FOUR

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LONDON, SATUBDAY, NOVEMBER, 28,1914

"K. OF C. RITUAL APPROVED BY THE FREEMASONS"

The Fortnightly Review (St. Louis) Nov. 15, contains the following article which though somewhat lengthy we think worth reproducing here in full :

We notice from The Tidings, the official organ of the diocese of Los Angeles (edition of Oct. 16,) that the Knights of Columbus have obtained the formal approbation of a com-mittee of California Freemasons for work, ceremonies, and pledges," which, if we u_derstand the phrase rightly, means their famous ritual that has hitherto been kept so secret. It is not quite clear from The Tidings' account why the ritual was divulged to the Masons ; but the official appro bation of the Masonic committee speaks for itself and is such an interesting document that we give its text in full :

"We hereby certify that by authority of the highest officer of the Knights of Columbus in the State of California, who acted under instruc-tions from the Supreme Officer of the Order in the United States, we were furnished a complete copy of all the work, ceremonies and pledges used by the Order, and that we care fully read, discussed and examined the same. We found that while the Order is in a sense a secret association, it is not an oath-bound organization and that its ceremonies are comprised in four degrees, which are intended to teach and inculcate principles that lie at the foundation of every great religion and every free state. Our examination these ceremonials and obligations was made primarily for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not a cer-tain alleged oath of the Knights of Columbus, which has been printed and widely circulated, was in fact used by the Order and whether if it was not used, any oath, obligation or pledge was used which was or would be offensive to Protestants or Masons, or those who are en go far to set the calumnies at rest so gaged in circulating a document of culiar viciousness and wickedness. We find that neither the alleged oath nor any oath or pledge bearing the resemblance thereto in matter, manner, spirit or purpose is used or forms a part of the ceremonies of any degree of the Knights of Columbus. The alleged oath is scurilons wicked and libelous and must be the invention of an implous and venomous mind. We find that the Order of Knights of Columbus, as shown by its ritual, is dedicated to the Catholic religion, charity and religio n, charity and

ant contemporaries have referred to, and in the genuineness of which several of them have expressed their belief) may be seen and possibly copied, that we reproduce it here." Everyone is familiar with the indifference to us. We value it very highly; and we are glad that he yielded to the kindly impulse of Christian charity which prompted him to express it. He will be glad to learn malignant forgery which received that one of the chief reasons why the such wide circulation and which im-CATHOLIC RECORD is growing in the posed itself upon the easy credulity affection and esteem of the Catholics of anti-Catholic prejudice as the of Canada is precisely that indicated Knights of Columbus Oath. It was in his letter. There are other reabut a part of a continent-wide cam sons-but that is another story. paign of unscrupulous slander of the Catholic Church and of every thing Catholic.

know that they will be better Catho-In a controversy with the editor of lics as well as better citizens if from the American Freemason, Father religious conviction all trace and Kenny, S. J., in America-whose taint of bitterness and religious premasterly arrangement of facts and udice be removed. cogent reasoning loses nothing by Then in so far as a Catholic paper the dignified, courteous and straightmay hope to give Protestants a better forward tone of the controversyunderstanding of the Catholic posicites from his opponent thus :

Primarily and chiefly the CATHOLIC

RECORD is for Catholic readers ; we

He again repudiates "the scurrilous apers, that have prated much of Masonry" in the hope of leading "the ignorant ones among Masons in their dirty train" and thus defends very properly resent. himself for not denouncing those

Catholics will be no worse Catho Masonic claimants by name "We have held that any alliance. lics if they bear in mind the fact that real or implied, between American Catholic Theology teaches that their Freemasonry and these vendors of filth cannot but work harm to our Protestant fellow-Christians and fellow countrymen in good faith are ininstitution. We have refused to cluded in the soul even though sepgive these reeking sheets the arated from the visible body of direct advertisement that might come from use of their titles in these the Church of Christ. Only God. pages. Our quarrel with Catholi-sism is one of principle ; we can not the Searcher of hearts, knows who is and who is not in good allow the waters of legitimate controversy to be thickened and befouled faith ; whether Catholic or Protestthose who have no more in view by those who have no more in the than the arousing of ignorant pasant who is and who is not living in all sincerity according to the light ions and prejudices.' and grace vouchsafed him. It is not

We quote this because it is here for us to judge. admitted that Masons have actively participated in the campaign of anti-Catholic slander.

What course more natural and direct could the K. of C. take to set those misguided Masons right if in good faith, to curtail their power for these is Charity." evil if dishonest, than the one actually taken ?

the mark of an educated mind to be In the impossible supposition that a able to discuss subjects on which we harmless Protestant fraternal associmay hold the most widely divergent ation were so maligned and slanviews without personal consideradered by Catholics that its members tions obtruding themselves. The in consequence suffered in business. more untrained the mind the more in politics, and in many other ways personal - the more egotistically et us suppose that leading members personal-will be the point of view. of the association submitted say to Such persons are apt to prove their Cardinal Gibbons and Archbishop doctrine orthodox by apostolic blows Ireland their constitution, their and knocks ; but they make no conwork, ceremonies and pledges," their 'famous secret ritual," in order to verts. secure from these eminent .Catholics Our Presbyterian friend has, in cidentally and indirectly perhaps, who enjoyed the confidence and respect of their co-religionists a but none the less effectively, preached s sermon if not on the virtue of refutation of the aforesaid calumnies; Christian charity at least on Christian then if Cardinal Gibbons and Archcourtesy and the amenities of disbishop Ireland stated the facts as they found them it is reasonable to

qualifying phrase-" as a rule " we ward and Catholic Sacred Heart Review might call " a striking refutahope that we may yet deserve to tion "; but doubtless there would be word "invariably." We have taken ound some Protestant sheet unthe liberty of giving a wider audifriendly to the supposed association ence to his kind words of appreciathat would call it " the formal and official approbation of the Catholic tion than the writer intended because we believe they have a message Church." The following is not a supposititious for everybody who may read them.

believe that their statement would

It would be what the straightfor.

far as Catholics were concerned.

the Maukato Journal, printed an article in which E. M. Lawless of the Waterville Sentinel (Minn.) was charged with having taken a treasonable oath when he was given the fourth degree in the order of the Knights of Columbus. The fourth degree obligations of the Society were submitted in full to the district court and the Morrisons were

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it has been a true instinct which has is very far from being a matter of led popular opinion as testified to in current literature to find in Nietzsche the most orthodox exponent of Darwinian ideals in their application to athics."

"Science" prepared the way; the disintegration of Christian faith outside of the Catholic Church called for a system of ethics to replace Christian standards. Nietzsche simply gave form and expression to what was generally held by those who had discarded Christianity. English writers and thinkers, even

those who retained Christian forms and terms, were deeply tainted with what we now call Neitzscheism. But we stand aghast at Germany's more virile even if more brutal trans-

lation of it into action. The occasion of this brief intro tion there is no possible excuse for duction to the famous mad philosopher the boorish tone or language which is this. At a recent clerical gathering in this city a serious and scholarin personal intercourse Protestants as ly Anglican clergyman read a paper well as Catholics or agnostics would giving the results of his study of

Nietzsche. Next morning the news papers briefly mentioned this fact without giving any inkling as to how the subject was treated. Not for lack of space however. For they recorded " a mild sensation" created by brother Anglican clergyman who announced himself as a disciple of Nietzsche. " They also recorded some sonorous sentences of the reverend mild sensationalist. "Christianity is too much afraid of the rich results of science" for instance. The bearing of this obserwation lies in the application on it, we presume,

as another profound thinker has ob-Precisely because we Catholics served. Again, "perhaps if Chrishold the Faith above all earthly contianity was without taint Nietzsche siderations, because we glory in the would not have been lost to it." divine pledges that fill our hearts "The individual has a right to purwith Hope, we should remember in sue the best as the individual sees all humility that "the greatest of the best." And this: "Men of to-day need something more virile Newman somewhere says that it is than old-fashioned Christian sentiment." And so oh through half a

> column. It is only fair to add that the disciple was curtly and bluntly told by a level headed brother clergyman that his master's writings were blasphemous nonsense.

But the point. The reporters gave a bare sentence to the same and scholarly gentleman's paper on a subject of great present interest, and

a half column to the vague and irrelevant inanities of the mild sensationalist. The mind of the great reading public, uncontaminated by Christian obscurantism, is thus left open to the rich results of science. cussion, a sermon that we ourselves

Later the disciple of Nietzsche and useful and encouraging. If under the influence of a transient emotion saved the Christian minister's face by writing a brief note to the papers or in the stress of work in difficult explaining that "his super men were circumstances we have merited the all in Christ." While this may not be easily understood it is quite as have substituted for it the single clear as most of the other sayings attributed to him in the newspaper report of the paper on Nietzsche.

> **RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN** SCHOOLS "The idea is gaining ground in

tics, Mohammedans or others foisting

on us their particular brand of re-

es that w

est objection to Protestants teaching never have gathered for the Church all the religion they like to Protestthe same rich harvest garnered by her ant children ; we think they do too English speaking children. As the little of it to counteract the effect of great military roads of the Roman the atmosphere of religious indiffer-Empire were utilized by the mission. ance surrounding the neutral school. aries who went forth in the name of But the attempt to graft Protestant the Prince of Peace, so the English ism on the public school system is language, reaching out to the ends not only radically unjust to all other of the earth, had to be made serve God's purpose by the identifying of forms of religion but subversive of the principle on which such system Ireland with the British Empire. is based Ireland suffered materially. But Ire-The Bible in the schools ? What

Bible ? The Protestant version ? How long would Protestants tolerate the attempt to impose the Catholic version of the whole Bible on public schools ? or any part of it ? Would they consent to have the Ten Commandments even numbered as Cath. olics number them ?

otherwise even if we could ?

have been different.

faith fruitful towards others.

The Guardian continues

"In Austin, Texas, the school board as inaugurated a plan which provides that credit be granted toward high school graduation to all regularly en rolled students who pass an examin-ation upon a course of study which is practically the same as that of the Graded Lessons for the Intermediate Department published by the Inter-national Sunday school Association."

Oh, quite so : eminently fair. Now if Catholic authorities prescribed the course for Protestant children it should receive attention at his hands. would be quite a different thing altogether.

"The Churches are to do the teach ing, and they can teach what they like ; but the examination will only deal with the historical, geographical or biographical features sons. The examiners will be persons authorized by the school author ities. Something like this was proposed for Ontario schools, but so far we do not think definite action has been taken on it. The plan is worth considering, and a good deal of inter-est will be taken in its outworking."

Starting out with the regrettable limination of religion from the chools by those unreasonable Cath. olics, we come by way of Texas back to Ontario schools. Had these ob stinately unreasonable Roman Cath-

olics anything to do with postponing definite action on Dr. Seath's plan to encourage Scripture study by

school children ? It was a fair prop osition, fair to Protestants, Catholics, Jews and to those who objected to the Bible altogether; nor was it limited to the "historical, geographical or biographical features of the lessons." We recall that the Superintendent of Education referred to the " phenomenal ignorance of Holy Scriptures in this province; a Protestant inspector amended the expression by substituting " appalling " for " phenomenal."

Are we Catholics also responsible for this state of affairs ?

If definite action has not been taken on Dr. Seath's plan does not enterprise committed to emancipated the condition to which he referred suggest the reason? It might take more moral courage and greater fort if our Methodist contemporary were to face the facts of the situa tion and endeavor to move its read. ers to action in the premises without having recourse to the weak suggestion that the Roman Catholics won't let us do anything. But would it

things can never be again as they grapher.

NOVEMBER 28. 191

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Of the publication of books there is no end. Month after month, week after week, the product of human brains and of the printing press flows with. out ceasing, and the flood seems ever on the increase. And it will probably go on increasing until that great cataclysm which, scientists tell us will one day overtake this planet and the civilization of which it boasts will become not even a memory land and the Church gained abun-Then, since man, so far as his terresdantly from her subjugation by trial existence is concerned, will have Britain. And which of us, realizing ceased to be, the printed page will that man does not live by bread cease with him-the travails of the alone, would re-write her history author, the enterprise of the publis her, the economies of the reviewer, There are those who will question and the product of all three will have

this reading of Irish history. Let passed into the fossil state to see them consult the diary of a man the light of day no more. whom popular opinion has long can-

onized as a pure souled Irish patriot BUT. TAKING the thing as it is, what When, towards the close of 1796. of the Catholic share in it? It is a Hoche's expedition, with Wolfe Tone common complaint in some quarters on board, lay off the Irish coast, this that there are no Catholic books worth so-called deliverer of a nation in reading, and that, saving nothing of chains recorded in his journal his qualtty, such as there are, are entire, plans for the Irish republic that was ly out of proportion in price and to be. And he determined not only mechanical execution. This utter to root up and destroy English rule ance is of course evidence only of in Ireland, but decided that the ignorance and prejudgment, but it Church, the enemy of popular liberty, goes down with the unthinking crowd, who are only too glad to Had Tone succeeded the history of avail themselves of an excuse for the Church in Ireland and through. their own practical illiteracy. For out the English-speaking world might the illiterate man is not necessarily he who cannot read or write, but

From the Catholic point of view rather he who, possessing these the conquest of Ireland by England advantages, knows only how to use has had its compensations, to say them to the perpetuation of his own the least. It made possible the ignorance as to everything that is penetrating of the great mass of the elevating and refining, good and British Empire by the leaven of true. There have, on the other Irish Catholicism. How can we but hand, been men who were illiterate see the design of God in this? in regard to letters, but who yet in Surely He Who regards the birds of practical wisdom, intelligence and the air and the lillies of the field true refinement have reached the regarded also His faithful Irish upper planes and become benefactors, children, and if He allowed them to both intellectually and spiritually, of suffer and be tried it was only bethe race. So much by way of sermon. cause all this was necessary for the

vocation to which He had called A GENERATION or so ago the publithem. Persecution was the fire that cation of Catholic books in English tested their fidelity and made their was of comparatively limited range and was mainly confined to the few If such was God's design for Ire Catholic publishers who put pecuniand suffering, what of Ireland triumary advantage second to the interests of their Faith. Yet it would surprise phant? Has her vocation passed with the nightmare of her sorrows most people to spend a half hour in No, the new era of freedom is even the examination of any representamore pregnant with possibilities, and tive catalogue of Catholic books of God has still a very special place in recent years, and it would be a shock His plans for the Irish nation. Well from which they would not readily might the Bishop of Northampton, recover to look through Finotti's speaking to the Irish Catholic Truth "Bibliographica Catholica Ameri-Conference, sound a trumpet call to cana"—a list running into over three the people. "To us," he says, "it hundred closely-printed octavo seems not so much an accident as a pages, of books written by Catholic Providence that this moment should authors and published in the United have been held in reserve for the States down to the year 1820. So striking off of the last political fetters that the English speaking pioneers of your country, and that the first of the Faith on this continent were not wholly of the illiterate, nor yet Ireland should be to resume, with of the sordid, money grubbing class. fresh courage and ampler opportuniwhich some of their so superior desties, her ancient Apostolate on behalf cendants would have us believe. If they were, Father Finotti would of faith, morality, and Christian ideals." The time is ripe for a great never have achieved the renown forward movement of Catholicism. which is his among the initiated of After the present European conflict being America's premier biblio-

WE HAVE in recent years

the Catholic Feligich, Charley and patriotism. There is no propaganda proposed or taught against Protestants or Masons or persons not of Catholic faith. Indeed, Protestants and Masons ration indeed, Protestants and massing are not referred to directly or in-directly in the ceremonials and pledges. The ceremonial of the Order teaches a high and noble patriotism, instills a love of country, inculcates a reverence for law and order, urges the conscientious and unselfish performance of civic duty and holds up the Constitution of our country as the richest and most precious possession of a Knight of the Order. We can find nothing in the entire ceremonials of the Order that to our minds could be objected to by any person.

MOTLEY HEWES FLINT, 33rd degree. Past Grand Master of Masons of California. DANA REID WELLER, 32nd degree

Past Grand Master of Masons of California.

WM. RHODES HERVEY, 33rd degree. Past Master and Master Scottish Rite Lodge. SAMUEL E. BURKE, 32nd degree.

Past Master and Inspector of Masonic District."

"We have held back this remarkable document in order to see how the Catholic press would comment on it. But the Catholic press as a has been strangely silent. The only comment we have noticed is this by the Sacred Heart Review (Vol. 52, No. 21):

'Of course Catholics did not require at the hands of Freemasons any testimony as to the innocence of the Knights of Columbus of the foul charge leveled against them; and so the republication of this incident and the reproduction of these find. ings in a Catholic paper will seem rather superfluous. But the Sacred Heart Review, in common with most Catholic papers goes into the officer Carnolic papers goes into the onless of Protestant newspapers and mag-azines, and it is with the hope that this striking refutation of the bogus oath (which so many of our Protest-

found guilty of criminal libel. graph : "The famous ritual that has hitherto been kept so secret," has also been submitted to Bishops, Cardinals and Papal Delegates. Good

easy men they all approved of it! Will they sleep less easy when they find that it has been "divulged to the Masons" and that " a striking refutation of the bogus oath " is also" the official approbation of the Masonic committee ?"

A USEFUL LESSON KINDLY TAUGHT

We venture to take the liberty of publishing this extract from the letter of an esteemed subscriber who is at the same time a Presbyterian minister :

" I suppose my opinion is a matter mind. of almost complete indifference to you but I would like to express my appreciation of the general courteousness and dignity of your paper. Even when flaying most mercilessly what is to you the utter illogicalness of his days.

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Protestants and Protestantism there has been as a rule an absence of sneering and a self-restraint that is not always too much in evidence in some other papers that I see occa-sionally."

We desire to assure our friendly and evidently honest Presbyterian reader that his generous appreciation

NIETZSCHE AND THE NEWS-PAPERS

Though references to Nietzsche are frequent enough in the newstheir children must not be taught papers our readers will have ac even the Lord's Prayer or the Ten quired very little knowledge of him Commandments, for fear they would be indoctrinated with the virus of Protestantism. But when all relig-ious teaching has been eliminated. or his philosophy from that source. We find in the Christian Guardian a good article by Dr. Workman on the the same persons coolly turn around subject from which we clip this paraand denounce our schools as 'god

less.' And it is becoming apparent to many that we have listened with He describes Christlanity as "the too great deference to our Roman Catholic friends, and efforts are greatest of all conceivable corrup-tions," partly because he thinks it counteracts the law of natural selecbeing made to introduce religious teaching in some form."-The Christion and partly because he considers it a religion of dogma, but principally ian Guardian. cause it has been called the relig-The Catholic Church has always ion of pity ; for, much as he disliked dogma, he disliked pity or sympathy more, regarding it as a waste of feeland everywhere stood for religion as a vital and indispensable element of education. Where a system of pureing and as the greatest impediment ing and as the greatest impediment to a full development of life. "Pity thwarts the law of development which is the law of selection," he ly secular schools from which all religion is eliminated has been imwhich is the law of selection," he says, referring to natural selection, or the theory of the survival of the fittest. He says also, "A man loses power when he pities," and he goes so far as to declare that "the weak and the botched shall perish," and

that "they ought even to be helped to perish." Such sentiments are revolting, and indicate a disordered Perhaps the man who expressed them should be pitied rather

than blamed, as he went hopelessly mad at the age of forty five, and con tinued insane for the remainder of Nevertheless while he did not

create the anti-Christian philosophy which pervades non - Christian thought, this lunatic-genius did carry "evolutionary principles in ethics to their logical conclusion." The Rev.

ligion and thus violating the fundamental principle and only justifica-H. H. Williams in the Encyclopædia Britannica while finding Nietzsche tion of the neutral public school. We Catholics have not the slight-"extraordinarily chaotic" says : " Yet

far in eliminating all religious teach-ing from our schools. It has been effective as more manly, more straightforward and more Christian ? lone in this country and in others in order to meet the objection of the Roman Catholic authorities that

IRELAND, THE EMPIRE. AND THE CHURCH

The student of Irish history finds ompelling evidence of the guiding hand of God writ large across its every page. And never is the mysterious design of an All seeing Providence so manifest as during the long night of Ireland's penal suffering. As during the noon day splen dor of her golden age she was God's instrument for the evangelization of Europe, so through her many and bitter chapters of sorrows He elected her to be His messenger to new races and climes. It is only by

posed by the State, Catholics have all. Had Ireland never passed under borne the burden of a double school the yoke Irish ideals could never tax when necessary that their chilhave had such influence upor dren might receive a religious educa-English thought. Had the Irish tion. And here we are coolly depeople not felt the full weight of nounced as the cause of that state of oppression they would never have things against which we have always gone forth to the ends of the world. protested, and which wherever possiand without the children of Ireland ble we have taken effective means to where would there be found apostles remedy. Neutral schools from to lay broad and deep the foundawhich all religion is eliminated are tions of the Church in the English. not our ideal ; but where they are speaking world of to-day ? Truly imposed by the State and citizens of God moulded for His own wise ends all religions and of no religion are the destiny of Ireland. compelled to support them, then we object to Protestants, Jews, agnos-

An independent Ireland would have remained an Irish speaking Ireland. And much as we love the Irish language, and sincerely as we sympathize with the efforts for its revival, we

cannot blind ourselves to the fact that an Irish speaking Ireland could How

were. New horizons are being revealed, and politicians and socia philosophers are beginning to realise that the reconstruction of European society must be a reconstruction on a new and Christian basis. They are beginning to see that they must go to school to Pius X. and set themselves to learn the lesson he taught so consistently, that there is only one remedy for the ills of society, and that "to restore all things in Christ." It is the sensing of this new horizon that gives Ireland an opportunity to play a great part. In the reconstruction of society that must cataclysm the British Empire must necessarily he in the yan. And what Catholic but rejoices that Catholic Ireland is to be identified with the Empire in this upbuilding of the recognizing this design of God that. new civilization ? A separate and in-Irish history can be understood at dependent Ireland might, and prob-

into a rather better stage of things. Instead of being confined to isolated Catholic publishers or booksellers, the publication of Catholic books has become an important department of some of the larger publishing houses in both Great Britain and America. This is especially true of the great house of Longmans, Green & Co. The market must be there surely, or nublishers of this class would not cater to it. Longmans' "List of Works mainly by Roman Catholic Writers," is indeed one of the most necessarily follow the European striking tributes to Catholic intellectual activity that one could wish for. We would recommend any of our readers who may wish to look into the matter for themselves to write to Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co, New York, for this List. It will well repay their perusal.

ably would, be just as Catholic, but

such an Ireland's potency for good in AMONG RECENT publications from the present crisis would be very this List which have come under seriously impaired. God willed it our notice is the volume of impresotherwise, and by so willing left us a sions of a Danish physician, Josure hope that the new order of hannes Jorgenson, on Lourdes. things will be established on a truly This has been translated into Eng-Christian basis. "Lift up your eyes. then, O Erin, and in the fulness of your gratitude to God, Who has sustained you through your long martyrdom and brought you at length to the fruition of your hopes, look out Lady at the far famed shrine. Dr. upon these new horizons and gird vourself for future campaigns." And no less fervently than the Bishop Lourdes with an open mind, and of Northampton do we pray that the with the avowed intention of re-Isle of Saints may prove faithful to COLUMBA.

auch do they cost ?

lish by Ingeborg Lund, and, with a preface by Hilaire Belloc, goes forth to spread abroad through the English speaking world further knowledge of the wonders worked by Our Jorgenson is an author of repute in his own country, and visited cording his impressions on the spot and of communicating the results to the world. This he has here done in two hundred

pages of entertaining and instructive

her mighty trust.

A popular notion of High Ideals

