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DISCOURAGED IN SEARCH

A CONVERT TELLS HOW SOME OF US MAKE IT HARD TO LEARN OF FAITH

Some time ago I met with a very interesting person who told me the story of his life, and, indeed, it was interesting in the extreme.

He related how he went to a concert in a certain city at which he knew many Catholics and many priests would be present.

"I should advise him to pray," said the little priest, and hurried back to the concert room 15 minutes before he needed have done so.

"You may say," he said, "that this was foolish, and there were plenty of things I could have done."

"I wanted to tell you this story of my life," he said to me, "because I feel that there are hundreds in the world to-day who, like myself, are held back by shy nervousness which makes it so hard to speak of the secrets of the soul, ignorant as I was ignorant, that day by day this great prayer is rising, 'Intercede for our separated brethren.'"

He continued: "I want to ask a question which has to be addressed mainly to those who have been Catholics from the beginning. It is just this: Are the Catholics of this land—the ordinary rank and file members of the church—doing what they might towards the conversion of this country, for which we pray? Are they doing their duty to the church, to their fellow countrymen and themselves? I do not think so. Indeed, I fear that the majority do not even realize that such a duty exists."

"This duty of helping these outside the church is peculiarly and especially the work for the laity to perform. The priests for many reasons cannot do it. Most of them have enough and more than enough to do already and it is obviously impossible for them to go out in search of the possible convert. Besides, the possible convert is shy and very fearful. It he has been reared in the atmosphere of a rigidly Protestant home, he has been brought up on a diet of false statements about the Church which will have made him positively afraid of priests."

POPE GIVES AUDIENCE TO A DEAD BISHOP

SPECIMENS OF CANARDS AGAINST WHICH VATICAN HAS WARNED THE WORLD

Since the beginning of the war, the Pope has repeatedly warned the world against alleged "Vatican" news, most of which is fabricated by imaginative scribes, generally to discredit the Papacy.

A splendid example of this unscrupulous method of fabrication appeared recently in the "Resto del Camino" of Bologna, from the pen of its "Vatican correspondent," telling of an audience granted by the Pope to Msgr. Celestine Douais, Bishop of Beauvais. The audience (according to this newspaper) was really moving.

But as Bret Hart says, "things are not what they seem," for alas, Msgr. Celestine Douais was not at the audience described by the Bolognese paper for the unanswerable reason that he has been dead for the past twelve months.

THE MASTER OF LIFE AND DEATH
There is but one—the Christ who walked the sea and spoke the magic word that conquered Death.

THE ONE THING LACKING
No doubt excellent motives inspired the holding of the Religious Educational Convention in Chicago recently; and, merely as a sign of awareness that there exists a need which the educational system does not supply, it is a hopeful sign.

THE FRUITFUL CAUSE OF RATIONALISM
Last week we reminded our readers of something of which very few Catholic or Protestant Christians were aware—the vigorous propaganda now being waged in behalf of Rationalism.

HIS OLD TEACHER
In a big hospital in a wide middle west city lies a little, white-haired woman in what the doctors say will be her last illness.

POPE WAS INVITED TO HAGUE CONFERENCE
FAMOUS LETTER OF HOLLAND'S QUEEN
In view of the many rumors current of late that the Pope is to be excluded from the Peace Conference at the end of the war, it is interesting to recall the now historical letter sent by the Queen of Holland seventeen years ago to Leo XIII, inviting him to the Hague Conference.

DEAR GOD FORGIVE US

Dear God forgive us for our erring ways
Our foolish blunders and our wasted days
We are so weak.
We do not mean to disobey Thy will
But oh, it seems we are but children still
With stumbling feet.

A PRAISEWORTHY DISTINCTION
A splendid example for other places in Rhode Island has been set by the city of Woonsocket, in its observance of Good Friday. A movement inaugurated in 1912 has now assumed city-wide proportions and practically all the stores, saloons, theatres and business houses close from 12 noon till 3 p. m., out of respect for the three hours' agony of our Lord.

A REMARKABLE RECORD
Father Hull, S. J., quotes in the Bombay Examiner from a French paper the remarkable record of the Jesuits in the great European war.

DIED
POPE.—In Parkhill, Ont., on Thursday, April 20th, Mr. Frank Pope, in his sixty-fourth year. May his soul rest in peace.

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