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SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1904.

WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING?

We are living in an age of haste, of rapid change and feverish activity; an age of telephones, wireless telegraphy, fast expresses, speedy steamships, aerial ships and high gear bicycles. We are impatient of delay, begrudge ourselves our hours of sleep, and regard every minute not devoted to business as so much time lost. Even those rare hours which we devote to recreation and amusement must be cut short. We chafe at the play, longing for the final curtain; our summer trips are timed to the instant from the time we leave home till we return jaded by the worry of counting the minutes we have lost in pleasure making. We bolt our food, and, as for reading, the headlines in the newspapers and the briefest of reviews of the very latest books quite satisfy us. We are the slaves of time, though we are flattering ourselves that we are conquering it by our time-saving and rapid transit devices. We race with time, keep abreast with him sometimes, but the old rogue is satisfied to keep on at his steady jog well knowing that in the end he will distance us. Onward we press, goaded by the spirit of unrest which we call modern business energy, onward, onward, ever onward, breathless, eager, insensible to the charms of life which lie so temptingly in the by-paths, forgetful, too, of the claims of the great hereafter, until our goal is reached we reap the reward of it all—a premature grave, mayhap with this brief epitaph "Died from nervous strain."

The man with an ambition beyond money getting, is looked upon with pity by some, with contempt by the majority. He is a "back number," a fossil, a "medievalist," a dreamer, a nondescript, anything or everything that will serve to describe what is useless, undesirable and superfluous. This monstrous error possesses all classes, engendering discontent in the workers, envy and unrest in the commercial world and insatiable ranks of capital.

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay."

This unnatural straining after money, for after all the acquisition of wealth is the sole incentive that underlies all modern effort, has become a vice more destructive of business, political and social morality than drunkenness, gaming or the morphine habit, for, far from being condemned by our educationists and our churches, it is un- happily applauded in a majority of class rooms and in innumerable pulpits. The merciless doctrine of the survival of the fittest is every- where preached. An individual or a nation must be "up-to-date"—as the slang of the age goes—or be condemned to starvation in the one case or disintegration in the other. This besetting sin of modern civili- zation is nurtured in the infant's class, cultivated in the public schools, encouraged in the colleges, applauded in the press and en- dorsed by many of the churches.

We have called this the besetting sin of modern civilization as known to us, and we are right. In good old pre-Reformation days we had a different picture. Does not Pro- testantism laud and magnify all the attractively brilliant manifest-

ations of national material prosper- ity, and take credit to itself for having inspired them, while scorn- fully reproaching Catholicism for acting as a drag upon the wheels of the triumphant chariot of Modern Progress? "The Catholic industrial ideal," to quote Father Young, in his "Protestant and Catholic Countries Compared," "while admitting the motive of gain as a legitimate and necessary one does not consider it in the light of the one thing necessary. In her eyes to live in order to gain the greatest amount of money possible is as unworthy as it is dangerous to soul and body. The social order which Catholicism strives to realize is the securing of the greatest happiness to the greatest number.

What will be the probable out- come of this mad race for riches? Whatever fate may have in store for the world it is unquestionable that it cannot continue in its present evil course, the strain is too great, the pace too fast, and like the rake's progress the present delirium must end in self destruction if the break of reform be not ap- plied speedily.

Persons and Facts

The Blue Ribbon people made a great hit when they offered a really beautiful portrait of Pius X., for 50 coupons and 75 cents. Every- body admires it in our office and wants a copy.

The Pink Pills people, too, have struck it rich by securing a testi- monial from Dr. Lappom, the fam- ous physician to the Vatican.

The Red and Assiniboine rivers are falling very slowly. There is every prospect of the water re- maining very high all summer. This will be favorable to lumbermen.

Saturday last the solitary St. Boniface electric car attempted to cross the low part of the road be- tween the hospital and the Grey Nuns Mother House, and did travel all the length of its track; but af- ter two or three trips the track be- gan to sink in the water-soaked mud, and the car had to confine itself to the southern end of the track.

Because he was a member of a Masonic Lodge the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus have refused to pay the death benefits claimed by the heirs of the late Patrick Cronan, of Bridgeport, Conn. Cronan was an ex-mayor of that city. One of the conditions of membership to the Knights of Colum- bus is that the applicant be a member of a Catholic Church and in good standing. This, the Supreme Council claims, Cronan could not be and at the same time be a Mason. Cronan's heirs, it is said will likely carry the case to the courts.

"An impious sacrilege and an outrage to a Catholic nation" is what Don Carlos, the Bourbon pre- tender to the Spanish throne, calls the recent acts of the Infidel Gov- ernment of France in re its sup- pression of religious emblems in the French courts of justice.

The Rome correspondent of the New York World cables the follow- ing:

A committee of religious defense, at the head of which the Pope has placed Cardinal Vincenzo Vannutelli, has been organized in Rome. The committee is to have a central executive and administrative board in Rome, and is to extend its work to all parts of the world where the rights of Catholics are invaded by the civil powers. A French branch is being formed for the defense of the rights of the Church in the face of ministerial opposition. Other countries when necessary will be enlisted in the work, the most prom- inent Catholics in each being made members of the committee, the duty of which will not stop at a simple assertion of the rights of the church, but will engage if necessary in political movements for the defense of religious rights. It is believed that by such an or- ganization among the Catholics of the world, many of the laws pro- posed against the Church will meet such opposition that they will eventually be set aside.



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G W. DONALD, Secretary