

The Catholic Record

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LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 3, 1920

ARE WE DETERIORATING?

We pose the question chiefly with regard to the Catholic boys of today as compared with the boys of yesterday.

Today the schools are better and more numerous; the facilities for secondary and higher education much greater.

Something is lacking, for in many respects we are hardly or barely able to fill the ranks of the inexorable hand of time depletes.

There may be many contributory causes. One stands out and will hardly be denied by any one whose experience has compelled thoughtful consideration of the question.

In extension it is often said by sisters and mothers that it was easier a generation or two ago than it is today; even teachers and fathers countenance this molly-coddling suggestion.

Neither forty years or four hundred years ago was anything worth accomplishing done without effort as great and greater than is required today.

Charles M. Schwab was called upon, after five big men had fallen down on the job, to evoke and direct the gigantic effort put forth under the tremendous stress of war conditions in the vital matter of ship building.

Mr. Schwab writes: "For thirty six years I have been moving among workmen in what is now the biggest branch of American industry, the steel business."

The italics are Mr. Schwab's. Just give a little serious consideration to what follows: "American industry is spilling over with men who started life even with the leaders, with brains just as big, with hands quite as capable."

Now is there a reader who has not heard the excuses with which Mr. Schwab deals in the following paragraphs: "The men who miss success have two general alibis: 'I'm not a genius' is one; the other, 'There aren't the opportunities today there used to be.'"

"Neither excuse holds good. The first is beside the point; the second is altogether wrong." (Italics ours.) "The thing that most people call 'genius' I do not believe in. That is, I am sure that few successful men are so-called 'natural geniuses.'"

"There is not a man in power at our Bethlehem steel works today who did not begin at the bottom and work his way up, round by round, simply by using his head and his hands a little more freely and a little more effectively than the men beside him."

"To my mind," writes the steel king a little later on, "the best investment a young man starting out in business can possibly make is to give all his time, all his energies, to work—just plain hard work."

The gospel of hard work is not popular today. It is not popular in schools where young men of fifteen or sixteen take that child's examination—the High School Entrance—which moderate but honest hard work has given to others at twelve, eleven and even at ten.

Let our boys hear in season and out of season that never in the history of the world were the opportunities so great as they are today. Let them be taught self-confidence, self-reliance and self-discipline.

It is not for the comparative few who may attain prominence that these considerations are put forth. It is for the farmer, the salesman, the mechanic, as well as for the doctor, the lawyer, the eminently successful man in business.

It is noteworthy that both Senator Harding and Governor Coolidge, the Republican candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States, started life on the farm.

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For there are many kinds of farmers. The boy who is going to be a farmer should not be content with the easy-going drudgery all too common on the farm. He should look forward to making farming a work that will satisfy to the full the intelligence and the ambition of a healthy-minded Canadian boy.

Only out of such a soil cultivated in youth will spring the men who will worthily fill the places of those who succeeded under more difficult conditions.

THE IRISH "OUTRAGE"

It is impossible from anything the despatches have given us to obtain much light on the causes of the fighting in Londonderry.

The systematic diffamation of Sinn Fein, indeed of all Ireland outside the minority faction of Ulster; the crowding into Ireland of soldiers, tanks, armored cars, airplanes and all other munitions of war, made it obvious that at least a powerful faction in the Government desired nothing so much as an excuse to begin the "reconquest of Ireland."

Under date June 6th, the Toronto Globe had in its cable summary of the official list of "outrages" this characteristic and illuminating paragraph: "Oak Grove House, in Mid-Cork, former home of the family of Capt. Bowen Colthurst, was burned to the ground yesterday morning."

Francis Sheehy-Skeffington had nothing whatsoever to do with the Dublin Rebellion except to try to organize a voluntary police force to prevent looting during the consequent disorder.

This man Captain Bowen Colthurst murdered in cold blood. He murdered several others as well. His brother officers, forced by public opinion to court-martial him, found him guilty of the charge of murder, but that he was "insane."

But, note the fact, this lunatic was allowed to continue in his command for ten days after he had "executed" the boy Conde and other boys of whose murder Sheehy-Skeffington was an eye-witness, and had "executed" the editors Dickson and McIntyre.

The attempt to prejudice English opinion against any form of self-government on the ground that Irishmen are naturally incapable of discipline and if left to themselves would turn the country over to violent anarchy is thoroughly unfair.

The Manchester Guardian of May 8th, referring to the official list of "outrages," says: "The attempt to prejudice English opinion against any form of self-government on the ground that Irishmen are naturally incapable of discipline and if left to themselves would turn the country over to violent anarchy is thoroughly unfair."

Leaving out the disputed point of Irish independence, Sinn Fein does preach self-discipline and the need for responsibility. It is not only evolving its own courts and police; it is doing its best to combat all sporadic lawlessness and to evolve its own moral.

The policeman in Miltown-Malby against whom the coroner's jury returned a verdict of wilful murder, have since been arrested. Commenting on this the Daily News says: "This is, we believe, the twenty-fourth time in which a verdict has been found by an Irish jury against the police or the military, or both."

Day after day, the "thoroughly unfair" campaign of calumny

against Ireland has been kept up. Day after day deliberate silence as to police raids and military raids, police murders and military murders, and the thousand and one acts of ruthless tyranny intended to goad the unarmed or absurdly inadequately armed youth of Ireland to some action which would justify the use against them of the forces of the crown armed with tanks and armored cars, airplanes and artillery, and all the horrible efficiency of modern warfare.

We shall see whether or not the conscience of England and of the world has been so dulled with the daily diet of "outrages" that it will stand even this British outrage in Ireland as it stood the Turkish massacre of the Armenians without effective protest.

The matter came before the British House of Commons. Official inquiry was promised. On May 10th, Mr. Henry, Attorney General for Ireland, informed Lieut. Commander Kenworthy that military courts of inquiry had been held into the cases where inquests had been held in connection with losses of life in Dublin, Miltown-Malby, and Arklow, but it was not proposed to publish the evidence.

Commenting upon these lists the "British Independent," which is opposed to the Sinn Fein policy, says editorially, May 13: "It is quite obvious that the official reports of outrages in Ireland issued daily from Dublin Castle are intended for consumption abroad."

The light is slowly creeping into the shadow-filled corners of European diplomacy despite censorship and equivocation; and a few facts are becoming plain. Germany is playing the European powers off against one another; in much the same fashion in which Turkey kept her place in Europe so long; a place which she is going to hold still, by the way, and for an indefinite period.

The Treaty of Versailles is already practically abandoned. Germany is calmly refusing to carry out its terms; and England and Italy have, to all appearances, overborne France, and are going to let Germany out of many of the most vital parts of the Treaty.

Russia, still in the hands of socialist tyranny, and ruled upon principles which are directly inspired by the devil, including the destruction of religion and of family life, is about to be recognized by England and Italy because they foresee that Germany's trade will be important to them. In this also, France is overborne; Russia's dictators are also playing the game of setting off the interests on some of the Allies against the others.

While there are many arguments in favor of the United States signing the Treaty, one wonders less and less at her not doing so, the longer one watches the European powers playing the same old selfish game.

German cynicism is having a good time these days. Where are our grand professions? Where are the fine and high sounding principles for which our brave soldiers thought they were giving their lives? Europe is being re-arranged; not reconstructed; upon the same old basis; the balance of power is now more candidly admitted to be the balance, not of military power, but of money power; that is the chief difference between the re-arrangement now going on, and previous re-arrangements made after other wars.

Victor Giraud, a French writer, says:

"England, of all the victorious powers, has unquestionably gathered the greatest amount of tangible profits from the victory. All her dreams have been realized; she has got to great a share in the partition of territory that she has all but forgotten the most elementary duties of European solidarity."

Mistress of a large part of Asia and Africa, as well as of Australia, she has thought it possible to neglect Europe. In her fever of economic and commercial imperialism, she has lost sight of the German peril; we may suppose that, jealous of France, she has speculated on our impoverishment and on all the embarrassments which we shall find in a Germany insufficiently disarmed, and that she is willing to retard, even to paralyze, our revival, to secure a lead over us, which we can never catch up with and eliminate in the world's markets troublesome competition and reduce France to a second class power, forever dependent on Anglo-Saxon products and commerce.

THE SCRIPTURAL GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE

We call attention to the Rev. Mr. Johnston's letter to the Globe on Divorce and the Scriptures which we reproduce on page 1. Here is a case where honest and conscientious private interpretation of the Scriptures has led to the precise doctrine of the Catholic Church on Divorce.

But even this honest Christian has been impressed by the twaddle that under present conditions divorce is only for the rich; if allowed at all it should be made accessible to the poor as well. The Christian Guardian has been slopping over with sympathy for the poor who are thus debared from cheap divorce "on scriptural grounds."

As a matter of fact the overwhelming majority of the cases that come before the Senate Committee are from the laboring class. And the fee of two hundred dollars is always remitted if it is claimed to be too onerous for the financial resources of the applicants.

The Senate Committee is composed of especially competent members of the Senate; most of them lawyers, all of them competent and trained in taking and sifting evidence. It has been said by competent critics to combine all the advantages of judge and jury. Cases passed upon by this Committee are accepted by the Senate and House as settled. Almost invariably their decision is accepted and acted upon.

THE SAME OLD COMPETITION

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but in every century since St. Francis' time, as in every age before it, such manifestations of faith have amongst Catholics been unintermittent. He has but to journey to the far-famed grotto at Lourdes, for example, or to our own shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre, at any time during the pilgrim season, to witness a spectacle which as a manifestation of faith and of confidence in God's constant presence here on earth and of His open-ear to the cry of the distressed, far transcends the recent event in Toronto. This is said in no carping or disparaging spirit, but as a reminder simply that what to Protestants is a novelty is to every Catholic worthy of the name an integral part of his spiritual life.

Nevertheless, we repeat, no Catholic will have contemplated the Toronto affair in other than a respectful, a sympathetic, and let us add, a hopeful spirit.

WHAT is known as suffragism, and the ambition of women, or an increasing section of them, to abandon their time-honored sphere in the home and to enter into the problems and complexities of politics and economics, is usually regarded as a development of these latter days. That it was not unknown in the age of Elizabeth, and subsequently, is a fact familiar to every student of the time. Distinct evidence of it is contained in a very rare pamphlet by an unknown author, entitled "Hic Mulier, or the Man-Woman," published in 1629, a copy of which we have recently seen. The book is described in the sub-title as "A Medicine to Cure the Colish Disease of the Staggers in the Masculine-Feminine." Needless perhaps to say it is not always either delicate or respectful in its language.

It is said that the manners and temper of an age are reflected rather in its lesser than in its greater writers, and while the justification of the saying is not always clear, it finds some exemplification in the pamphlet referred to, the writer of which is certainly not in the first class. Nevertheless, that he has had influence upon the development of language and letters, is proven by the value placed upon this effusion, which in the London auction mart recently sold for £40. Of Ben Jonson, who does rank among the greater writers, it has been said that Elizabethan England found no mirror more exact than his plays. The saying quoted has perhaps a truer application to the middle ground, or to a combination of the two.

THE AUTHOR of the pamphlet, whoever he may have been, would find a ready mark for his satires in the Society of today, so little does human Nature change from one age to another. And if his preachment were in vain in the seventeenth century it can scarcely be affirmed that they would have any effect in the twentieth. He speaks of "the disgrace of the whole sex, who amaze men's minds with their strange proportions," by which he means extravagances in dress and in the toilet. But, though his invective sometimes gets the better of his humor, this unnamed prophet often hit the mark, and had withal an imposing gift of rhetoric with some weight in argument. His thunder was often real, and smote at us as we may, it is with the knowledge that with it there is lightning that sometimes strikes home. "We may be sure," says a modern critic, "that not every wench that heard him in 1620, for all she may have bitten her thumb at him, went away quite unabashed." So that satirists have their usefulness, and never more so than in the age in which we live.

HOLY FATHER AND THE "K. B. S." CRUSADE

The spread of the Knights, Handmaids, and Pages of the Blessed Sacrament in Italy has been so considerable lately that it became necessary to appoint a priest-director to organize the work, and Father Giuseppe Paccagnella was recently nominated by the Knight-Director. Father Paccagnella laid his plans before the Holy Father, who has been keenly interested in the work of the crusade all over the world. The following message from Cardinal Gasparri has been received by the Italian Director: "The Holy Father has been pleased to read the letter in which Your Reverence has informed him that you have lately been appointed by the Reverend Edmund Lester, S. J., as Director-General for Italy of the Crusade of the Knight, Handmaid, and Page of the Blessed Sacrament. Considering the high aim of this institution, which is that of promoting among the faithful the practice of much more frequent Communion

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