

CATHOLIC JOURNALISM.

(William Dillon, LL.D., in New World, Chicago.)

When I speak of Catholic Journalism in this paper, I mean Catholic Journalism as it exists to-day in the United States and in the English language.

The duties of the editor of a Catholic weekly paper, as I view them, admit of being classified in various ways. For my present purpose the following classification will be convenient: He has to write a certain amount of original editorial matter each week; he has to supply to his readers each week as much specially Catholic news as he can collect; and he has to examine manuscripts tendered to him by contributors, and publish such as he may deem worthy and as he may have space for.

My purpose in this paper is to consider the Catholic weekly as a newspaper. In selecting this phase of the Catholic editor's work as the subject of this paper, I must not be regarded as implying that I regard either of the other two phases as of little importance.

These are certainly interesting questions, and, with the permission of the editor of The New World, I may have something to say on them hereafter. But for the present I propose to confine myself to the particular phase of the subject specified above.

Ought the Catholic weekly to attempt to be a newspaper at all, or ought it to content itself with being merely a weekly magazine plus an editorial page? On this question—to quote the immortal dictum of Sir Roger de Coverly—there is a good deal to be said on both sides.

If there is one thing more than another which the American reading public will not tolerate in a newspaper that thing is stale news. The question whether news is true or false is, with the great American public, a question of small importance as compared with the question whether it is "up to date."

I do not by any means make little of this argument. I know by experience that it is a conclusive argument with many people whose opinions are entitled to weight.

presses a vast influence on public opinion, and it exercises that influence mainly through its news. Comparing the great American dailies with the great English dailies, I find that the American papers excel as newspapers, while the English papers excel in editorial writing.

INJURY DONE THE CHURCH BY COLORED CATHOLIC NEWS IN THE DAILY PAPERS.

When the present writer took charge of The New World he regarded it as part of his duty to search the daily papers of this and other cities for items of specially Catholic news.

It would be easy to multiply examples of what I refer to, but for readers of the New World this is hardly necessary. Take one example. So far as the non-Catholic public of this country has formed any opinion regarding the recent and present policy of the French government towards the Catholic schools of France, that opinion is favorable to the policy in question.

money at their command, and they are entirely unscrupulous as regards the means which they use to forward their ends. They have taken infinite trouble and gone to great expense in order to make the press of this country serve their purposes.

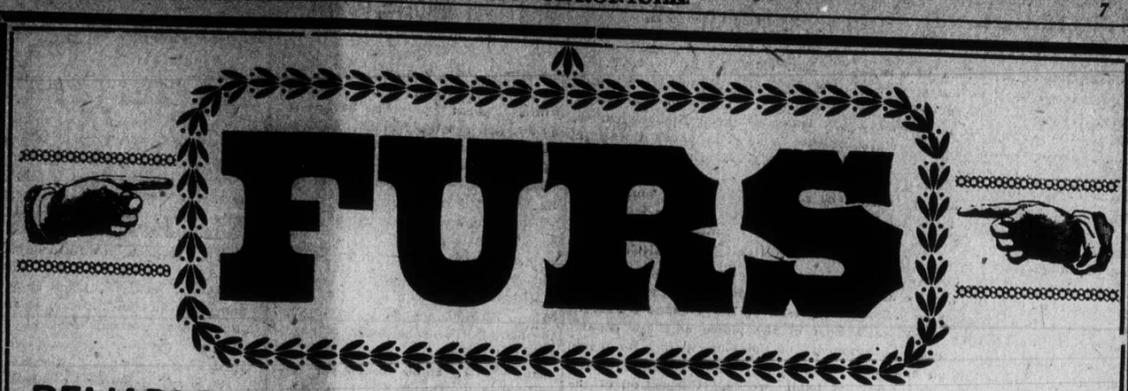
DELIBERATE POISONING OF THE WELLS.

In this respect the enemies of the Catholic Church are "wiser in their generation than the children of light." It is not that the American daily press, as a press, is hostile to the Church.

The fact is that our enemies in this country and the anti-Catholic secret societies in Europe are fully alive to the vast importance of getting control of the sources from which news is given out, and using that control to slander and injure the Church.

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are several advantages in this course. The leading English and Irish dailies contain much more telegraphic news from Rome than do the American dailies.

These are the two principle ways in which the New World may, I believe, with advantage to its readers, aim to discharge the functions of a newspaper.



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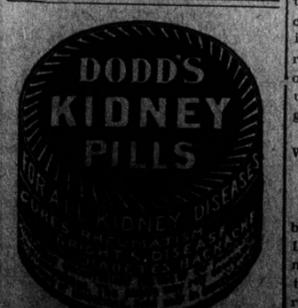
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So much for the necessity of something being done. The question remains—what can be done? To what extent ought The New World to aim at discharging the function of a newspaper?

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EUROPEAN NEWS. This process of collecting and editing the items of specially Catholic news that appeared in the leading dailies of eastern cities might with advantage be supplemented by a weekly letter from Rome, Paris, or London.



EXTRACT FROM "HOCKEY."

The skate that has found more favor among hockey players than any other is one manufactured by G. J. Lunn & Co., Montreal. It has more good points and is altogether more satisfactory than any skate yet introduced for the game.

subordinate in six months, replied that he only wanted the worker for six months. And to Dr. Temple on one occasion a friend said, he had been told by his doctor he could not live more than two years if he undertook a certain piece of work.

THE EXPRESSION "SAID MASS."

Says a correspondent of the London Catholic Times: "I most solemnly protest against the common expression 'said Mass.' The Mass is a sacrifice, is celebrated, and cannot be said."

WORK WHILE THE DAY LASTS.

There are few points of resemblance between Archbishop Temple and Pope Leo XIII, but curiously similar remarks on a similar occasion are attributed to both.