MAY 15, 1920

mischlevously, "you needn't have and house property in London worried about the Frenchwoman, or belongs to about a score of wealthy Sam Gleason either."

"All the same," maintained her mother, as she started slowly towards the kitchen to make the tea, "he would have been a fine match for Manie."-Helen Moriarty in the Ave Maria.

A SILENT REVOLUTION IN ENGLAND

A. Hilliard Atteridge, in America

Old Europe is in a state of flux and change. Some wide sweeping changes have taken place with such a resounding crash, that the downfell of the old order of things was plain to everyone. But other changes are coming so gradually that men hardly notice their beginnings. Few realize the significance of one of these great movements now in progress in Ergland and Scotland. For the last twelve months its record can be traced in the advertisements of the London newspapers. A year ago the announcements of the sale of historic estates, country houses, groups of farms, deer forests and the like began to fill a larger and larger space, until at last came the day when a whole page of the London Times was filled with a closely printed catalogue of the landed possessions that had belonged to a famous Scottish house for centuries,-lands that might make up a small principality-now offered piecemeal to the highest bidder " in lots to suit purchasers." payer. At the same time that country estates are coming into the market, town and city properties belonging to the old families are also offered for sale.

There is, in fact, a silent revolution in progress in British landhold. ing. It was referred to in the King's ech at the opening of Parliament, in these words: "Uneasiness has been caused by the unprecedented sale of landed property since the War.

The conditions of landed property in Britain have long been somewhat peculiar. The supply of land is limited, and the population out of all proportion to its extent. Great Britain (England, Wales and Scot-land) is about two fiths of the size of the State of California, and its land, including mountain, heath and forest, totals just 56,250,000 acres (there are 640 acres in a square mile). The following table shows how much of this was available for various uses in the normal times before the War. The figures are, round numbers, omitting details below the thousand acres :

1914 England Wales Scotland

The population was 41,250,000 at the census of 1911, but only 1,500,000 work. There was neither land nor labor enough to feed the mass of the population engaged in industry and trade. Britain had to be fed largely from overseas and before the War the competition of cheap food imports made the British farmer's problems rather difficult to solve. If he grew wheat he had to market it amid the flood of wheat pouring over the quays from newer lands ; and if he raised stock he had to compete with packing factories, cold storage and all the devices that made the vast herds of wide pampas and prairies competitors with the stock raised on his little paddccks and meadows at home. In pre war days the farmer

During this transition period there was another great change in English landlords. rural life. The exodus of the peasantry from the fields to the beas had begun. The rural laborer was discovering that he might make more money in the new factories, if he One often hears talk about the great landed estates in Britain being "relice of feudalism." This is a traditional piece of fiction. In the much misunderstood and maligned became a street dweller. The move-ment was accelerated by the grasping Middle Ages, landed property, in the sense of absolute personal possesseries of enclosures that transferred common lands to the great propriesion, had not yet come into existence. The modern idea of proptors, and deprived the cottager of the best part of his livelihood. The evidence. The modern acts of prop-erty in land is the result of a long evolution, somewhat difficult to realize by those who live in a new country like the United States,

stern enforcement of the game pre-servation laws was another factor in forcing the peasant into the towns. In Scotland the landlords' desire for where land was first parceled out among owners after the law of wide sporting domains led to actual clearances of great tracts of country. landed property had crystalized into A large part of the Highlands was turned into deer forests and rough its strictly personal form. In old Catholic days in England, as grazing ground. In forty years 1,500,000 acres went out of cultivawestern Europe generally, the theory that all land belonged to the com tion in Scotland. Mountain valleys and glens that had raised whole regimunity was a reality. For the individual there could be at most ments for the wars with Napoleon a perpetual right of use of the land. subject to clearly defined obligations were left almost uninhabited.

to the community. All lands were During these wars at the beginning thus held as a public trust. Holders of the nineteenth century farming had been a paying business, and of Church lands had to provide for the expenses of public worshir, after the war for some years the education, poor relief and the like. price of corn was kept up by pro-In common with lay holders, like the tective duties in the interest of the landlord and the farmer. But with baron, the churchmen had also to keep local roads and bridges in order the abolition of the Corn Laws, and and farmish from their tenants a the development of imports to feed contingent to the feudal levy. On the growing industrial population of ly heinous case causes a revulsion is all the more starting. For if the towns, profitable farming be came a more difficult business. In that culminates in a promise to about a matter so fundational defense, local government, came a more difficult business. In that culminates in a promise to the more starting. the administration of justice, and other charges now met by the tax. Much land was held in commo round every village and town, some part of it assigned for individual use, most of it annually divided up 1874 to 1894 the price of wheat fell for tillage and pasture. Common pasture and forest rights enabled 50%, and some 3,000,000 acres of English land were converted from arable to pasture. Dairy farming and the raising of cattle for the meat even the laborer to keep some cattle and have a free supply of fuel. The later Middle Ages saw the gradual market required fewer hands than change beginning from mere right of use to personal pos-session. The pillage of the "Reformation," really a revolution, added most of the Church lands to the great lay estates. Later on the widerwood destruction of mere tillage, and meant a lower wage bill and a better chance of profit. The growing of fruit and vegetables within easy reach of cities and large towns was still profitable. But the "good old times" were gone for the

the widespread destruction of comfarmer, and when men who had mon rights by a series of "Enclosure made money bought land, it was acte" deprived the cotter and laborer of his land, and gave it to the local seldom as a mere business specula-tion in the agricultural sense. Deer forests, sporting estates, fine country landlords. Meanwhile the nobles and the equires had succeeded in houses, fetched good prices when they came into the market and let at good rents. Land was of rising transferring to the tax-paying public the duty of providing for public services, that had once been an obliga-tion of the landholders. Very few of the titled families of England can value if bought for development as a building estate near a large town. the titled families of England can trace their possession of titles or land was living not so much on what it back to the period before the Reforproduced, as on the prosperity of the mation. Only one English title, that townsfolk. More and more of the of Catholic Dukes of Norfolk, dates national food supply came not from the nation's land but over the quays back to the fifteenth century. of its ports. Many a landowner found that he had to keep his coun-'Burke's Peerage," the semi-t ficial record of the House of Lords, is full of genealcgies that serious historians try estate going on the profits of his business, or if he tried to make it pay count as transparent fictions.

its own way he had to be content For instance, the Russells, whose with a return of about two per cent. head is the Duke of Bedford, claim a on his capital. descent of 2,000 years, through the house of Rollo, Dake of Normandy, The Great War brought for a while back to Thor and Wodin. It is a fiction. The Russells belonged to the farmers but under the condi-the small gentry in the Middle Ages tions that could not outlast it, and their rise to power and wealth unless the huge town pop-began when John Russell, squire of ulation were to be penalized by pro-Cheneys, became a useful servant of tective restrictions on imports that Cheneys, became a useful servant of Henry VIII. and was rewarded with a barcony and the abbey lands of Woburn and Tavistock. The Cecils descend from Richard Burghley, a London lawyer who worked for Henry VIII., and got his share of the bbey lands. He was a Profestant formar a high income and raised abbey lands. He was a Protestant farmer a high income and raised under Edward VI., a Catholic under the wages of the field laborer. But under Edward VI., a Catholic under Mary, and a Protestant again under Elizabeth. His son was her minis-ter, Lord Burghley, and two sons of his lordship wers the first Earls of Exeter and Salisbury. The new culty in the fact that wages are nobility indeed had its rise under permanently fixed at a level that only Henry VIII., and it was in his reign War conditions made possibly. The War conditions made possibly. that personal property in land received its final recognition by a law permitting the land owner to divide his estates by will. In the case of the nobles and the great houses this now was in his reign was conditions made possibily. The great landowners obviously do not like the outlook, and there is also the possibility of new complications arising before long out of a move-ment for land nationalization or houses this power was long limited the higher taxation of land values. by the laws of entail, that kept at least the main part of an estate money as quickly as possible. They can now get much better prices than they can hope for a few years hence. For there are two great classes of possible buyers now ready to pur-chase from them. (1) There are the new rich who have made money out

landlord and the farmer, but the fellow. You could have heard a pin time is long past when it was possible to tax the millions for the advan-intent was every one. The boy in ble to tax the millions for the advan-tage of a relatively small clase of landowners. Those who are buying land in England now are probably making very doubtful bargaine. Some of those who have soil ta are labeled by the development of the source of the ble sourc of those who have sold it are look. an instant there was a dead silence

ing far ahead and investing their money in the new lands beyond the seas, where they hope for sefe re-turns on their investments. -Catholic Bullstin.

FUNDAMENTAL

perceive any organic unity. For, after all, this is the real difference between Catholicity and Protestant.

ism. It is the Mass that matters.

Into the controversy Doctor McKim

of Washington, injects some pungert

criticism. As the spokesman, with

ence, and who reserve the Sacra-

ment, are to be members of the same

Church as those who reject the Real

Presence, and denounce Reservation?

Surely here is vast and fertile ground

SLANDER

(From Collier's, April 8, 1920)

THE CHRISTIAN LAW OF MARRIAGE

The agitation for uniform divorce aws in this country only emphasizes the need of nation wide abolition of the need of nation wide abolition of the need of nation wide abolition of the spreading to Americe. As in Eng-land the Episcopal Church here the approximation of the spreading to the spreading to the spread the spreading to the spread of the spread the spreading to the spread of the spread of the spread the spread of the sprea the need of nation wide abolition of land the Episcopal Church here a national scandal. The ease with shows a sharp division. The "Cathwhich divorce is granted in many States encourage the spread of the disease. Many couples who would otherwise be deterred from attempt. The shows a sharp division. The Coast. There is not lacking those who call it a schism. The Protestant element is still in the ascendancy. In America ing to obtain a civil dissolution of some are demanding a strong avowal

their matrimonial bonds are tempted of High Church principles and pracby lax laws. What Chesterton calls tices, others a gentler course to the Superstition of Divorce has dis-maintain the solidarity of that Comtices, others a gentler course to rupted innumerable families in this country during the last few years. It has been the cause of more sin, seandal, and social decay than vices which the laws sidescent municipation of the laws sidescent and the laws side to be and the laws side t which the laws rigorously punish. community. He now avows this to

the towne, profitable farming be of teening throughts the bound of the promise to the bound of the promise to the second half of the nineteenth amend the divorce laws. But in Catholic belief as the "Re. I Present of cheap corn from the new wheat in their interest in some present Sacrament, it is extremely difficult to producing areas beyond seas, the scandal. The cancer still grows and change of conditions became very macked. In the twenty years from our national life. A new sensation will probably crowd this present agitation for divorce reform off the national stage, only to have it revive again with the next notorious

Doctor Manning of New York, of the divorce case. The United States is not alone in Low Church, he knocks the historical her struggle with the divorce evil. England since the War has been foundation from under such a practice as reservation. Frankly Protestant. efflicted with a veritable epidemic of divorces and through- church circles and legislative measures is striving to stem the tide of broken waiving the question of orders as of no consequence, he now returns to Eucharistic Adoration. He points out that as late as 1895 the House of homes and scattered families caused Bishops condemned Reservation. The by so many divorces. Continental Bishops "were deeply pained" to learn of such furtive practices in the Europe and far off Australia are also Church, and they appealingly ask for an abating of this disabedience. coping with the problem that is fast approaching an international evil. Quoting Doctor Creightor, a former Bishop of London, he says that Re-There is but one organization, one institution, one body of people in servation was struck out of the prayer book in 1552. Moreover, this rubric was added : "It shall never be carried out of the Church." The the whole world who are free from the taint of the divorce. That organ-ization, that institution, that body is the Catholic Church. She has no divorce problem bepartiment question may be asked : Has this discipline and doctrine of

cause she will not tolerate divorce. the Episcopal Church been changed ? When ? By what authority ? Or is She has no choice in the matter. She is simply reitering the injunction placed upon her by Her Divine Founder the confusion to be tolerated, that to guard the sacredness of the those who believe in the Real Presmarriage tie. She has unhesitating-ly preached and practiced Christ's doctrine that valid Christian mar-riage is indirsoluble save by death.

Like John the Baptist she dares to stand before the Herod of the world and proclaim "it is not law-fal." Like Michael at the gate of for unifiers. Why should the Anglican Episcopate go afield working for unity when there is at home wonder-Paradise she stands with a flaming ful opportunities for the same apossword guarding the entrance of the | tolate ?- New World. Sacrament of Matrimony from the invasion of evil forces. Not to gain a great kingdom would she relax the severity of the marriage laws. Not to save the friendship of the greatest Citizanship is the relationship of of modern conquerors would she sanction his divorce and today not an individual to his government; religion is the relation of an individeven the hope of seeing the whole world Cathelic would move her to ual to his God. So long as no church undertakes to enter politics, permit what Christ has expressly our politics should never undertake to enter affairs of any church. The forbidden - absolute divorce from

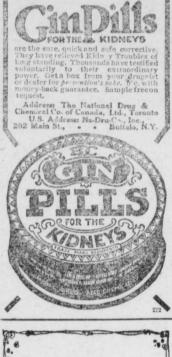
valid marriage. In so doing the Church has saved society from itself. What would be the condition of the world today had the condition of the more interposed the barrier of Christ's laws to the passions of man? Non · Catholic historians and thinkers with no great love for things Catholic have been forced to give a grudging testimonial to the uncompromising position of the Church on divorce. If nations want a uniform divorce law that will be effective why not consider the law of the Church. Besides uniform. ity it has this merit that it will not only make divorce more difficult, it will prohibit it altogether. After all, this is the law of God, Who said "Whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder." — The

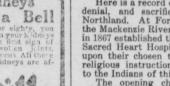
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own disposition, that is according to their degree of faith and devotion

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heart.

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

could make a living, but he could Exeter and not often make a fortune, and fortune hunting is the modern fashion.

In the immediate past there were numbers of men who held land in England, not to make money out of it, but to spend money on it. The "old families" held their lands as part of their inherited status, and men who made fortunes in business bought land in order to enter the circle of "county families" and establish a position for their children. Land holding was one of intact for the direct heir, laws modi fled almost to extinction in modern times. We may say that the system of landed property evolved by the sixteenth century made a small landed and titled class for nearly the factors of social rank. A land-owner soon found himself a magistrate or a deputy-lieutenant of his three hundred years the rulers of county. The country house was the center for holiday and week end gatherings of friends. In the season England. As constitutional govern there was shooting over game preserves, and hunting, which in England means riding across country after a fox and a pack of hounde. This country house life was a of Commons. Every public office and are ready to buy the farms they and employment was at their dishave so far reated, rather than risk

been a limited circle, but in the aggregate they held a large part of the available acres. Ten years ago, in the pleasant times before the War, storms began to shake social arrangements to pieces; official returns of land ownership showed that cf the 37,000,000 acres of England and Waler, 5,730,000 acres The growth of the factory system or about one seventh of the whole,

of war contracts, the rise in shipping. and other methods of profiteering ment developed it was shaped in their interests. They formed the House of Lords, and until the reform owners, and (2) there are the

of 1832 they practically nominated most of the members of the House of Commons. Every public office and are ready to buy the farms they

bestowed for eminence in war, law and politics. The eighteenth cen-hit by rising taxation and are doubttury saw pserages bestowed on new ful about the future of the country, men who had made fortunes in India are eager to sell while buyers are or in trade and commerce at home. to be found and prices rule high. The days were passing away when That the present land valuation is

The days were passing away when a sharp line divided the landed and noble classes from the traders, shop-keepers and manufacturers. banks are refusing to advance on

CHILD ANSWERS OURRY SENT TO MISSION PRIEST

At Helena, Montana, the Rev. Fathers Welsh and Stark of the Paulists' were recently giving a mission. One week they gave it exclusively

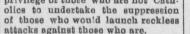
the Church and " the question box ' worked overtime. One of the questions was : Do Catholics have to pay in confession for pardon for their sins ?

The church was crowded, with the Bishop, who attended all the services, attacks against those who are. sitting on his throne and many

priests in the sanctuary, while there were a number of Catholics present or about one seventh of the whole, were held by 400 peers and peersesses, that is, by less than one ten-thousandth of the total population; 1,300 owners of large estates; and 4,250,000 in holdings averaging about 1,600 acres each, were the property made a rise to the peerage open to thous and of langent and the latter of the source of the senter of

undertake to extend its power into American politics. Therefore foolish, indeed are such petty onslaughts as that made in New York State by some unheard of society which has misappropriated the name of Wash. ington and has attacked Catholics and the Knights of Columbus.

The folly is seen to loom even larger than before when sensible Americans realize that the Catholic Church is a good deal of a bulwark of good citizenship at a time when we want men and women with a high sense of their obligations. We do not know how to name another organization which has stood so long in firm defense against flabby morals and doctrines of social fad and folly. The task of the agitator of men's rights is easy; the task of a teacher of restraint and service is more difficult. The Catholic Church undertakes the more difficult task with a great organization and vateran skill. Its Knights of Colum-bus did an efficient and generous normal part of the social program for a wealthy Erglishman. He might make some money out of well-let farms or land managed for him by his farm beiliff or land steward, but for many this revenue merely helped to pay part of the expenses of the country life. The great landowners have long and attack us, whether we be agnostic, Jaw, Catholic or Protestant It is peculiarly the duty and the privilege of those who are not Cath olics to undertake the suppression



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