

To the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary.

Maid all maids exelling,
Passing meek and lowly,
Win for sinners pardon,
Make us chaste and holy.

As we onward journey,
Aid our weak endeavor,
Till we gaze on Jesus,
And rejoice forever.

Religious Vocations.

One of the most important tasks of Catholic educators is the fostering in young souls, of vocations to the priesthood and the religious life.

One of the most effective means to accomplish this is to instill in youthful hearts a tender love of purity, and an intense hatred of the contrary vice. A young person, that is in the habit of yielding to this vice, unfits himself for the higher life of holiness. Such a life requires much supernatural wisdom; and Holy Scripture assures us that "Wisdom will not dwell in a body subject to sins."

If, then, we wish to procure for young souls a vocation to the higher life, we must keep them innocent; and the greatest danger for innocence is the vice of impurity. The souls, that are sanctified in Baptism year after year, are like the fair blossoms, that adorn the fruit trees in the springtime, destined to become so many delicious fruits. But we know by a sad experience that the majority of the blossoms do not come to maturity; some are nipped in the bud by an early frost; others attain a fuller growth, looking fair without, but falling off because eaten within by a hidden worm. So, too, multitudes of children have their hearts blighted by the cold frost of indifference, the ordinary effect of an un-Catholic education, others are consumed by a gnawing worm within. The worm, that eats away the inner life of virtue, is most commonly the vice of impurity.

Now what are the most efficient antidotes against this dreadful vice? The foremost antidote is the frequent reception of the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion. This is the Divine provision to support our spiritual life and to restore it, when it is weakened or lost by sin. This precious means is needed in all lands and all ages, and it is especially needed in our lands and our age, in which the dangers to purity are so multiform, that it is almost as difficult to keep young people innocent, as it was for the three boys in the fiery furnace of Babylon to remain unscathed by the flames. And yet the help of God protected these from harm; and thus, too, Divine grace protects the innocence of thousands of Catholic hearts in our midst.

A second most powerful aid to preserve purity is the use of much fervent prayer. The inspired author of the Book of Wisdom said: "As I knew that I could not otherwise be continent except God gave it, and this also was a point of wisdom to know whose gift it was, I went to the Lord and besought Him."

All the great models of purity, that the Lord has given to His Church, have been remarkable for their application to prayer. Take as examples of this the youthful Saints, Aloysius, Stanislaus and John Berchmans.

This prayer becomes the more efficacious, when it takes the form of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. She is the most perfect model of purity; wherefore, holy Church loves to invoke her as "Virgin most Pure, Virgin most Chaste, Virgin undefiled, Virgin Inviolable, Lily among Thorns," etc. And Mary loves to procure for her fervent clients a share in her angelic virtue.

It is a matter of constant experience that souls, thus sanctified, are

further favored by the Lord with a gracious invitation to aim higher still, and consecrate themselves to the holy service of God in the priestly or the religious life.—C. C.

The Pope Welcomes Democracy.

"Vatican lines up with democracy," is the heading of an item in a New York daily, apropos of a letter of the Pope to Cardinal Luçon. There is nothing startling in this news. The Church has always guarded the interests of the people; she has consistently opposed autocracy, as she has held in abhorrence the doctrine of the Divine right of kings. Her great theologians have been the strongest exponents to popular rights under every form of sovereignty. Her early Councils gave the first great lessons in self-government to the people of the modern world. Her monasteries and guilds with their assemblies and popular elections were models of democracy. The Pope himself is freely chosen, without regard to rank or birth, the "Servant of the servants of God."

Hence the words of Benedict XV to Cardinal Luçon, as reported in the press, urging co-operation of all classes, praising democracy and the education of the proletariat, express no sentiments new or strange to him. In connection with the participation of French Catholics in the parliamentary elections his Holiness is quoted as writing:

"The great outstanding fact in the world today is the ever-strengthening current everywhere towards democracy. The proletariat classes as they are called, having taken a preponderant part in the war, desire in every country to derive therefrom the maximum advantage. . . . The Catholic Church has always loved those who suffer and has always taught that public power established for the common good must work especially to improve conditions for those who suffer. That is why the Catholic clergy must not oppose the proletarian revendications, but must favor them, provided they remain within the limits of honesty and justice."

Good words, these, and just as good is the Pope's caution against those who in their excess, "would overturn the social order, which human nature renders necessary, to the detriment of everybody." There can be no worse enemies of the people.

The spirit of democracy breathes nowhere more freely than within the Catholic Church. If the Pope now welcomes the legitimate democratic movements of today, he is but repeating an act which has been performed many times before by his predecessors in the Chair of Peter and by others less exalted than he.

No Apology Necessary.

Catholics who know what they are talking about never feel the need of apologizing for the Catholic school. They know that it has vindicated its claim to a place second to none in the educational world. Its course is equal to the best of its class and is not weighted down with the fads and frills which are so common a feature of secular education. The teaching of the Catholic school is thorough, its training such as to develop the whole man — physical, moral and intellectual. What more is needed for genuine education? —E.E.

Fine Showing by Brooklyn Schools.

At the Regents' examination in New York, the Catholic schools of Brooklyn made a splendid showing. Of 18,632 papers submitted, 17,224 were accepted. The State tests were held in 27 centres; of these 17 are Catholic, 7 are Catholic academies.

Premier Martin Replies to H.C. Hocken, M.P., of Toronto, who said "German" Schools of Saskatchewan were a Menace.

Statements made on the floor of the house of commons on May 14 by H.C. Hocken, M.P., of Toronto, editor of the Orange Sentinel, reflecting on the educational system of Saskatchewan and charging that all the text books used in the schools of the province have a Germanising tendency are strongly challenged by Premier Martin, minister of education for Saskatchewan.

Premier Martin replied to Mr. Hocken by letter, pointing out the fallaciousness of his statement, and two months later Mr. Hocken wrote the premier, but evaded the issue. Premier Martin wrote again and challenges Mr. Hocken, if he desires to be fair, to refute in the house of commons his previous statement. Mr. Martin's second letter reads as follows:

"Regina, Sask., Sept. 25, 1919.

H.C. Hocken, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. Hocken,—I have your letter of the 20th inst. in reply to my letter of July 28 and I have noted carefully what you say. Your letter does not answer my complaint.

In the House of Commons you made use of the following words, according to Hansard: "All the text books of that province have a strong tendency to teach the children to admire what is German instead of instructing them in Canadian citizenship."

In my last letter I forwarded to you a copy of our curriculum and I want to ask you again to point out one textbook included in the curriculum which shows anything else but a desire to instruct in Canadian citizenship.

In your letter to me you make the following statement: "I think surely you must mean that since the legislation of your last session the German schools have been prohibited by law, because you can hardly be unaware of the fact that notwithstanding the law, schools conducted in the German language have been operated in several different parts of the province." This statement is based on a wrong assumption. The law does not now, and never did, permit of German schools. The only thing that was permitted in the schools was the teaching of a language other than English for the last hour of the day. The law said that English shall be the language of instruction, so that even before the law was changed we had no "German schools" in the province. You say that since the law has been changed "Schools conducted in the German language have been operated in several different parts of the province."

If you have any knowledge as to any school in Saskatchewan where this is the condition of affairs, I shall be glad if you will advise me as I will undertake to see that the school in question is conducted according to law. I might tell you that we have had complaints during the past year and every complaint has been investigated and every effort put forth to see that the schools are properly conducted.

Again let me ask you to point out on our school curriculum one objectionable text book and tell me of one school in this province which can be called "A German School." If you cannot do this and want to show your fairness, you will take the first opportunity of stating in the House of Commons that the statement you made before to which I take objection, was absolutely unfounded in fact and that you regret very much having misrepresented one of the provinces of Canada.

Frankly, I cannot understand your attitude nor that of some others in Eastern Canada who lose no opportunity to make statements about Western Canada which are not in accordance with the facts. Our school system, including the buildings, inspectors, teachers and curriculum, is just as good, and I believe in some respects, more advanced than that of the province of Ontario. In this province, with respect to the problem of the education of the non-English child, greater effort has been put forth in the way of making the school a real instrument for Canadianisation than has been ever thought of in the province of Ontario; and yet in that province there are substantially as many non-English as there are here and the problem has been with you for more than a generation. Would it not be better for you to spend your time and effort in an attempt to clean up your own province and make it a model for others to follow, rather than to continually be talking of the "menace" in Western Canada.

I am quite sure that the policy which has been pursued in years past, by certain of the newspapers and by some of the people in the city of Toronto, has had more to do than anything else in creating a feeling of antipathy on the part of the west towards eastern people. No opportunity has been lost in endeavoring to create the impression that certain sections of western Canada represent all that is backward of civilization. Why not point out that the problems which we have had are on their way to a happy solution and that great progress has been made, in fact, far greater than any one would have hoped for ten years ago?

You should remember that this country is dominated very largely by thought and inspiration derived from the east—the east is the mother of the west—and yet some of our friends there lose no opportunity, by statements such as you made in the house of commons, of endeavoring to create an impression in your portion of Canada that we have not the proper attitude to all that is Canadian and all that is British.

The record of Saskatchewan in the war is one that should surely convince you that the people of this province stand second to none in Canada. Do you know that in 1918 Saskatchewan contributed more per capita in actual cash for Red Cross purposes than any other province? Do you know that the Daughters of the Empire in the province of Saskatchewan, in the same year, collected more money for patriotic purposes than the same organization in any other province, excepting only the province of Ontario? Do you know that the school children of this province raised a sum for Belgian relief which was \$30,000 more than the amount raised in any other province? Consider the whole record of the province from the time war was declared till peace was signed, and tell me which one of the provinces of Canada performed its duty in a more whole-hearted manner.

In conclusion, let me say that I intend to give the statement you made in the house of commons some publicity and also my reply to your statement. Perhaps it is not worth while doing so, perhaps it is not worth while my writing you at such length, as I am gradually coming to the conclusion that you and some of your Ontario friends do not want facts. The facts interfere with the political propaganda which has been used by certain sections of Ontario against the west for some years. However, as a member of the government of the province and as a citizen of the province, I cannot allow such statements to go unchallenged, and again I appeal to you to be fair in all your statements with respect to the west and to cease

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