

"CHRISTIAN SCIENCE" IN A QUANDARY

Amongst the numerous useful things which have grown out of the carnage of the European battle-fields, one of the most serviceable to the high cause of religion and morality is the exposure of the fallacies and humbuggery of the system called (in irony, it might well seem) Christian Science. The utter inability of that imposture to bring relief to suffering humanity, as it lies in horrid welter on the vast plains of slaughter, or to afford one ray of comfort to despairing hearts in their death agony in the slimy trenches, has been demonstrated in the face of all the world, beyond the possibility of cavil or demur. The Rev. Dr. Milo H. Gates, of Trinity Church, New York, has taken advantage of the opportunity to enforce the lesson of the failure by demanding a return of respect for the teaching of the Sacred Scriptures as to the duty of heads of families in times of sickness.

Dr. Gates has done a praiseworthy service to the cause of truth and honesty in denouncing the methods resorted to by the so-called Bible societies in order to bolster up certain schools of theology and charlatanry in science. In his first lecture, the subject being the baseness of Mrs. Eddy's book called "Key to the Scriptures," Dr. Gates, amongst other strong charges, advanced this:

"She had in her possession numerous Bibles published by an American Bible Society, and whatever key to the Scriptures she wrote really is not the complete Scriptures, but the American Bible Society Scriptures. It is rather tragic that the churches which are most harmed and in whose membership most inroads have been made by Christian Science have been the endowers and are now the contributing supporters of the American Bible Society.

"The American Bible Society has stolen two hundred and seventy-two pages of the Bible of their ancestors from the Bible. They have taken out of it passages of Scripture which would have made it impossible for the invention of such a movement as Christian Science. They have most certainly been punished, because the Christian Science Church has been built up from people who have come from churches which have had, owing to this, what I call 'The Fragmentary Bible.' Whatever membership it now gets it gets from churches which now possess such an incomplete Bible.

THE GREATEST OF OPTIMISTS

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

"It is scarcely too much to claim that Catherine of Siena is the world's greatest optimist," declares C. M. Anthony in his life of the Saint (B. W. Herder), reviewing with the London Tablet dwells thus sympathetically on this wonderful woman:

The life of St. Catherine of Siena has gained for itself many writers, not only because she was a saint, but because of the wonders about her way of self-sanctification in the midst of labors for the distressed Church. She who regarded herself as so humble a member of the Church became the strong denouncer of its abuses, in high places, as in low; she who so obeyed ecclesiastical authority took upon herself by Divine inspiration to direct Popes into better ways; she who was quite without scholastic training or higher education of any sort, yet pronounced upon complicated affairs and upon mysteries in theology. She delivered the most common-sense directions concerning the subordination of austerities to practical work, yet she herself far exceeded in her mortifications the standard which she proposed to others less divinely sustained. She joined to a contemplative life an activity which with it seemed to be quite incompatible. Keeping always up to the present time her name as popolana, she mixed with the highest dignitaries and belonged to the aristocracy of influence in exalted quarters. She managed to take part in the most bitter conflicts of her own very rough times without any bitterness of spirit, and always with the purpose and the effect of calming the storms, while eternally she never lost her own spiritual serenity, which rested on love of God and of all men for His sake. If pains of body and of outer condition could have upset her, no one could have been more thoroughly overturned; but above all these she stood sublimely erect. She had even the "joyousness" characteristic of the Franciscan and not uncharacteristic of the Dominican. "Is not sadness," she asked, "the worst of all sins?" She said that, Christ being the way, "all the way to heaven is heaven." She did not suffer the soul-killing vexations usual to the world-politicians, with whom she had to deal. Her gentleness of management contrasted with the well-intentioned harshness of Urban VI, as reformer, whose roughness, even with his own cardinals, spoiled his efforts and started a schism, in spite of Catherine's efforts to soften his asperities.

The keynote of Catherine's life was joy. Yet, if ever a saint had cause to be discouraged it was she. Not even St. Francis of Assisi himself was more perfectly informed with that child-like spirit of happiness, of sweet gaiety, which turns the gloomiest happenings to occasions of thanksgiving; which finds in the most cruel and unexpected misfortunes that here alone is perfect joy. Taking into consideration the times in which she lived, and her full and complete understanding and participation in them, it is scarcely too much to claim that Catherine of Siena is the world's greatest optimist" (pp. 4, 5).

If, even in reading dark pages of Church history, or in experiencing ourselves some present darkness, we are tempted to despair of the Church, Catherine is our example to go on hoping against hope, or with the solid hope which rests on Christ's unfailing promise. She having extraordinary trials to meet, was strengthened from the time of her young girlhood by special favors of heaven, which assured her that her future path was straight and certain of its goal. She neglected no pains to correspond with her growing graces and invitations to heroic life. At the age of seven she espoused herself as a chaste virgin with one Man, Christ (2 Cor. xi, 2). The prayer of the child who spiritually was a mature woman was addressed to Mary: "I promise thee and I promise thy Son never to accept any other spouse than Him, and to preserve myself to the best of my power pure and undefiled" (p. 10).

DEATH OF FATHER O'CONNOR

Brockville Evening Recorder, March 31  
A death occurred yesterday afternoon at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital that will be heard with deep and unfeigned sorrow in Brockville, and elsewhere in the Archdiocese of Kingston. Reference is made to the demise of Rev. Father John J. O'Connor, curate of St. Michael's church, Belleville, and formerly assistant to Very Rev. Dean Murray at St. Francis Xavier church, Brockville. Few in this town were aware of the fact he was ill as it was but on Wednesday of last week that the malady which culminated in his death, attacked him. On Thursday morning Very Rev. Dean Murray administered the last sacraments and at 4 o'clock in the afternoon the soul of the noble young priest passed peacefully to the Higher Realm. He was surrounded in his last moments with the kindly administration of a personal friend and college associate, Rev. Father Rheaume, of Smith's Falls; also his aunt, Rev. Sister Twomey, of Hotel Dieu Hospital, Cornwall, and Rev. Sisters of the St. Vincent de Paul Hospital.

The Rev. John J. O'Connor was a native of Ireland. He was born at Coahford, in the County of Cork, thirty-two years ago. He was educated under the direction of the Presentation Brothers making a primary course in their schools in Cork city. He pursued higher classics and philosophy at All Hallows College, a noted missionary institution at Dublin. Subsequently he came to Canada and studied theology in the Grand Seminary, Montreal. He was ordained in St. James Cathedral in that city on December 18th, 1899, for the Archdiocese of Kingston. Owing to a scarcity of priests in the Diocese of Hamilton he was sent by Archbishop Gauthier to that city and for some months was assistant to the late Very Rev. Dean Coty, in St. Patrick's church, Hamilton. From there he came to Brockville in 1912, and remained here until early in May of last year when he was transferred to Belleville.

While in Brockville he sustained the bereavement of his father, Mr. John O'Connor, who was a prominent member of the Irish Nationalist party and devoted follower of Mr. John Redmond, the leader of the party in the British House of Commons. He leaves one brother, Mr. Denis O'Connor, an accountant with the Grand Trunk Railway in Chicago, and who arrived here this afternoon. He was a nephew of the late Very Rev. Dean Twomey, pastor of St. Mary's church, Williams town, and of the late Rev. Father Twomey, rector of St. Michael's church, Belleville, and of Rev. Sister Twomey, of the Hotel Dieu, Cornwall. He was a member of Brockville Council Knights of Columbus and of the C. M. B. A.

of other denominations he was much esteemed. To know Father O'Connor was to recognize a sterling man and noble priestly character. Requiescat in Pace.

THE TABLET FUND

Toronto, April 3, 1916.  
Editor CATHOLIC RECORD: I thank you for giving space to the Appeal for the Tablet Fund for the Relief of the Belgians. So far I have received because of this appeal: Previously acknowledged... \$1,023 14  
Woman's Institute, Clayton 15 00  
St. Patrick's Hall, Toronto 10 00  
Gore, Ont., Proceeds of Concerts ..... 20 00  
Miss E. Cole, Toronto..... 1 50  
If you would be good enough to acknowledge publicly these amounts in the columns of the RECORD I would be very grateful.

GODLESS EDUCATION

The Public schools were mercilessly flayed in a recent address by Mr. Thomas Churchill, former president of the New York Board of Education. Fads and whims have played havoc with discipline, and the utter absence of religious instruction has made it impossible to turn out men and women of character and stability, assets rather than liabilities to the nation. Mr. Churchill is reported as saying: "There never was since the nation was born so widespread and definite a protest against the failure of our schools. Cities misgoverned, public lands stolen, whole precincts selling their votes, juvenile crime increasing, colleges bending their necks for the yoke of rich men's foundations, periodicals reeking with salacity, the drama smothered in sex-madness, and prominent employers informing the newspapers that the school children can neither read nor write nor spell, heads of state departments of education confessing that the lives of school children are wasted—all these things are weakening the American faith in public education."

It is very significant that those who follow the destinies of the Public schools and other educational institutions where religion forms no essential part of the curriculum are unanimous in the assertion that something is radically wrong. The Church has the real ideal. Her system alone illumines the mind and moulds the heart. Prominent educators are beginning to see the light, and give to the Catholic Church credit for solving a seemingly impossible situation.

PROSELYTIZERS IN ROME

Cardinals Belmonte and Tonti have been added to the number of those on the ecclesiastical commission for the Preservation of the Faith in Rome. A good deal of unnecessary fuss was made, particularly in some foreign papers, about the Holy Father's address to the members of the commission recently, when he denounced so solemnly all those who endeavored to rob Catholics of their faith in Rome, the center of the faith and the City of the Popes.

It was unnecessary fuss, because the denunciation was not leveled at such churches and denominations as conduct their worship quietly and keep to themselves—although His Holiness did allude to the anomaly of Rome harbouring pulpits teaching error—but was directed against such as deliberately proselytize with the knowledge, which they cannot but have, that an Italian robbed of his Catholic faith can never find anything to replace it.

SILVER JUBILEE

On Tuesday, March 28th, Rev. Father E. J. A. Tourangeau, O. M. I., celebrated his silver jubilee to the holy Priesthood at the Theological Seminary of the Oblate Fathers in San Antonio, Texas. Solemn High Mass was sung by the Jubilarian; and Rev. Father D. A. Campbell, pastor of St. Raphael's Church, Ontario, Canada, delivered an eloquent sermon well befitting the occasion. The Seminary Choir under the direction of Rev. Father Laboure, O. M. I., sang one of Piel's four-part masses. Rev. Father Tourangeau was born at Montreal, Canada, in 1866. He made his classical course with the Holy Cross Fathers, and his philosophical course at Ottawa University. Having completed four years' study of Theology in Rome he was ordained to the holy Priesthood. After his ordination he was professor in Ottawa University for one year, and then filled the important position of Novice-Master for five years. From 1899 to 1904 he was Superior in Quebec. In 1904 he was appointed Provincial, and in 1907 Superior of Cap-de-la-Madeleine. At present he is Superior of Montreal. Owing to injuries received in an automobile accident on October 24th last, Rev.

Father Tourangeau has been spending a few months in San Antonio, in order to recuperate. He attributes his marvellous escape from death in the automobile accident to the protection of his Guardian Angel, to whom he has always had a special devotion. During his sojourn in San Antonio, Father Tourangeau has endeavored himself to many. Ad multos annos!

"PILATE'S DAUGHTER" BACK AGAIN

The announcement made in these columns last week, that the soul-inspiring religious drama, "The Mystic Rose" or "Pilate's Daughter" would again be presented for the benefit of a London audience, has created a great deal of joyful anticipation among those who appreciate something really first-class in Dramatic Art. This happy event will take place in St. Mary's Hall, Lyle St., on Tuesday evening, April 18th, when St. Mary's Dramatic Society will endeavor to repeat the success attained two years ago, when they first presented this wonderful scriptural drama.

St. Mary's Dramatic Society has long been noted for the talented casts which have interpreted its plays and this will be no exception to the rule. St. Mary's school has again given to the society a wonderful child actress in the person of little Agnes Lenahan, who portrays the part of Claudia, Pilate's daughter, during her childhood days.

Judging from present indications, the crowd will be a large one. It is being presented this time, because so many who saw it before, asked to have it repeated and many who did not see it the first time have said they will be sure to see it now, since they heard so many compliments paid to the former production. Although the seating capacity will be increased, those who are anxious for a good seat would do well to avail themselves of the opportunity given to reserve seats before the night of the drama.

DIED

GALLAGHER—At Hamilton, Ont., on Monday, March 6th, 1916, Mr. Michael Gallagher. May his soul rest in peace.

BOLGER—At Elora, Ont., on Tuesday, March 28, 1916, Mr. Martin Bolger, aged sixty-six years. May his soul rest in peace.

HOGAN—At the family residence, Douro, Ont., March 25th, Mrs. Thos. Hogan, aged seventy-six years. May her soul rest in peace.

MOONEY—At the residence of his brother, John Mooney, 86 Stewart street, Ottawa, on March 31, 1916, Mr. Michael T. Mooney, mail clerk, aged thirty-six years. May his soul rest in peace.

NEW BOOKS

"On The Old Camping Ground." By Mary E. Mannix. Published by Benziger Brothers, New York. Price 5c.  
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