BISHOP SHAHAN

ON IDEALS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

In an address delivered at the "Win the War for Permanent Peace" convention held recently in Philadelphia, Right Rev. Thomas F. Shahan rector of the Catholic University, Washington, D. C, declared the political ideals of mankind which the United States of America is now effecting so closely and finally are, of course, the ideals of American Democracy.

"Whatever their remote sources," said Bishop Shahan, "whatever the degree of influence accorded to certain factors of foreign origin, American Democracy is a native growth. It absorbed at once and transmuted all racial or derived elements. It appears in the political order as a new form of government, alive with a new spirit, breathing a new purpose, and shaping new tools with which to realize its aims. It is the thrice blessed fruit of the American Revolution, that 'one far-off divine event' to which mankind had been moving for centuries. In it were caught up and consecrated all the resolute independence of the frontiersman and all the dreams of the political utopists in Europe, all the free open ways of the New England village and the cultured life of the Southern manor. . . .

"Very vaguely in the past, and intermittently, had such a political ideal been realized in Europe, always within narrow limits and in face of great odds. 'Now and then, here and there,' says Archbishop Ireland, 'liberty had for a moment caressed humanity's brow. But not until the Republic of the West was born, not until the Star-Spangled Banner rose toward the skies, was liberty caught up in humanity's embrace and embodied in a great and abiding nation.' . . .

WILSON'S EVANGEL OF AMERICANISM

"There was never a time when in every locality our genuine American democracy lacked representatives, endless in number, positive and fearless in their assertion and defense of our political ideals and ready for any sacrifice in their behalf. . . . Our Presidents have uniformly defended the interests of the republic on principles and lines of common human justice, truth and right. And when it became necessary to restate the character, aims and means of this American democracy, President Wilson rose to the great height which beckoned to him and restated in immortal terms, and in words that are often half-battles the evangel of Americanism, those convictions which are laid away secure in the heart of every true American.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WAR

"The American people, from coast to coast, reacted quickly and magnificently to the guidance of their Chief Magistrate and threw themselves whole-heartedly into a conflict which for them has only a spiritual and quasi-religious significance. It is truly a chivalrous war on which they have entered, for they held securely all the advantages of peace and deliberately set them aside only because Oppression again raised its head menacingly, but this time with an outlook on all mankind. . . .

RED CROSS EXHIBITS AMERICAN CHARITY

"Contrast now this Prussian passion of destruction and demolition with the immense charity of the American people as exhibited through the American Red Cross. The proverbial generosity of the American people reaches in this way every relievable phase of human suffering brought upon the world by the insane ambition of the men who willed and begun this War. This universal charity is evidence that the American people is not corrupted by the love of gain, nor dead to the broader interests of common humanity, nor insensible to the rights of the weak and the oppressed, nor unworthy to be called the Good Samaritan of the nations, nor unlikely to draw down upon itself the blessings of the Man of Sorrows, nor to be the agent of that Providence which has made the nations healable. It is not savage Valkyries who haunt the camps of the allied armies, but angels of charity draped in the folds of that mighty symbol which now promises relief to every human woe, as it has long encouraged every humanizing aspiration.

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY RELIGIOUS

"Be it said, finally, that our ideal American democracy is essentially religious, more particularly Christian in its principles, its history, its aspirations and its institutions. It recognizes a universal brotherhood, an overruling providence, the law of conscience, public and private, prayer and the distinctive Christian virtues of humility, mercy, pity and our mutual responsibility. It is spiritual and unselfish by nature, and it is utterly unintelligible except as a great philosophy of government based on the one hand on the law and the instincts of nature and reason, and on the other on the spirit of the Gospel and the general ethics of the Christian order of life.

POLITICAL IDEALS MUST BE BASED ON JUSTICE

"The world's political ideals must in the long run be based on a perfect justice, nor can such justice ever be reached except on the basis of the recognition of common dignity and common rights in all mankind. Surely it is not by the sword, nor by wealth, nor by learning, nor by force of cunning, that a permanent foundation can be laid for the final security of that perfect temporal welfare to which all men aspire. Only the Law of Christ can range all mankind joyously under its banner and secure to every generation that abundant liberty for which men have striven and will strive while grass grows and water runs.

"For He that worketh high and wise
Nor pauses in His plan
Will take the sun out of the skies
Ere freedom out of man."

—San Francisco Monitor.

RELIEF WORK

FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE WAR IN BELGIUM

Montreal, June 13, 1918.

To the Editor, CATHOLIC RECORD:

Dear Sir,—We have pleasure in informing you that we are in receipt of a sum of $63.00, collected by Mr. D. Girard of Spirit River Station, Alta., in answer to our appeal of May 8th, published in your valuable columns. We would be grateful to you if you would kindly inform your readers of this generous donation, publishing the enclosed list of contributors.

Thanking you for your effective co-operation in our work, we remain,

Yours very truly,
L. S. COLWELL,
Hon. Sec. Treas.

Contributors to remittance of $63 to the Belgian Relief Work, Montreal, June 4, 1918, by D. Girard, of Spirit River Station, Alta.

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ST. JANUARIUS' BLOOD CARRIED IN PROCESSION

Rome, May 7.—On Sunday Naples was "en fete" for the spring procession of St. Januarius. The ceremony on the feast-day of the saint takes place in the Cathedral, but on the May feast the statue of St. Januarius and the phial containing his blood are carried in solemn procession through the city to the Church of Santa Chiara, where this year again, after the usual prayers and litanies, the miracle was again accomplished.

A little over an hour elapsed before the liquefaction of the blood of the saint. The only absentee of note was the Mayor of Naples, a Socialist who again refused to be represented, although "ex officio" a member of the "committee of honor" during his term of office.

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CAMPBELL.—At Dominion No 4, N. S., March 28, 1918, Mr. John W. Campbell, aged 48 years. May his soul rest in peace.

MARRIAGE

DOYLE-BLANCHFIELD.—In St. John's Church, Osgoode, on June 20, by Rev. Father Frank Corkery, Thomas Patrick Doyle to Gertrude Mary Blanchfield, both of Osgoode.

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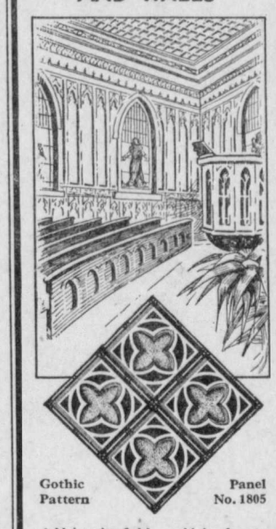

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TEACHER WANTED FOR R. C. S. S., NO. 9, Kearney, holding 2nd class Professional certificate. Normal trained. Salary $500 to $550. One who knows music and can sing preferred. Apply, stating experience, etc., to J. W. Brown, Secy-Treas., Kearney, Ont. 2070-3

TEACHERS WANTED, HOLDING FIRST OR second class Ontario certificate for R. C. schools, Fort William, Ont. Salary $600 per year. Duties to commence September next. Apply G. P. Smith, Sec., 112½ Simpson St., Fort William, Ont. 2071-tf.

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On July 2nd there will be held at Rome the Ante-preparatory Congregation to inquire into the virtues of the Venerable Brother Benildus of the Brothers of the Christian Schools with a view to his beatification. The Superior General of the Order has sent out a circular letter to all the houses of the Institute throughout the world asking for special prayers and Masses for the success of the cause. Venerable Brother Benildus died in the odor of sanctity, August 13, 1862, at Saugues, France, where he was Director of the Christian Brothers' School. Many extraordinary favors have been attributed to his intercession. 2070-13

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