin birth and the resurrection of Jesus Christ as instances showing the general tendency of non-Catholic writers to drift away from the miraculous."

"The tendency to minimize the supernatural element in the life of Christ has made itself felt even in the works of some Catholic writers. Not to mention other instances, Professor Schell has contributed to the historical series "Weltgeschichte in Charakterbildern," the volume entitled "Christus, Das Evangelium und seine weltgeschichtliche Bedeutung."

SECOND PROPOSITION.—"2. While the scientific tendency of our age tends to naturalize the supernatural elements in the life of our Lord and thus to imperil the faith in His Divinity, comparative religion denies the evidence of all supernatural facts, and thus undermines the very foundation of Christian apologetics."

they are spreading, and they find their way even into works of Catholic writers. In fact, men like the Abbe Loisy present the views of comparative religion so systematically and clearly that they make more converts than the prime originators of the theory could hope to make.

THIRD PROPOSITION.—"3. The scientific trend of mind is inclined to minimize the supernatural element in the life of Christ; the comparative religionist of the present day introduces a state of agnosticism into the region of Christian faith; but both are outdone by the modern historical critic."

Without loading our summary with all the extracts and quotations that serve to support the Christian arguments of Father Maas, and to explain the dangers to Christianity as they exist to-day, we will leave this thoughtful subject to bear fruit in the minds of the reflecting and serious.

CONCLUSION.—"Abstracting now for a moment from all the sins against faith and reason committed by our Christian naturalists and agnostics, and historical critics, what after all does the image of Christ amount to which they paint for us? We may describe it in the words in which one of our most eminent foes describes Christ's image represented in the Gospels: "One may perhaps venture to compare the process with that of a photographer who prints from many negatives of the same individual on the same paper."

development of Christian doctrine, this stratum is a necessary step between Christ's own view of Himself and the character given to Him in the writings of the New Testament.

The third stratum of Christological ideas we find in the writings of the New Testament. Thus far it is Christ's resurrection that is regarded as the starting point of Jesus' Messianic and Divine Sonship.

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Civic Reform. A National Municipal Reform League, to enlist the co-operation of ratepayers in the improvement of local government, and to promote purity and justice in local administration, has been organized in Manchester, Eng.

DO NOT BUY THRASHY GOODS AT ANY PRICE. Cowan's Cocoa and Chocolate are the Best. Notice the Name on them

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

(By Our Own Correspondent.)

THE SESSION.—There is nothing in regard to politics this week, the parliamentarians are simply beating time and awaiting the Easter holidays.

JUDGE O'MEARA.—A week or so ago I informed you of the recent appointment of four Irish Catholics to the Ontario Bench. Amongst them is Mr. J. J. O'Meara—now Judge O'Meara—of Pembroke.

"The members of the Carleton Law Association have assigned me as their president the pleasing duty of extending to Your Honor their congratulations upon your appointment to a seat on the bench of the Metropolitan County of the Dominion and also to extend to you a hearty welcome."

"We have all been waiting patiently, and some no doubt anxiously, for some time to have the vacancy filled, and I am sure none will welcome your advent more cordially than His Honor the Senior Judge."

"We are so pleased that an appointment has been made from a county so closely connected with our own and in our own Ottawa Valley that it does not seem as if a stranger had come among us."

Your Honor will before long realize that the position of a judge in this County is no sinecure, a fact which, however, we are aware will not distress Your Honor, whose reputation as a worker has preceded you."

"The relation between the members of the profession and the judges of the county have been of a pleasant nature and we trust that they will be no less cordial between us and Your Honor."

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RIDEAU FLOODS.—The menace of Ottawa, every spring, is the Rideau river, which, like a second Nile, annually overflows its banks.

PLATE CHANT.—The decree of the Pope regarding the use of the Plain Chant has been promptly obeyed in St. Mary's Church, Bayswater.

class of music now in vogue throughout the Catholic world. This, of course, meant the exclusion of the women vocalists, and a great reduction of the number of soloists required in the services.

PALM SUNDAY.—Palm Sunday was most solemnly celebrated in all our city Churches.

At St. Joseph's Church Rev. Father Boyon blessed the palms and celebrated Mass, while the Passion was sung by Rev. Fathers Kirwan, O'Boyle and Sherry.

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SERVANTS OF JESUS-MARY—Rarely has Hull ever witnessed a religious ceremony like that of last Sunday in the Convent of the Servants of Jesus-Mary.

ARCHBISHOP ELDER celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday on Tuesday of last week, remarks a Catholic American weekly, and was overwhelmed with gifts and congratulations.