

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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THE ABUSE OF SPEECH

Every great preacher from St. John Chrysostom to Newman has waxed eloquent on the topic of the tongue's abuse. But now we know more than our forbears knew about the machinery of talk, and should be more merciful than they in our judgments upon offenders. Not to mention hereditarily, with its strange possibilities and obscure tendencies, it is clear that the influences of our environment unconsciously sway our feelings and dictate tones and expressions which come to be characteristic. Hence arise those social barriers which divide men and women into classes, besides creating distinctions that result in much vain controversy concerning rights and duties. We sometimes hear of life-long separations which have been brought about by the process commonly known as "having had a few words." It is pathetic when friends fall out over some matter which is trivial when compared with the mutual interests involved. Those good people who sacrifice so much for so little should reflect upon the wise silence that may be more eloquent than cutting speech. In one of Dr. Johnson's plays a garrulous talker elicits the shrewd comment: "This man might have been a counsellor of State had he kept his mouth shut; now we know he is only fit to be a beadle of the ward." All admit, but too many are apt to forget:

"That fools to talking ever prone,
Are sure to make their folly known."

THE GARRULOUS

There are gentle forms of self-deception which claim our tolerance even if our hearty sympathy be denied. Thus young parents tell long stories concerning the teeth and talents of their hopeful children, never doubting that our interest in the engaging narrative will correspond with their own. It would be pleasant to think that the accounts given of later doings at school and college bore some real proportion to the facts as they are known to their teachers; but, alas, human nature is what it is, and the parent's vision is colored by the unique relationship which singles out the child of so much exclusive love and care! Certain juvenile callings are apt to give birth to erroneous expectations. We have all heard of the muttered growl of the old apple-woman as the white-robed altar-boys issued through the sanctuary door of the cathedral in sight of the admiring party of tourists. "Ah, yes, they think you're angels, but I know ye!"

HOPE AND STRENGTH

The nation that is true to God cannot go far astray; and the nation that is false to God can make of its greatest festivals nothing but sounding brass. And if you would seek the philosophy of the fact, there is the secret of the Irish disposition. Ireland has gone through enough suffering to drive forever the smile from her face; yet in the midst of it all she has retained her light and joyous heart. There is but one way to explain it; it is the joy of religion, the consciousness that no matter what else has happened the greatest thing of which the greatest nation is capable—fidelity to God—has ever been as flourishing as the green of Erin. Idealist has the Irishman sometimes been called, and in a tone of reproach. But it is that idealism of his which is his best asset, an idealism which may better be called by its true name of trust in God.

THE GREAT ARGUMENT

In this age of religious unrest men are looking about for a creed to satisfy the religious aspirations of their souls: sooner or later they must turn their attention to the Catholic Church and it is only the conduct of her children which can give convincing proof of her truth and her worth. Weak-kneed, spineless, snobby Catholicism, which comes from an unnatural craving for so-called social companionship and prestige, will only be an obstacle in the Church's way. Indifference and

superficiality in religious practices, too frequently the result of the commercializing spirit of the age, will only make doubly difficult her task. Loyalty to Catholic principles, frank, whole-souled profession of Catholic faith, without compromise or concession—here is the Catholic layman's power, here lies, with God's grace, the bountiful source whence success must come to crown the Church's labors.

A GOOD POINT

A contemporary very neatly pillories a class of critics who think they can do things better than they are being done by those in charge. It says very aptly: "There are plenty of people who could teach a better school than those who teach, preach a better sermon than those who preach, run a better business and publish a better paper than those who do their best." Yes, the woods are full of them, but they neither preach, teach, run a business nor publish a better paper.

KEEPING AT IT

The increasing strain upon the human organism is now felt so acutely that all kinds of short cuts to efficiency and royal roads to learning are advocated. Physical development and mind training; aids to memory and hygienic devices to outflank life's secret foes; summer schools for teachers and special courses for all those who would find prizes in the professional or mercantile arena—these and other attractive allurements are held out to stimulate ambitious youth. As for the older ones who have found out their limitations, they cannot easily persuade themselves that fate has any better things in store for them. Yet so many instances of unsuspected reserve force breaking forth at the right moment, not only in the lives of the great and distinguished, but in the ranks of the plodders at some lowly craft, are on record for our encouragement that none need despair of a reasonable success which will bring true happiness in its train. The mistake so many make is to fancy that the insignificance of their position and task implies inability to transcend its limits. Now the fact is that even the lowliest work demands that we should rise above it. Only those who bring to their day's toil more ability, more thinking power than fit seems to require ever develop the higher possibilities either of the task or their own nature.

IRISH OPINION AND THE CRISIS

In a leading article recently, the Freeman's Journal, discussing the crisis, said: "The stakes are far too great to have been put upon the table merely over the question whether Austria should be allowed to punish Serbia for her truculence. The Serbian incident is obviously merely the excuse. We are in presence of the dreadful outbreak which the friends of peace vainly urged would be the inevitable result of the mad competition of armaments. At some stage the point was bound to be reached when, merely to escape from the nightmare, the Great Powers involved were certain to put all to the test. With German credit breaking down, with Austria confronted by the rise of new forces in the Balkans and the check to her ambitions towards the south-east, with Russia threatened by the final defeat of her role in the Turkish Empire, with France strained to her last man to maintain her frontiers intact, and with England confronted by the rise of a new naval Power whose master claimed to be 'Admiral of the Atlantic,' the restraining influences of last gave way, and we are confronted by an Armageddon as the climax to all our boasted modern progress. It has often been the happy fate of Ireland, wherever her sympathies have been moved, to be the detached spectator of foreign wars, and even of wars within the Empire. But no nation that is free, or hopes to be free or to maintain its freedom, can escape the fortunes of this conflict. All our fates are about to be decided. It is a moment to draw together and to realize the responsibilities of nationhood. There is but too much ground for the belief that the mad preaching of civil strife in Ireland was one of the influences determining the engineers of this monstrous outbreak." Next day the same journal referred to Mr. Redmond's speech in Parliament as "a declaration as historic as any ever made by Grattan." This momentous and historic declaration was received with sensational cheering from all parties

in the House of Commons. Mr. Redmond deliberately abstained from introducing into his speech any controversial topic beyond expressing the hope that out of the situation there might come a result that would be good not merely for the Empire, but for the future welfare and integrity of Ireland."

THIS TOOK PLACE IN ENGLAND

AND THE "BENIGHTED LATIN" HAD BETTER SIT UP AND TAKE NOTICE

The New York Evening Post, one of the oldest and most representative newspapers in the metropolis has been running in its columns various items of interest taken from its files of one hundred years ago. Among these we note that in the Evening Post of June 29, 1914, there appeared an account, taken from a London paper, of the sale by a man of his wife at public auction. The lady "went" for the handsome sum of 29 shillings. The account of the transaction reads as follows: "Another of these disgraceful transactions took place in Smithfield on Saturday last, where a man, by trade a shoemaker, and who added to the profession, though not what it ought to be the practice, of the preacher of the gospel, exposed his wife, a decent looking young woman, apparently about twenty-five years of age, to sale, at the public railing with a halter about the waist. She was purchased by a hay salesman for 29 shillings, and was delivered to him with all due form." The wording of the article—"another of these disgraceful transactions" shows that this custom of wife-selling was not at all uncommon. And this in England, the home de luxe of Protestantism and of the great Anglo-Saxon race at the opening of the nineteenth century! The fact that the offender was a "preacher of the Gospel" makes the information all the more enlightening.

IRELAND AND MR. REDMOND'S DECLARATION

Recently the Freeman's Journal said: "The deadly trial of strength between Great Britain and Germany for the mastery of the sea has, therefore, begun. It is a moment in which the fate and the fortunes of every citizen of the British Empire are at stake. Mr. Redmond has given Ireland its lead in the fateful crisis, and has not merely sealed the solidarity of the nations of the Empire in the struggle, but brought the union of Irishmen themselves perceptibly nearer. His declaration has been endorsed by a united people. Our correspondence columns to-day show how the action of the Irish leader has touched the heart of every Irish Unionist not poisoned by the rancor of the Earl of Bessborough. The Earl calls upon his friends in the South to rally to the support of the Irish Volunteers. A Ponsobly, unless he was false to the traditions of his house, could do no other. The fiction that Imperial patriotism and the national flame were irreconcilable has been finally and irrevocably shattered by the Irish leader's action. There is no longer any ground for the creed of the Irishmen who used to say that they would be Nationalists if they were not loyal to the Empire. Ireland is ready to defend her shores against foreign aggression. What Emmet would have done against France if she came as an aggressor in the last century, all Ireland is prepared to do to-day against any enemy that comes in the same guise. The declarations of Protestant Unionists like Mr. Donovan, of Camolin, who a few months ago presided over a meeting of Wexford Unionists against Home Rule; of Mr. H. M. O'Grady, of Limerick; show how the Spirit of the hour is working. The Provisional Committee of the Irish Volunteers has followed up Mr. Redmond's declaration by the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted recently at a special meeting: 'The Standing Committee of the Irish Volunteers desires, on behalf of the Irish Volunteers, to express their complete readiness to take joint action with the Ulster Volunteer force for the defence of Ireland.' Every Nationalist Irishman is prepared to do his duty, and tens of thousands of Unionist Irishmen are prepared to stand with their countrymen in the ranks of their country's defenders. . . . Meantime our vital concern is with the dreadful tragedy of which the northern seas will now be the scene. The British Fleet carries with it the destiny of these lands. Success there will not merely mean the security of these shores, but the immediate emancipation of our trade and commerce from half the disasters of the war. That it should be swift and decisive in the interests of all Europe and of

humanity at large. For a German Trafalgar will hasten the end of a conflict which, if Europe had been thoroughly emancipated, should never have occurred. . . . What ever the issues a week ago, the event will now decide the freedom of Europe. A Teutonic triumph means the disappearance of France as a first-class Power, the permanent crippling if not the break up of the British Empire, the disappearance of Belgian independence, the German tutelage of Holland, the final enslavement of the rising Slav nations."

A CHANGE OF HEART IN PORTUGAL

It will surprise many to know, writes a correspondent of the Catholic Press Association, that on the occasion of the elevation of Monsignor Bello, Patriarch of Lisbon, the Cardinal reserved "in petto" at the consistory of 1911, who has now joined the ranks of the Sacred College, His Eminence not only received thousands of congratulations from Catholics, but he actually received official congratulations from the Portuguese Republic. Amongst the many callers at the Patriarch's residence one of the first was Senator Machado, President of the Council, who presented the congratulations that he might present the congratulations of the Government. This action has created widespread surprise. Many people are indignant that such men should have the audacity to act as submissive sons of the Church which they are persecuting so bitterly at the instigation of the Masonic lodges. Other persons, however, think the Republic is learning the error of its ways and is anxious to re-establish relations with Rome.—Philadelphia Standard and Times.

WHY ENGLAND FIGHTS

It is well for England that in this day when she is bared for battle, she goes into the fight with the knowledge that she is striking for the noblest of all causes—for the sake of human faithfulness for the sanctity of treaties and of trust between nations. For one moment it seemed that there might be room for hesitations and doubt—for some difference of opinion as to whether, and how far, we were bound in duty and honor to come to the aid of France in this, the hour of her great need. All perplexity was ended when Germany without provocation invaded and brutally violated the neutrality of the little State she was pledged and sworn to respect. But first consider the international situation as it stood before this crowning crime was committed. For one moment it seemed that there might be room for hesitations and doubt—for some difference of opinion as to whether, and how far, we were bound in duty and honor to come to the aid of France in this, the hour of her great need. 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