

The Catholic Record.

"Christianus mihi nomen est Catholicus vero Cognomen."—(Christian is my Name, but Catholic my Surname)—St. Pacien, 4th Century.

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GIFT GIVING

In the matter of gift-giving at this season almost all sections of society have drifted into extravagance. Want of thought and want of courage to resist are chiefly responsible for a state of things that involves some degree of pretense. The tax on people with a wide range of acquaintances is financially a serious matter, and it is often quite evident that a certain amount of insincerity underlies the present gift-giving that was so obligatory and widespread.

The lull in gifts that is now being experienced makes the time suitable for asking ourselves whether it is advisable to conform to a fashion in this respect. Friendship exults over an opportunity of showing generous warmth in a material way. All through life, what joy can be sweeter than finding out just what some one who is dear to us desires, and supplying it? Happy indeed are they who from a full heart can express affection in this form.

But even in the most favorable circumstances there are some drawbacks to costly gifts. They cannot measure intrinsically the value of the feeling they represent. A far smaller gift may express the greater love. Gifts can only be judged truly by the quality of the feeling which produces them and by their effects on the recipient. They may, on the one hand, be wholly delightful in their origin and entirely helpful and stimulating to the receiver, or, on the other hand, they may be a grudging concession to custom and, if not wisely bestowed, corrupting in their influence.

GIFTS TO CHILDREN

Take the case of presents to children. We all love to bestow a pleasure on a child; but if we indulge the impulse too freely we shall find that we are doing more harm than good. The child will begin to expect gifts, and will be disappointed if the routine is not kept up. It may even presently regard the world as offering it, as one of its rights, largesse with both hands. But, except in a very few cases, that is what the world will not do for long, and it is a mistake to create a false expectation. A child who is made to feel that all its wishes will be granted inevitably through gifts is being deprived of the power of feeling what a gift really is, namely, an unexpected endowment that creates pleasure by its suddenness and gratuitousness.

Children should be trained by being left with an active sense of want, so far as their pleasures are concerned, so that they may be able to relish a gift as something fulfilling a desire, an extra, undeserved, and a sign of welcome love. Showering of gifts may almost amount to a push towards selfishness and ingratitude. We may well be warned against this unkind kindness. Wise giving should be so arranged as to result in a reciprocal sense of love. It should not be a mere indulgence of feeling on the part of the giver, or tend to a weakening of character on the part of the receiver, young or old.

THE CHARM OF GIFT-GIVING

The greatest charm in a gift is its appropriateness. Of course we are excluding the selfish recipient who thinks first of the value of the article—what it cost or what it might sell for. Such people do not deserve a present from anybody. It is the consciousness that one's tastes or momentary needs have been studied and met that makes a gift so delightful. The study of personality involved is a delicate compliment. Because we have been really cared for, this appropriateness has been attained, and so the present comes as a proof of affectionate thought.

This charming sense that our personality is being specially ministered to must be somewhat impaired where the giving of presents lapses into a kind of seasonal habit. The custom is laudable enough when hearty feeling flows unimpeded all round the circle and the expense is not a tax on straitened means; but it may be a constraint, ill-afforded,

in some measure insincere, and a sacrifice to sentiment more honored in its breach than in its observance. Perhaps the most satisfying of all forms of giving is that which flows forth to those who will never be able to make any return except by way of grateful love. The aged, the poor, and all whom the stress of life has left exhausted, appeal to us for duty-gifts which are not one whit less beautiful than those that spring from personal affection. While we may well be careful that the outpourings of family love or of ardent friendship do not by excess make our presents commonplace or minister to selfishness, and while a following of prevailing fashions in giving is one of the most meagre forms of merit, we must guard against bringing too nice calculations into our general acts of charity. Beyond the family circle and the outer edge of friendship are the many needy whose pressing wants demand our gifts and in whose service we may revive in these money-tainted days the ancient spirit of sacrificial chivalry.

RT. REV. M. F. FALLON ON ELECTION ISSUE

London, Ont., Dec. 6.—The following statement was issued to the press tonight by His Lordship the Right Rev. M. F. Fallon, Bishop of London:

I am profoundly convinced that what every one concedes to be a crisis in the world's history has become, by reason of our war-time election, a national crisis in the history of Canada. Therefore, despite the misunderstanding or misrepresentation to which this expression of my views is certain to expose me, I feel it an obligation of conscience and a duty of citizenship to make plain my own personal position and to influence, so far as my words may influence, those who have any confidence in my deliberate judgment.

It is no exaggeration to say that the eyes of the world are fixed on Canada to-day, and that the ears of the world are listening for the message which will be voiced by the Canadian people on the 17th of December next. Nor, when we call to mind the part that Canada has played in the Great War, is it surprising that the anxious attention of the world should be directed to that momentous decision which this country will then be called upon to make.

NO ACCUSATION AGAINST LAURIER

Were I not convinced that the issue, the dominating issue, is far and away beyond and above all party politics, I should never entertain a thought of breaking silence during an electoral campaign. Nothing, moreover, is farther from my mind than to associate myself with any accusation or insinuation of insincerity or disloyalty that may be made or suggested against the venerable and illustrious Canadian who leads the Opposition or against that section of the Liberal Party which accepts his leadership in this crisis. Yet it will not be denied that every element opposed from the beginning to Canada's participation in the War, every element desirous that Canada should now withdraw from the War, as well as all those who hold it as a principle that Canada is not concerned in the War, are united in their opposition to Union Government and in their desire to bring back to power, for their own unworthy purposes, the Great Leader who disclaims all sympathy with the principles they profess.

ISSUE DWARFS ALL OTHERS

In the approaching election the issue which dwarfs all others is Canada's effective continued participation in the War. This is the issue which compels us to disregard all others, however important they might be at another time.

MUST FACE CONDITIONS OF TODAY

It is charged that, if voluntary enlistment failed in Quebec from the beginning and can no longer be relied upon elsewhere, its failure is due to the mistakes of the government that directed the War activities of Canada. Be it so. We cannot solve our difficulties of tomorrow by the idle discussion of the mistakes of yesterday. We must face squarely the conditions of to-day.

Without special reference to Canada, Sir John Simon, who two years ago withdrew from the British Cabinet because of his opposition to conscription but who now wears the King's uniform himself, thus accurately states the issue which confronts Canada in this election:

CRIME OF SLACKENING

"I can imagine only one crime which is to be compared to the crime of permitting the War to go on for an unnecessary hour, and that is the crime of slackening in our purpose, after all the sacrifices we have made."

Shall we commit "the crime of slackening in our purpose after all the

sacrifices we have made?" Can any Canadian honestly deny that the defeat of the Conscription Government would mean a real slackening of our purpose? Will not the whole world so interpret such a result of our election? Will it not bring aid and comfort to our enemies? Can we pretend to consider it a message of encouragement to our friends and allies? What will be its effect on that one of our allies which is nearest to us and with whose efforts and difficulties we are most familiar? We remember with what a thrill of exultation we heard that the great American Republic had joined us in the struggle for the defence and preservation of democracy and Christian civilization. It has become a commonplace to say that modern warfare means the mobilization of all the resources, energies and activities of the entire nation; that every one may help or hinder; that every one must do his bit or be a slacker, or worse still, be an enemy within the gates. The vast population of the United States is more heterogeneous even than our own; the consequent lack of national cohesion is an embarrassment which we ought to be able to understand. Even in his latest message to Congress, President Wilson is constrained to say:

"I hear the voices of dissent—who doesn't? I hear the criticisms and the clamor of the noisy, thoughtless and troublesome. I also see men here and there fling themselves in the conduct of disloyalty against the calm, indomitable power of the nation."

STRENGTHEN FORCES OF DISLOYALTY?

Can we placidly contemplate a verdict of the Canadian people at the polls which will strengthen these forces of disunion and disloyalty in the United States? A verdict which will hamper the efforts and increase the difficulties of the great President of that great Republic on which are now centered the hopes of the Grand Alliance for the successful issue of the War?

PART TAKEN BY CATHOLICS IN U. S.

In the mobilization of the resources of the American nation no influence has more loyally or more effectively supported the efforts of the Civil Power than the Hierarchy of the Catholic Church. The part taken by the rank and file is indicated in this statement of Secretary of War Baker, made Sept. 22, 1917:

"The Young Men's Christian Association represents the Protestant denominations, which will roughly contribute 60% of our new army. The Knights of Columbus represent the Catholic denomination which will contribute perhaps 35% of the new army."

In the United States Navy and in the Marine Corps Catholics are estimated to be at least 50%.

PROPORTIONS IN CANADA

In Ontario, under the voluntary system, the proportion of Catholics enlisted is nearly 10% higher than that of the largest Protestant denomination in the Province. In Nova Scotia the Catholic voluntary enlistment reaches the extraordinary proportion of 47% of the whole. I have seen no analysis of the official figures for the other English provinces, but I am absolutely certain that it would show the Catholics have everywhere done their full duty.

DANGEROUS CLEFTVALE

The purpose of the foregoing apparent digression will become obvious in a moment.

Under voluntary enlistment Quebec has fallen far behind the other provinces. Some who speak for Quebec offer explanations for this state of things; others neither deny it nor apologize for it. I am concerned neither with the one nor the other. What does concern me is that resentment against the province of Quebec has led to indiscriminate charges against the Catholics of Canada; and the regrettable racial division threatens to cause another and more dangerous cleavage along religious lines. This aggravation of an existing difficulty is wholly unwarranted. It is mischievous. It is criminal. I know that it is deplored and reproached by every honest man who loves Canada and has at heart the great cause for which we are fighting. In the name of justice and right and patriotism I demand that this reproach be openly expressed, that this foul thing which is an ally of the enemy be stamped out.

APPEAL TO FELLOW-CATHOLICS

And I ask my fellow-Catholics not to be misled either by mistaken sympathy with a province whose religion must not be confounded with its politics, nor by natural resentment at any insults based on such confusion.

AND TO PROTESTANTS ALSO

In the isolation of Quebec we are told there is danger to Canada. I admit it. But the isolation of Quebec is of her own choosing. It will have to cure itself. There is graver danger in needlessly confusing religion with a question purely racial. To avert this graver danger I appeal to my fellow countrymen, Protestant and Catholic alike.

DISASTROUS MORAL AND POLITICAL EFFECT

The great issue in the forthcoming

election is neither racial nor religious. It is the vital question of the hour and of the age, the question of the War. Some openly say that Canada has done enough; that she has done too much. Canada has done much—too much, if you will. It is precisely because she has done so much that she must not falter now. The military value of the aid which we are asked to send is great; refusal to send it would be a misfortune. But far and away greater than any purely military consideration would be the disastrous moral and political effect of such refusal. Better we had done too little, or that we had done nothing than now to commit "the crime of slackening in our purpose."

APPEALS FOR SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT

For the reasons here outlined or indicated I make the definite and unequivocal appeal to my fellow countrymen of the Catholic Faith to support the Union Government and the cause for which that Union was effected. And I make this appeal fully conscious of the vile and indefensible anti-Catholic propaganda that certain supporters of Union Government are conducting in its name; for I am confident, if Catholics do not play into their hands, that the bigots will in the long run injure no one but themselves. Let us meet sectarian malevolence with Catholic goodwill. To slanders, the conduct and numbers of our Catholic soldiers offer a definite and concrete refutation. Be ours the duty and the privilege of worthily supporting them at the polls.

M. F. FALLON, Bishop of London.

ABBOT OF CALDEY VISITING U. S.

SAYS GREAT PROBLEM OF CHURCH TODAY IS TO SUPPLY NEEDED CLERGY

Catholic Press Association

Dom Aelred Carlyle, the Lord Abbot of Caldey, who has come to this country from England on work connected with a great campaign to foster vocations to the depleted ranks of the priesthood in Great Britain, has announced to a representative of the Catholic Press Association that he also hopes to establish a branch of the famous Caldey Community in this country.

"There are several Americans testing their vocations at Caldey at present," said the Abbot. "Two of them are from New York. I have hopes that they will be joined by others, and that in due time I shall be able to send these American Benedictines back to their own country to form a community of contemplative monks, living under the restored primitive rule of St. Benedict."

"The special association of Benedictines with artistic and intellectual interests in the Church," the Abbot continued, "has stirred much favorable comment. There is a growing attention being paid to such matters in the United States. The beautiful new churches built recently; the deepening interest in correct and beautiful liturgical matters, are all favorable signs of the times. Even more favorable, and exceedingly remarkable, is the widespread attraction in America to mysticism, both within and without the Church."

"There are many sad and morbid manifestations of this spirit without the Church. I am sorry to remark. All sorts of strange cults and stranger freaks of the spiritual life are very plentiful among you. But even these aberrations are signs of the growing hunger and thirst of the human soul for real religion, and only within the Catholic Church may these cravings be safely satisfied. The contemplative orders of the Church exist for that very purpose, and, here as well as in Europe, will their work be newly appreciated. So I hope that the time will speedily arrive when Caldey may cooperate with the Church in America in this great work."

"But the aspect of my visit to this country which is of more pressing consequence just now is the work that Caldey hopes to do in fostering and training war vocations to the priesthood."

"The main problem of the Church in Great Britain in the immediate future will be how to fill the vacant places in the ranks of the priesthood, secular and regular, when the roll call is made at the end of the war. Bishops and provincials are looking with anxiety to the future as to how they may carry on their religious work."

"At the same time, the War has been a universal mission, and thousands are looking at the Church and re-examining her claims with more than favorable eyes. She has come out of the test of death and the battlefield as only the Church of God can. People have been brought face to face with the real thing."

"Is this great opportunity to be lost for want of priests? Is the white harvest to be left to rot ungathered for the want of laborers? If not, it means the fostering and rescue of every vocation to the priesthood and the religious life."

"God always provides, and the War has also brought our young men face

Martyrs for the gifts of Christian fortitude and resignation and for the cessation of the agony of the War. Some months later, on June 26, he appointed July 30, 1916 as a general Communion day for the children of all the world, whose intention was to be the restoration of peace. On September 8 he protested against the insinuations which had been made against his impartiality, and proclaimed that he was guided, not by self-interest but by loving concern for the common good, and that it was his duty to labor for the cause, not of any set of men, but for humanity itself. On December 4 he again expressed his desire that civil society might be restored to order, with respect for right and justice, and that peace the day star of all good, might shine forth with renewed brilliance on the nations.

Early in the following year, on January 10, he once more voiced his hope that the world might learn the way to peace. And on May 5 he again bade his children turn to the Blessed Virgin as a powerful advocate, and ordered that the invocation, "Queen of Peace, Pray for Us," should be permitted in individual dioceses, should be added to Our Lady's Litany, throughout the world, and after June 1. The culmination of his efforts in behalf of peace was his note to the heads of the belligerent Powers, dated August 1, which in spite of its critics is a monument at once to the universal affection and to the strict impartiality of the Vicar of the Prince of Peace.—America.

MSGR. BIDWELL APPOINTED ASSISTANT TO CARDINAL BOURNE

London, (Eng.)—The appointment of Msgr. Manuel Bidwell, rector of St. Mary's, Cadogan street, London, to be Auxiliary Archbishop to Cardinal Bourne is an important one, for such a post as that of the new prelate often carries with it the succession to the See. Msgr. Bidwell comes of mixed English and Spanish blood and was born in 1872 in Majorca. His family is a well known one here, though not all Catholics, and his father is in the diplomatic service. Educated at Paris and the Academy for Noble Ecclesiastics, Rome, the new Archbishop spent some time on the London mission and then occupied a post in the Papal Secretariate of State in Rome for a time. He came to England with Cardinal Vanutelli as notary to the latter at the Eucharistic Congress of London in 1908, returning the following year to take up duties at Archbishop's House as diocesan archivist. He at present holds the post of procurator fiscal to the diocese. The church of which he was the rector until his elevation to the episcopate is a very well known one, standing in the midst of a wealthy district of London. Msgr. Bidwell is at present in Spain and it is not yet known whether his consecration will take place in London or in Rome.

FRENCH PAY HOMAGE AT SOLDIERS' GRAVE

London, November 8.—"The Day of the Dead," always so solemnly observed in Catholic countries, was kept with remarkable fervor in France this year. In Paris the President and members of the Government, with representative generals of the army and admirals of the navy, visited the cemeteries of Ivry, Pantin and Bagneux.

In Paris alone nearly half a million visitors were counted at one cemetery during the day and no relative mourner departed without going to pay homage to the soldiers' tombs. In the provinces the municipalities, authorities and old soldiers visited the heroes' graves to lay wreaths and offer the homage of patriotic addresses.

In Notre Dame Cardinal Amette presided before an immense assemblage and preached a moving discourse after the Requiem Mass. He invoked the dead who speak by the voice of their blood and sacrifice and who cried for our prayers.

But perhaps the greatest celebration of All Souls' Day took place at Chalons-sur-Marne, where those who assisted were surrounded by a great concourse of dead heroes. In the Cathedral of Chalons where the Requiem Mass took place, the celebrant was Cardinal Luçon and the Bishops of Chalons and Gap, the latter a military chaplain, were present in the sanctuary.

BRITISH SURGEON PRAISES THE NURSING WORK OF FRENCH NUNS

Mrs. Bellamy Storer, writing to the Cincinnati Enquirer, calls attention to a book entitled "A Surgeon in Khaki," by Arthur Anderson Martin a surgeon in the British army and a Protestant.

Dr. Martin was killed at the battle of Somme in 1916. Speaking of the French nursing orders, he says:

"When the War broke out France was as ill-prepared in her military medical branch as we were, and she was suddenly confronted with the problem of handling and treating many thousands of wounded. It was at this critical phase that the Franciscan Sisters, and the Sisters of other religious orders, quietly took their places beside the wounded French soldiers. Just as quietly they opened up their convents, churches and buildings, warehouses, chateaux, cottages, waiting rooms, and turned them into hospitals for the wounded and sick men. Working tirelessly at night and day, knowing no fatigue and shrinking from no task or danger and glorifying in their mission, they performed marvels. The younger Sisters were put to subordinate nursing duties, and so rigorously trained by the elder ones in the principles of nursing."

"These juniors are now very competent nurses, for they learn quickly among the ample material that war provides. The wounded French soldier loves and idolizes the nursing Sister. He demands her presence and makes her his confidante. The nun is supremely happy to be back in her old place and pets and humors the wounded soldier, soothes his ardent soul, and by her skill heals his wounds."

The hierarchy of Ireland had decided to establish in Thurles the national college for the education of priests for the missions in China.

No fewer than ten thousand French, English and Belgian women carpenters are now engaged in the work of building huts for the soldiers on the western front.

Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentine Republic, is a beautiful city of about 1,200,000 inhabitants. Its Cathedral is a Grecian edifice fronted by 12 Corinthian columns. The Archdiocese dates from 1620. The city has 22 canonical parishes and 50 other churches.

All the sacred treasures that were formerly in the Constantinian Basilica of St. Peter, Rome, before it was demolished to make room for the present Archbasilica of St. Peter, commenced in the time of Michael Angelo, several centuries ago, are now in the new Vatican Museum building recently dedicated. Among them is Michael Angelo's plan for the present dome of St. Peter's.

Lieutenant Eugene Kaiser, a non-Catholic and a member of the Masonic order, has sent a letter to Mrs. J. A. Gallagher, of Denver, warmly praising the work being done by the Knights of Columbus at Fort Riley, Kansas, in their recreation centers. He pays a lofty tribute to the equipment and sociability of these centers, and maintains that the moral atmosphere surrounding the men is even better than it would be in their home towns.

The Right Rev. J. Henry Thien, of Lincoln, Neb., was installed as the third Bishop of Denver, on Wednesday, November 28. Archbishop J. B. Pitaval of Santa Fe, metropolitan of both Denver and El Paso, attended the Cathedral dedication in El Paso, hence he was not able to be present in Denver. The Right Rev. P. A. Phillips, administrator of the Denver diocese, therefore, officiated at the enthronization of Bishop Thien.

News has been received of the death of Right Rev. Taccone-Gallucci, Titular Archbishop of Costanza of Scizia. He was for twenty years Bishop of Nicotera and Tropea, then went to Rome. Leo XIII. made him a prelate assistant at the Pontifical Throne; Pius X. used his services freely as Canon of St. Mary Major's, counselor of many congregations and examiner of the Roman clergy. Benedict XV. appointed him a member of the Segnatura while reorganizing that tribunal three years ago.

Under the direction of a committee composed of the most prominent residents a movement is on foot to restore the old Franciscan Missions in San Antonio, Tex., which with the exception of the historic Alamo, have been permitted to fall into ruin. It is thought that the work will be completed in time for the celebration of the bicentennial of the advent of the Franciscan missionaries to Texas, which is scheduled for 1918. Various Catholic organizations are taking interest in the work, although it is by no means confined to Catholic activity.

The Bishop of Nevers in a pastoral letter has announced the opening of the Apostolic Process of the Beatification and Canonization of the Venerable Bernadette Soubirous, the favored child of Our Lady of Lourdes. The Bishop says: "The whole world should rise in supplication toward Heaven, for Bernadette is inseparable from the name of the Immaculate Virgin. Bernadette has repeated to the great world the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception, of which she received from the lips of the Virgin Most Pure on the 24th of March, 1858."

Catholics in the United States army "somewhere in France" are awaiting eagerly the first visit of the flying squadron of priests, the chaplains who are equipping motorcycles through money furnished by the Knights of Columbus, according to Associated Press dispatches. Twenty-nine priests will form the squadron. Twenty-two are English, who speak French and seven are Americans. More are expected from the United States. The priests will ride from village to village, holding services and organizing recreations among the men.

Msgr. Keatinge, the well known army chaplain has been appointed Chaplain-in-Chief of the British troops on all fronts and Bishop of Castris, with the titular See of Miletopolis. He is a very popular prelate, who has seen service on all fronts and has had a distinguished career as army chaplain. His appointment removes one of the grievances of the Irish clergy that they passed under the jurisdiction of an English prelate on joining the troops. Being on the spot and having no other anxieties or distractions Msgr. Keatinge will be able to give his whole energy to his work, and to filling up the many gaps in the ranks of chaplains. The new auxiliary Archbishop of Birmingham, Msgr. MacIntyre, is now V. G. of the archdiocese. Msgr. O'Hanlon having resigned on account of advancing age; he is in his seventy-ninth year.