An East End Catholic Rally

THE CARDINAL'S MESSAGE TO CATHOLIC ELECTORS.

(Concluded.)

ADDRESS BY THE CARDINAL.

His Eminence Cardinal Bourne expressed his thanks to the Mayor for his gracious words of welcome; he himself took those words as an earnest of what was felt by the people of Stepney towards the Catholics in their midst. Catholics in the East End of London were never-failing in their co-operation in all that was for the common good of their fellow-citizens. They had the satisfaction of knowing, also, that their co-operation was valued and welcomed. Speaking of the weather conditions, and of his own recent indisposition, due to them, His Eminence said that there was a moment on Sunday when it had seemed that he must fail in keeping his promise to be with them on that occasion in which he had such pleasure. It was a matter of the greatest satisfaction to him to hear them singing their hymns so heartily in unison. When he beheld that great meeting he saw not only those actually present, but those far greater number whom they represented — the Catholic working men throughout the whole country, who were working perhaps under hard and difficult conditions. That great body of men also represented something else—the power which the working man possessed as an elector. That power could be used for good or for harm, or it might even be left unused altogether. The fact that it could be used for good or harm, or not used at all, showed very clearly that a great responsibility rested upon then. He was not a politician; but politics interested him, because, with politics in the wider sense, the whole future, not only of our nation but of the whole British Commonwealth, was concerned. He was himself debarred, by his position, from taking and active part in politics; but he had nevertheless to consider the question of what must be the position, in political matters, of sincere, earnest Catholics, who were obedient to the voice of their Church. The Church had never professed to lay down any hard and fast rule regarding politics. The Church had to deal with the moral law, and to pronounce definitely thereon; it was no part of her Divinely-appointed mission to interfere in politics. The Church had, however, laid down very definite rules in regard to any political party which taught, definitely and overtly, principles opposed to those which she herself lays down for the guidance of her members; and Catholics might not, according to the Church's teaching, belong to any political party whose principles were in direct opposition to her own. He was glad to think that, at the present time in this country, there was no political party which was openly and directly in opposition to the Catholic Church. Twenty years ago, however, we came very near to that position, for at that time constant and direct attacks were made by the Liberal Party against Catholic education; and against those attacks Catholics were obliged to make a firm stand; that state of things had, however, happily passed.

His Eminence then referred to an episode which occured last year, and which had been greatly misjudged and misrepresented. That was at the time of the Eucharistic Congress in Amsterdam, when the editor of a newspaper published in that city had questioned him as to the attitude of the Labour Party in England towards the Catholic Church. He had answered that editor that, so far as he knew, there was nothing in the policy of the Labour Party in this country which was actually in opposition to the Church. He had reason to believe that the leaders of the Labour Party were unconsciously approximating towards Catholic views. "My words to that editor," said His Eminence, "were uttered in French; they were put into Dutch, and afterwards into English, and the result was certainly unsatisfactory." But there were further results, and much more serious ones. When these words were spoken in July, there was no anticipation of a General Election. When, however, the General Election was proceeding, a certain Labour electioneer got hold of the words, and embroidered them. His version of the words was that the Cardinal had advanced the opinion that the views of the Labour Party in England approximated more nearly to Catholic principles than did those of any other party. "I never said that," His Eminence declared emphatically. What he (the Cardinal) did say, and meant to say, was that on certain questions the policy of the leaders of the Labour Party unconsciously had changed to something much nearer to Catholic principles than had formerly been the case. He had not excluded other parties. As a matter of fact, he did not see how statesmen in any party could approach certain moral and social problems without tending more and more to the Catholic view.

Returning to the main issue, His Eminence said that, as at present no political party in this country was openly opposed to Catholic principles, Catholics might therefore belong to any party they chose. But they must bear in mind three things: First, that no man could go the whole way with his party; because every party was guided in this country by men who very often did not know, and certainly did not yet accept, all the principles of the Catholic Church. Secondly, Catholics must go straight, in obedience to the voice of conscience, and keep their party straight. Then, again —but he hoped this was a very far-off and improvable hypothesis—if it should be that their party developed principles which were in opposition to those of their Church, it would be particular. His Eminence said that he considered it a mistake, from every point of view, for the Labour Party to allow itself to be called the Socialist Party. We were accustomed, here in England, to use terms in a rather vague fashion. Accordingly, a man spoke of his as a "Socialist" might mean that he was in favour of social development, or social progress in some form or other. But there was one certain technically termed type of Socialism which was absolutely condemned by the Church. He trusted that they would remember that in Continental countries Socialism was in direct opposition to the Church's principles and teachings. His Eminence then, to illustrate the distinction between the technical type of Socialism condemned by the Church and that form of it which simply referred to social betterment, read extracts from Leo XIII's Encyclical Rerum Novarum on social conditions as represented by the extreme of luxury and avaricious grasping after wealth on the one hand, and that of excessive and debasing poverty on the other.

In conclusion His Eminence said: "Never forget this: that class warfare is contrary to the principles of humanity and the teachings of the Catholic Church. Do not let party politics or false principles of Socialism interfere with the harmony which should prevail amongst us, but let all work together in good will for the good of all."

Try frying together sliced apples and onions.

A little nutmeg and onion juice makes nice seasoning for mashed potatoes.

For the invalid dish of poached egg on toast, the toast should be cut in cubes.

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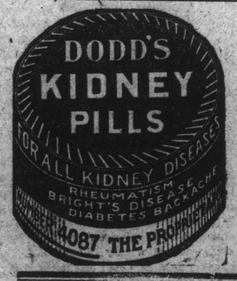

Health News

ISSUED BY THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

Louisiana Joins States Demanding Certificates of Health Before Marriage.

Louisiana has joined the ranks of States requiring a physical examination and a clean bill of health as a pre-requisite to the issuance of a marriage license. At the last session of the legislature, the law makers passed the Ducros Bill making it compulsory for any male applying for a marriage license to obtain from a licensed physician a certificate showing that he is free from venereal or other constitutional disease.

According to the Division of Venereal Diseases of the United States Public Health Service, such legislation has steadily gained favor since the war inasmuch as it is a distinct measure to prevent infection of innocent wives and unborn children. The incidence of congenial syphilis and of infant blindness due to gonorrhea is responsible of the enactment of such laws to prevent venereal diseases. Several States have adopted laws similar to the Louisiana Bill. One State requires the prospective groom only to state that he is free from disease. Another stipulates that a certificate of health is necessary only when the applicant has been previously infected with a venereal disease, while the laws of a few States are identical with the Ducros Bill.

North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Alabama and Utah are among the State requiring a physical examination of the mle and a certificate of health precedent to the securing of a license to marry.

At luncheon waffles may be slightly spiced.

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By Art Helfant