

church has reported what indeed the men are really in front of. It is not the text-book and the Bible. It is the gin shop, the gambling hell, the carpet-bagger, the sharper and the disreputable element of America which is following the army like a flock of unclean birds. The natives are not prepossessed in favor of what is represented to them as American civilization. At the conclusion of its vigorous philippic the *Enquirer* avows that it is "a secular newspaper and has no interest in church controversies, but the fact of Filipino civilization and the fact of their highly religious character are matters of history which no one can falsify."

Repeating History.

As was said more than once during the Dreyfus agitation, the Catholics of France will have to pay "for the broken pots." It is the old story,—it started long ago in Rome with the cry, "The Christians to the lions!" Evidently the religious Orders will be the first to receive the stroke. It was ever thus. But God brings good from evil. The number of Carmelite saints to-day in heaven would be less had it not been for French persecution. Persecution of the Orders in America is but in embryo, but it will crystallize. Perhaps, as one writer prophesies, "they will pick the locks of the convent portal, and they will order their henchmen to throw holy maidens and pious old men out on the street." Granted that the monk-haters succeed, "you will be surprised," said a French writer addressing his countrymen, "by their calm resignation when they depart toward their exile. They know what you know not—that God is everywhere and is eternal."

On the Threshold.

At the close of another year our hearts again go out to our dear readers and friends to whom we tender our fervent wishes for every joy from our new-born Lord. May He give them a new year overflowing with all that is good. Looking to the future, we make but few specific promises, but assure our readers that we shall make it our duty to study their wants. Our prospects are the brightest, and we are told by our able literary contributors that divers good things are in store for

us. Our Very Reverend Father Provincial at times will entertain us with his vivacious and sparkling talks. The Reverend Prior of our Canadian Carmel will prepare some solid and popular articles on the current festivals. This will be supplemented by a series of beautiful dogmatical, devotional and ethical discourses, most striking in their originality, by the Reverend ex-Provincial. In her quota for the new year the loveable *Enfant de Marie* has already despatched to us from across the Atlantic a casket of exquisite literary gems. In the line of fiction, a charming story by a noted writer will begin in the early numbers of 1900. An extended feature of our magazine will be the narration of the many miraculous favors wrought through the intercession of our Blessed Lady of Mount Carmel. These are only some of the good things promised for next year, and we beg our readers to show their good will and co-operation by now promptly renewing their subscription.

Anent war taxes, would it not be a good idea to tax the theatres during the holidays as they did in Spain? The proceeds would brighten the existence of many a poor family at Christmas.

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We wish every choice blessing to our readers at the approaching holy season. May the Queen of Carmel obtain untold favors for them in the new year. We thank our dear friends for their kind support and unflagging interest in our work, and hope they will be loyal to this little magazine which now enters its eighth year. You will earn our gratitude and fervent prayer by remembering us at Christmas in a substantial way.

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The *Pittsburg Observer* is doing a herculean work in uniting Catholic societies. May God bless its efforts. Union is strength. It will do away with fraternal friction and solve the question of nationality. Instead of being American Catholics, members of these societies will become Catholic Americans.