

manner in which they should fast in order to merit an eternal reward.

That the primitive Church understood the teaching of our Lord in this light is clear, not only from the continual allusions made to this practice of fasting and penance in the Acts and Epistles, but from the example of the early saints and anchorites of the desert; in short, from the unbroken record of discipline of the Church from Apostolic times down to our own day.

But if we contrast the fasts of the primitive Christians, or even those of the medieval Church, with our own, what a light is thrown on the indifference of the days in which we live. Fasting in the time of St. Cyril of Jerusalem, St. Basil and St. John Chrysostom, included abstaining from wine. It also meant as late as the ninth and twelfth centuries a total abstinence from flesh meat from the first Sunday in Lent till Easter Sunday.

RECREATION IN LENT

Again the Scriptures tell us that "Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert." This also contains a great lesson for us, which the Church enforces by discouraging her children from frequenting halls, theaters and other places of amusement in Lent.

To hear the voice of God, "to become converted to Him," as the Psalmist says, "with our whole heart," we must seek solitude. "Therefore behold I will allure her, saith the Lord, and will lead her into the wilderness; and I will speak to her heart."

ASH WEDNESDAY

The service begins on Ash Wednesday by the blessing of the ashes. Let us while we perform this outward act of humiliation humble our hearts before God and join with the priest in saying: "O Almighty and Eternal God Who forgavest the Ninevites when they did penance in sackcloth and ashes, mercifully grant us to imitate their penance that we may obtain pardon for our sins. Through, etc."

The lesson at Mass is taken from the book of Joel ch. iiii.

Thus saith the Lord: "Be converted to Me with all your hearts, in fasting, in weeping and in mourning. And rend your hearts and not your garments, and turn to the Lord your God: for He is gracious and merciful, patient and rich in mercy, and ready to repent of the evil. Who knoweth but He will return and forgive, and leave a blessing behind Him; sacrifice and oblation to the Lord your God."

PRaises BENEDICT

In an editorial praising the life and work of Pope Benedict XV., the Louisville Herald pays a tribute to the work of the National Catholic Welfare Council in these words:

"In this country, thanks to the wisdom and breadth of view of the ruling head of it, the War placed the Catholic Church in closer association than it had been, with the great body of the people. The visitors, the United States was among the first to appreciate that the world had changed and could never be the same again and that the changes brought by the wars entailed a new order and gave birth

to new problems. It is being frankly admitted that the Church has cemented its place in public estimation through the consistent work of the National Catholic Welfare Council, a church body, in pleading the cause of the downtrodden, and in the efforts of this and other church organizations for the protection and rehabilitation of those of the faith who suffered. That all this had the active approval and benediction of the late Pontiff there can be no question. It must not be forgotten.

A BEAUTIFUL PRAYER

Sofia, Dec. 12.—The following prayer has been prepared by the authority of the Holy Synod of the National Orthodox Church of Bulgaria, and ordered by the same authority to be recited in all Orthodox churches in Bulgaria in intercession for the Washington Conference.

"O Almighty God and Heavenly King, give ear unto Thine unworthy servants and hearken unto their earnest prayer. Behold, O God, and look upon our sighings, our sorrows, and our humility. Let Thy mercy lighten upon us and upon the world which Thou hast made, that all discords and wars among nations may cease."

"Soften Thou the hearts of cruel men, and change the hatred of peoples into concord and brotherhood. Drive far from them all envy and bitterness, all fratricidal hate and the passions of men and of peoples, which are the sources of all discord, of all troubles and the shedding of blood in the world."

"Vouchsafe, Thou the hearts of cruel men, and change the hatred of peoples into concord and brotherhood. Drive far from them all envy and bitterness, all fratricidal hate and the passions of men and of peoples, which are the sources of all discord, of all troubles and the shedding of blood in the world."

"Vouchsafe to impart to all Kings, and Governments, and Statesmen peace of soul, counsels of peace, and counsellors endued with that justice and peace which are meet to receive Thy benediction."

"O God of peace vouchsafe Thine aid to the delegates of all the countries of the world now met in Washington, to discuss and resolve these questions of world peace and of disarmament; and grant that their labors may be crowned with that success which is agreeable unto Thee, that peace and glory may reign throughout the whole world, and that all men may dwell in peace and security within their own homes and be no more disquieted."

"O God and Everlasting King, grant to our pious and Christian Sovereigns Thy support in the difficulties which beset him in these our times; defend him from the evil designs of wicked men, grant him happiness and length of days and that his Kingdom may abide in tranquillity, so that we, Thy Christian people of Bulgaria, may pass our days in peace and quietness throughout his reign."

"O God of mercy and pity, speak Thou and say: My peace be with you! to all Kings and Sovereigns and Governments; and grant that peace without end and fraternity may endure through all time and unto the uttermost parts of the earth; so that with all wars and conflicts and quarrels being put to flight, the people of the world may unite to glorify and praise the Holy and Adorable Name of Thee, O Father to whom, with Thy Son and the Holy Ghost, be praise both now and through all eternity. Amen."

THE WORLD ICE CHAMPIONS

BISHOP OF ST. JOHN ADDS CUP TO MEDALS WON BY CATHOLIC SKATER

St. John, N. B., January 27.—Characterized by leading authorities of both countries as one of the best skating meets which they had ever witnessed in either Canada or the United States, the Canadian Outdoor Amateur Skating Championships held here on January 18 and 19 under the auspices of the Young Men's Catholic Institute drew 10,000 people to Lily Lake on the first day and 20,000 on the second.

The sentiment of the visiting officials was expressed by Julian T. Fitzgerald, of Chicago, president of the International Skating Union, at the banquet given by the Y. M. C. I. on Wednesday evening to the visiting skaters, officials and leading citizens.

"I want to say that right here in St. John, today, I saw the most wonderful sight I have ever seen in the way of skating in my quarter of a century of a varied experience," he said.

"I never," said J. A. Taylor of Montreal, representing the Amateur Skating Association of Canada, "saw a group of officials more thoroughly up to their work. Regarding the entertainment of the visitors, the only complaint I have to make is that it sets a mark that none of the other places will ever reach."

lic Institute and as the Institute assumed all responsibility for the management and financing of the meet these words from the leading skating authorities of Canada and the United States attest the success achieved.

The competitors came all the way from St. Paul, Chicago, Winnipeg, Montreal, New York, Saranac Lake and Lake Placid. The meet brought together the fastest men on the steel blades, in the amateur class, in the western world, including several men who hold world's records for their respective distances. The list included the Canadian champion, Russell Wheeler, Montreal; the United States champion, Charles Jewtraw, of Lake Placid; the international champion, Joe Moore, of New York; the holder of the world's record at three miles, McWhirter of Chicago, and the holder of the world's record for the quarter mile, Charles Gorman, St. John, N. B. all amateurs.

At the banquet to the visitors in the Y. M. C. I. auditorium the guests included all the skaters and visiting skating authorities of the two countries, His Lordship Bishop LeBlanc, St. John, the Mayor, and other prominent citizens. Visiting officials went so far as to assure the Institute that, if it was desired, they would do all in their power to bring the international meet here under the auspices of the Y. M. C. I. in 1923. It has, already been allotted for this year.

Joe Moore, of New York, won the Canadian championships and the win was a popular one. In addition to the medals emblematic of his performance on the blades he also took with him a handsome cup donated by Right Rev. E. A. LeBlanc, D. D., Bishop of St. John, to the winner of the meet. Moore is one of the most promising Catholic boys of the United States who has achieved fame in sport. He is the holder of this year's Canadian championship and, last year, won both the indoor and outdoor international championships. At the latter meet, held at Plattsburg, he hung up two world's records. He is the youngest skater ever to win the international title, being, but twenty years old. He holds the outdoor world's record for the mile and the half mile.

Another Catholic boy of prominence in the skating game is Michael Donovan, of St. Paul, who won the three mile event in the meet here after one of the greatest exhibitions ever seen. Joe Moore was accompanied by his nephew, Raymond Murray, of New York, who at eleven years of age is the international champion for his class. He lost his race here because he fell in the last few yards when well in the lead. The little fellow is one of the coming skaters.

"GOVERNED TO DEATH"

BY COMPARISON GEORGE III. MODERATE

The growth of bureaucracy in government, which was the subject of a resolution of warning adopted at the last meeting of the Administrative Committee of the National Catholic Welfare Council, was made the subject of a compelling editorial in a recent issue of the New York World, which, under the title "Governed to Death" protests against a practice which it declares "has now lost all sense of restraint."

Senator Stanley of Kentucky and Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia University are quoted in the World's editorial, which is as follows: "Protesting a few days ago against the growth of bureaucracy and the extension of Federal authority over the lives of American citizens, Senator Stanley of Kentucky said: 'Every business man finds an inspector at his elbow, a Federal sleuth at his heels. Houses are searched, homes outraged and the public highways dappled in the blood of offending citizens by a multitude of agents and inspectors ignorant of and indifferent to the law of the land and the rights of citizens.'

"Let anybody think that Senator Stanley, who is a Democrat, has allowed his Jeffersonian theories of government to warp his judgment, it is worth while to turn to the deliberately expressed opinions of Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, who is not only a Republican but who is identified with the conservative wing of his party. 'In a report to the trustees of Columbia University expressing his objections to the proposed Federal bureau for the supervision of education Dr. Butler used language no less vehement than that employed by the Senator from Kentucky: 'In the United States Senate we are, in flat defiance of all our proclaimed principles, building a series of bureaucracies that will put to shame the best efforts of the government of the Czar of all the Russias when in the heyday of its glory. We are surrounded by agents, special agents, inspectors and spies, and the people are called upon to support, through their taxes, in harmful, through their activities, whole armies of individuals who should be engaged in productive industry.'

Senator Stanley has described in this fashion the tendency of the 15,000 bills already introduced in the present Congress: 'Nobility escapes. Everything in the moral, industrial and commercial world is to be owned, operated, supervised or censored, from the birth of a baby to the burial of a corpse, and the worst is not yet.'

"The passion for bureaucracy and government regulation which began under Roosevelt has now lost all sense of restraint. Outside of Bolshevik Russia, the American people are the most government-ridden people in the world, and every session of Congress, every session of a State Legislature, marks an extension of the system. 'Among the indictments against George III., in the Declaration of Independence was this: 'He has erected a multitude of new offices to harass our people and eat out their substance.' If George III. could see the armies of officers that the American people, under their own Government, have allowed to be imposed on them, to harass them and eat out their substance, he would be astonished at his own moderation. What the fathers refused to endure, their sons submit to as meekly as a flock of sheep."

"The American people are in a process of being governed to death as well as taxed to death, in order to support the armies of office holders who have undertaken to regulate them from the cradle to the grave. What makes a bad matter immeasurably worse, they seem to have lost all their capacity for resistance to the ever-widening rule of bureaucracy."

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"HUNDRED THOUSAND WELCOMES"

ELOQUENT SERMON PREACHED BY ARCHBISHOP CURLEY

For many years it was the custom of the late Cardinal Gibbons to greet the people of Washington at St. Patrick's church the second Sunday in January, and to receive them in the rectory after the services. The custom was followed this year by the Archbishop of Baltimore and Washington seemed to be out of his element, eager to greet the new Archbishop. Long before the hour set for the ceremony, St. Patrick's church was filled, and by 11 o'clock the crowds were standing on the streets, hoping for an opportunity to enter the church, but contented, if need be, to stand in the bitter cold of the winter morning in order to later greet Archbishop Curley in the rectory adjoining the church. Archbishop Curley proudly announced that he was the son of a laborer! Like lights and shadows came the touching description of the faith of Ireland. "I was spending a vacation in the west of Ireland not long ago," said His Grace, "and was kneeling in the rear of the humble little church while the Mass was being celebrated. The fervor, the piety, the reverence of that congregation burst upon me like a song. As the Mass started the people, praying in unison, prayed softly, but, as the mystery of the Mass approached, the sound of the voices gathered strength, until, at the Elevation, came the solemn chorus of the people, came the prayer in the language of the Gael, 'One Hundred Thousand, Welcomes, my Lord and my God.' Many eyes were moist with tears, many of that cosmopolitan congregation were living over again the days of their youth, hearing again the voices that had long been stilled, in that old familiar 'hundred thousand welcomes' of the Gael. Once more 'one touch of nature made the whole world kin, and in the gentle, the reverent, the beautiful tribute to the land of his birth, Archbishop Curley had won the hearts of the people."

The newspapers of the day were telling the story—the dismal story of the will—of the end of Ireland's valiant fight for freedom. That little pen picture of Athlone, drawn by the artist hand of the Archbishop, seemed to lay the justice of Ireland's cause before the people. "One hundred thousand welcomes." Even at that moment, perhaps, the people of Athlone, with the people of the rest of Ireland, were pouring out their gratitude to their God, that even a small measure of freedom had been vouchsafed them, to cheer them on the road to final liberty. The spirit of the people of Ireland seemed to breathe again, not from the pulpits of St. Patrick's but from the newspapers of Washington, which that morning carried the proud challenge of Archbishop Curley: "I swore allegiance to this country with a greater pleasure, because I had never sworn allegiance to any other." There was the defy of all Ireland's sons, summed up by the man from Athlone. The American note had been struck, and the Archbishop, "on the threshold of his career, sounded the warning that Lincoln stressed more than eighty years before. Lincoln, too, was but entering upon his career, when in a speech upon the little known by Americans, the great Emancipator called attention to the dangers that confronted the Republic. Addressing a meeting in Springfield, Ill., January 27, 1837, Lincoln said: "At what point shall we expect the approach of danger? By what means shall we fortify against it? Shall we expect some transatlantic

military giant to stop the ocean and crush us at a blow? Never! All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest, could not by force take a drink from the Ohio or make a track on the Blue Ridge in a trial of a thousand years."

"At what point is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reaches us it must spring up amongst us; it can not come from abroad. If destruction be our lot we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of free men we must live through all time, or die by suicide."

"If this nation is ever destroyed—which God forbid—the destruction must come from within; it can never come from without. We are a virile nation, a forceful nation. No outside Power can destroy us. Where lies the danger? If, as a nation, we so live that we are unwilling to render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, we cannot render to God the things that are God's. Therein lies the germ of destruction."

Lincoln, in another day, put the same thought in other words: "Let reverence for the laws be breathed by every American mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap; let it be taught in schools, in seminaries, and in colleges; let it be written in primers, in spelling books, and in almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. Upon this let the proud fabric of freedom rest, as the rock of this basis; and as truly as it has been said of the only greater institution, 'the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'"

Lincoln and Curley. The great statesman and the great churchman! May the years prove that the breath of life may again be breathed into the words of Lincoln, and that, as the great Emancipator showered the blessings of Liberty upon a people, so may Archbishop Curley shower upon them the blessings of that spiritual light, without which no liberty is safe.—Michigan Catholic.

CHIEF JUSTICE WHITE EULOGIZED

Washington, D. C., Jan. 20.—Eulogies upon the life and work of Edward Douglass White, late Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, were pronounced by his successor, William H. Taft, and United States Attorney-General, Harry B. Daugherty, at a solemn memorial exercise in the chamber of the court this week. The Associate Justices of the Supreme Court and many important officials of the Government were present. Chief Justice Taft announced that the Supreme Court had received from the Lord Chancellor of England and placed in its records expressions of sympathy at the passing of Chief Justice White. "Nature was kind to Chief Justice White," said Attorney-General Daugherty. "The elements were so mixed in him that he was destined to be one of the earth's noblemen. His great mind had penetrated far enough into spiritual things to understand the smallness of man in the infinite purpose of God. Of him it could be truly said that his purpose was to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with his God."

Kind words are the brightest flowers of earth's existence; they make a very paradise of the humblest home that the world can show. Dearest of Masters! and we go to Him, and then and not before, and there and not elsewhere we are at rest, for His bosom is the weary man's house, his very own delightful home.—Father Faber.



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