

The Catholic Record.

"Christianus mihi nomen est Catholicus vero Cognomen."—(Christian is my Name, but Catholic my Surname)—St. Pacien, 4th Century

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NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Probably, if the War had lasted for four more years, the growth of foolish legends for immediate social consumption would not decline in the least, nor the baselessness of them be discovered by the people who pass them on in whispers with a gloomy relish. In their eyes the use of judgment on the latest tale or the demand for evidence is quite an unusual act. It spoils talk, prevents thrills, and blots out treasured confidences. The confirmed sensation-monger hopes that every spicy bit of news is true because of its spiciness, and if it is not true does not wish to hear of the correction. In practice he, or she, judges events great and small by the extent to which they furnish talk that has a trace of the dramatic in it, true or untrue. It must be worth our while in this time of upheaval, change, and threatened change, when, as never before, sober judgment is needed from every man and woman, to study the strange aberration by which large numbers of people subsist mentally—if mind can be attributed to them—on the most foolish gossip provided it is spiced with sensation.

In ordinary times invention, exaggeration, a sensational gloss, a tendency towards dramatic untruth are smiled at and allowed for. This extension may be defended on the ground that a reaching out towards sensationalism is often the beginning of the activity of imagination, to which mankind owes so much of its poetry and idealism. Sober fact sometimes seems more than a little dull. Observe the clever child building up its impressions into a narrative, and see how hard it is to keep within the bounds of literal truth. Its story almost insensibly becomes a story in the double sense of that word; and many a mother possessed by a formal morality which the child has not had time to understand is shocked to find her offspring adding the unrealities of fancy generously to the rather insipid routine of fact. It grieves her to think of her child as untruthful. She does not see that to discern the limits of truth is a task for a trained mind, whereas fanciful embellishment is both easy and enjoyable.

We need not go to childhood for examples. If two men of more than average truthfulness, but each with a sense of dramatic development, see some incident that brings out strong human feeling, and tell the story of it apart from each other for half a dozen years, and then come together and review their recollections, the chances are that, by different angles of observation, appreciations of phases that impressed them, and a growth of varying descriptive touches, the two stories, though broadly corroborative of each other, will have elements of quite distinctive interest. Both will be substantially true yet different, like pictures of the same landscape by two artists, each using his own style of representation. Can we wonder, then, that variation in narration, with an accumulation of interesting effects from separate minds working on the same materials, is viewed with leniency or even welcomed with admiration? It would be a dull world if truth were not "this to thee and that to me," as Tennyson has expressed it. Even the most sober of facts often gain effect upon inert minds through a picturesque setting.

DEGENERATE IMAGINATION

Sensationalism is degenerate imagination. It is imagination run mad under an impulse to produce startling effects at any cost. It may be seen perhaps in its crudest form in the nurse telling her little charges "a horrible tale" to make their flesh creep. We say "perhaps" because one may doubt whether war-rumour gossip is not a successful competitor in crudeness and want of thought with the gruesome nurse with her "Goblins 'll get you if you don't watch out!" Such slaves of sensation do not wish to think whether there is a shadow of truth in the rumours they help to circulate. They know instinctively that

thinking would be fatal to their story. What they want is something to talk about that will create excitement, some triumph of the improbable, and the nearer an approach is made to what is distasteful, or even distasteful, the better is their momentary purpose served. Such appeals to apprehension and credulity are trivial and silly in ordinary times, the small change of empty-headed gossip, but in periods of crisis and war they may become a manifest disadvantage, unsettling the minds of the least stable members of the community and deserving stern repression.

All sensational talk that is designed to be exciting and is spread without any regard for its relation to truth or falsehood must have an effect upon impressionable people who accept vague rumour without any tests, and it must foster false views. Short of this distortion of opinion such influences will at least insinuate doubt into some minds when doubt is not warranted, and so they cannot fail to be weakening. Nearly all gossip-borne rumours are disheartening in tone and lower public moral in some degree.

It is not that these people are consciously unpatriotic. They are deeply concerned in the welfare of their country, in proportion to their capacity for feeling, as the rest of its citizens, and it may be that very concern which determines the subjects of their sensational gossip. Their indiscretion is due in part to sheer want of power for distinguishing between sober fact and dramatic invention; but in a still larger degree it is due to habitual surrender to the love of making other people start, or at least become uneasy, and to the vanity of being "in the know." So much do they enjoy these experiences that they never pause to think of any consequences beyond the present moment of conversational delight, when the retelling of what they have heard will, they hope, electrify their hearers.

ON GUARD

The relation between a depressing sensationalism and a high-hearted steady patriotism does not occur to them.

We are well aware that there are strong safeguards against the nervous activity of the sensation-loving pessimists. Though in the aggregate these people are many, their proportion of the citizens is but small, and the type is so well known that it is instinctively discounted. It is a case of the foolish influencing only the foolish, and never gathering any particular weight. What should be our personal duty towards sensationalism whenever we may meet it? We ought to give it no quarter—not even by being amused at it. Not only should we never repeat any rumour or social legend inimical to our country or its representative men, but we should boldly counter any invention that has been sent on its round by expressing our sense of its falsity and putting its retailers on the defensive. This is no time for malicious gossip, disintegrating personalities, sly innuendoes, or panicky scares. They should all be scotched promptly by watchful patriots. The dignity and moral staunchness of the nation depend upon honest thinking that pierces to the truth, and sensations invented only for a moment's excitement are so far below the moral standard of a nation struggling for the world's freedom that an instinctive revulsion should make them impossible. The trivial by-play of the gossip has no place in the life of a people in the testing-hour of their fate.

JUSTICE IN CHICAGO

In Chicago a boy appears before Judge Landis accused of stealing sixty-four cents; the penalty, five years in the penitentiary. He was hired to deliver special letters for the Government, failed to deliver eight, pocketing sixty-four cents in fees. Luckily for him he had for attorney Levy Mayer, a full-grown lawyer who knows how. First the lawyer showed that this boy, sixteen years old, had been kept working for the Government until 8 o'clock in the morning of the day he pocketed the sixty-four cents. Then Levy Mayer handed to William Carlton—that was the boy's name—a telegram

which read: "Regret to inform you that Private Harris Carlton was seriously wounded in action August 30." At this message about his brother the accused boy started to cry, and Judge Landis said: "There are extenuating circumstances. I sentence you to six months with your mother at home."

From this case you learn that it is important to have a good lawyer. If the average "big lawyer" would take 64 cent cases, there would be more vacancies in the prison cells.

THE PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

Mr. T. J. Ryan, the Labor Premier of the State of Queensland, is one of the central figures of the labor movement in Australia. His opposition to conscription, the dispute with the Prime Minister which led to Mr. Hughes' forcibly seizing Queensland Hansard, and the part played by him in connection with the labor conference in Perth, from which sprang the labor ballot on the recruiting question, have brought Mr. Ryan prominently before the public.

In Queensland he is bitterly attacked, on the one side, on the ground that his government represents an alliance of labor and Roman Catholicism; on the other hand, his undoubted ability, enterprise, and daring experiments in state socialism have increased his popularity in many quarters. His forthcoming visit to Britain will probably give him opportunities of studying imperial questions.

The Advocate, (Victoria) says: "Personally, politically, and professionally, the Queensland Premier is a man of whom Australia Catholics, and especially Irish Catholics, have reason to be proud. . . . When he goes to Britain shortly he will be able to represent the views of Australian democracy to the workers there as they ought to be represented. His presence will serve as an antidote to the sham democracy of our perigrinating Prime Minister, who has so completely shed his labor principles and toured the country as the tame tiger of the Northcliffe yellow press."

The Most Rev. Patrick J. Clune, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth, recently said of the Queensland Premier: "His great gifts have attracted the admiration of unbiased observers everywhere, and I understand there is a growing feeling in the ranks of democratic thought throughout the Australian Commonwealth that such courageous statesmanship, such a vigorous intellectual grasp, such rare gifts as he has displayed ought to have a wider sphere for their display and development in one or other of the houses of the Commonwealth Government. . . . In the political fold to which he belongs these things count. For, to its credit be it said, the Labor Party has done much to banish sectarian influence and religious prejudice from the arena of politics. It seems to give full and free play and a fair chance to talent, energy, and political honesty, to develop, forge ahead, and win recognition at the polls, irrespective of their religious or non-religious tinge,—and in our distinguished guest we have the happy result,—at once an inspiring model and an example to all our young men. . . . He is not only a great statesman and a great leader,—he is a staunch Catholic and a staunch Irishman as well."

1,021 NEW YORK PRIESTS PETITION WILSON

ASK THAT PRINCIPLES FORMULATED BY THE PRESIDENT "BE APPLIED UNRESERVEDLY"

The movement on the part of Roman Catholic clergy in various parts of the country to petition President Wilson that he stand at the Peace Conference for the principle of self-determination of nations as applied to Ireland has reached New York, and, as a result, 1,021 priests of this archdiocese have signed such a petition. Many such petitions are in circulation in various parts of the country, and it is understood that those which cannot be completed in time to be presented to the President before his departure will be forwarded to him before the sessions of the conference begin.

Mgr. Joseph F. Mooney is a member of the committee which circulated the petition signed in this city. Others who signed a circular letter sent to all priests were the Right Rev. James F. Flood, the Right Rev. John P. Chidwick, the Very Rev. John J. Dunn, the Very Rev. Charles A. Cassidy, and Fathers John F. Kleiber and John F. Brady. The petition, it is understood, will be presented to Mr. Wilson. It reads: To the President of the United States:

We, the undersigned priests of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, respectfully petition: That the standards of justice for nations, which have been formulated by you, and which, appealing alike to friend and foe, have hastened to a successful conclusion this great War, be applied unreservedly to the problems of the peace conference.

That, therefore, the great principles of "self-determination" be made applicable to Ireland as well as to other small nations.

We urge that "self-determination for Ireland," in accordance with your memorable enunciation of the American doctrine of government, have your genuine support at the peace conference; and we believe that the solution, through you, of the age long Irish trouble will add to the lustre of our country's greatness.

VALIANT WOMEN OF GALLANT FRANCE

At a French railroad station any day one sees weeping women; but they do not weep until after the trains that carry their menfolk back to the trenches have gone. To this rule I have never seen an exception. A soldier who has finished his leave—a permissionnaire, the French call him—comes to the station to go back to his duties at the Front. It may be he is a staff officer, gorgeous in gold lace. It may be he is a recruit of this year's class, with the down of adolescence still upon his cheeks, but with the grave assurance of a veteran in his gait.

Or it may be that he is a grizzled oldster, bent forward by one of those enormous packs which his sort always tote about with them. And to me this last of the three always presents the most heart-moving spectacle of any.

Nearly always he looks so tired, and is so stained and so worn and so wrinkled! I mean to make no cheap gifts at the expense of a nation that has fine-tooth combed her land for man power to stand the drain of four years of war when I say that, according to my observations, the territorial reserves of France in 1918 are a million middle-aged men whose feet hurt them.

Be he staff officer, though, or beardless youth, or fifty-year old back line man, it is certain that his womanfolk will accompany him to the station to tell him good by. He had his weak at home. By to-night he will be back again at the Front, in the mud and the filth and the cold and the wet. By to-morrow he may be dead. But there is never a tear shed at parting. He kisses his wife or his mother or his sister, or all of them; he hugs to his breast his babies, if he has babies. Then he climbs aboard the car, which is crowded with others like him; and as the train draws away the women run down the platform alongside it, smiling and blowing kisses at him, waving their hands and shouting farewells, and bidding him to do this or that or the other thing.

And then, when the train has disappeared, they drop down where they are and cry their hearts out. I have witnessed this spectacle a thousand times. I am sure; and always the sight of it renews my admiration for the women of what I veritably believe to be the most patient and the most steadfast race of beings on the face of the earth.—Irvin S. Cobb in Saturday Evening post.

GENERAL CURRIE'S SPECIAL ORDER

JUSTICE, RIGHT AND DECENCY BRING GLORIOUS RECORD UNSULLIED BACK TO CANADA

By J. F. B. Livesey
Special Correspondent of the Canadian Press

With the Canadian Corps, Nov. 30.—Sir Arthur Currie has issued the following special order of the day to the Canadian troops forming part of the army of occupation: "Some of you have already commenced, while others are about to march on the Rhine, liberating Belgium in your advance. In a few days you will enter Germany and hold certain parts in order to secure the fulfilment of the terms of the armistice preliminary to the peace treaty. I am sure; and always the sight of it renews my admiration for the women of what I veritably believe to be the most patient and the most steadfast race of beings on the face of the earth.—Irvin S. Cobb in Saturday Evening post.

"You have demonstrated on the battlefield your superior courage and unflinching energy. By the will of God you have won, marching triumphantly through Belgium. You will be received everywhere as liberators, but the kindness and generosity of the population must not cause any relaxation of your discipline or alertness. Your task is not yet completed and you must remain what you are—a closely knitted army in grim and deadly earnest. German agents scattered through the country must not be able to report to their masters any weakness or evidence of disintegration of your fighting power. It is

essential that on the march and at the halt discipline must be of the highest standard. Every possible protection should be taken at all times to guard against hostile acts by organized bodies and to lessen the possibility, always present, of isolated murders or desperate guerrilla acts by factions.

PRESERVE DISCIPLINE

"To the enemy above all it is of capital importance to establish in Germany the sense of your overwhelming moral and physical standing so as to be complete by the presence of your potential strength the victories you have won on the battlefield. All external signs of discipline must be insisted upon, and the example in this, as in all else, must come from the leaders. Clothing and equipment must be, if possible, spotless, well kept and well put on. Badges and distinguishing marks must be complete, while the transport should be as clean as the circumstances will allow. In short, you must continue to be and appear to be that powerful fighting force which has won the fear and respect of your foes and the admiration of the world. It is not necessary to say that the population and private property will be respected. You will always remember that you fought for justice, right and decency, and that you cannot afford to fall short of these essentials, even in the country against which you have every right to feel bitter."

GERMANY PUNISHED

"Rest assured that the crimes of Germany will receive adequate punishment. Attempts will be made by insidious propaganda to undermine the source of your strength, but you the soldier citizens of the finest and most advanced democracy in the world, will treat such attempts with the contempt they deserve. You know that self-imposed, stern discipline has made you the hardest, most successful and cleanest fighters of this war. Beginning by the immortal stand at the second battle of Ypres, you bravely closed by the capture of Mons your fighting records, in which every battle you fought is a resplendent page of glory. I trust you, and the memory of your dead comrades demands of you to bring back that glorious record pure and unsullied to Canada."

VATICAN QUESTION

POPE TO REQUEST ADJUSTMENT OF HIS POSITION BY PEACE CONFERENCE

Rome, Nov. 29 (delayed).—The report that Pope Benedict will request the Peace Conference to take up the Roman question and effect a settlement between the Vatican and the Quirinal was confirmed today in high Vatican circles.

According to the same authority, the Pope already has personally prepared a plan by which he would have greater freedom of movement, while the establishment of a telegraph station in the Vatican would permit the latter to transmit its official communications to foreign Governments and papal nuncios without using the Italian telegraph lines. Relative to the annuity of 3,000,000 francs that the Government placed at the disposal of the Holy See in 1870 but which the latter never accepted and which has automatically reverted to the Government every six years, the Pope proposed that the Government shall pay this into a permanent endowment fund, from which the Vatican will accept the interest.

Baltimore, Nov. 30.—Cardinal Gibbons emphatically denied today rumors that Pope Benedict contemplated removal of the Holy See from the Vatican. Fear of the spread of Bolshevism was described in despatches as responsible for the Pope's reported intention to leave Italy. The Cardinal indicated that perfect goodwill and understanding exists between the Italian Government and the Holy See.

"Reports," he said, "which have said that His Holiness will leave the Vatican are unwarranted and therefore not worthy of consideration. As to the fear of Bolshevism and as to the reported requests of the Italian Government, it is deplorable that they should find credit even among the most credulous."

"WHOLLY UNFOUNDED"

EVENING MAIL PAYS JUSTICE COHALAN \$5,000 AND PUBLISHES AN APOLOGY

Supreme Court Justice Daniel F. Cohalan, New York, accepted \$5,000 yesterday from the Mail and Express Company to settle a suit for \$500,000 against the newspaper, and one for \$250,000 against the Evening Mail and Richard Spillans for false statements made in the newspaper in the fall of 1917 attacking Justice Cohalan's patriotism because of his anti-English views. The settlement was made before Justice Newburger when the cases were called for trial. As part of the settlement the Evening Mail, through Samuel Untermyer, accounsellor agreed to publish an apology on its editorial page yesterday.

Theology, as published, says that the present ownership of the newspaper has investigated the charges and found them "wholly unfounded" and "considers it its duty, not only to the plaintiff but to the public, to make this unconditional apology to Justice Cohalan." The apology also said:

"We have understood from the outset that Justice Cohalan brought these suits to vindicate his good name against the libels thus published and not for the purpose of securing money damages. The Mail is not in a very flourishing financial condition at the moment and the plaintiff has accordingly consented to accept a judgment of \$5,000 in the two actions."

POLES DENY POGROMS

ASSERT THAT THE STORIES OF JEWISH MASSACRES ARE MEANT TO HARM NATION

To establish the truth or falsity of stories concerning Jewish pogroms in Poland representatives of the Polish National Department and the Polish National Defence Committee met yesterday at the Hotel Gotham and united in drawing up a formal demmand on the American and allied Governments that they send at once to Poland a special commission to investigate conditions in that country and report the results of the investigation to the allied and American people. The document was signed by John F. Smolinski, Chairman of the Polish National Department, and Dr. K. Zarawski, Chairman of the Polish National Defence Committee.

The statement said the Poles in the United States had been viewing with alarm the news being sent to American newspapers from Amsterdam, Switzerland, and other centers concerning pogroms in Poland. The statement added that representatives of Jewish organizations in the United States had already petitioned the allied Government that Poland "be virtually denied even a seat at the peace table or an opportunity to state its case before that august tribunal."

Poland it was said, was at war with Bolshevism and with the Ukrainians. "Unfortunately, perhaps, the Bolshevik emissaries sent from Russia to Poland have in many cases been Jews racially, though we appreciate that they have long ceased to observe the religious observances of faith," the statement continued. "We may now solemnly declare that the dispatches setting forth that massacres of the Jews are taking place in Warsaw are false."

That stories of pogroms are of German origin intended to influence the Allies against the creation of a free Poland was the assertion yesterday of W. O. Gorecki, director of the Polish Information Bureau, 83 West Forty-second Street.

TWENTY THOUSAND KNEEL AT THANKSGIVING SERVICE IN PARIS

Undoubtedly the most striking Thanksgiving celebration in Paris was that organized by the Knights of Columbus at the Church of the Madeleine in honor of victory.

Church dignitaries partaking in the festival included the Archbishop of Cambrai, the Bishops of Amiens, Beauvais, Chalons, and Soissons; Colonel Workman, head of the Catholic mission to the Canadian forces; Cardinal Amette, Archbishop of Paris; Cardinal Luçon, Archbishop of Reims, and Cardinal Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster. Knights of Columbus occupied the choir.

Cardinal Bourne expressed Great Britain's gratitude to the United States, saying:—"American intervention was wholly spiritual. It was nothing sordid. No appetite for conquest determined it. America has contributed to save the world. Let us thank God for having chosen America as the instrument of His divine power."

Cardinal Amette added an expression of France's gratitude to the United States. After the Te Deum the clergy proceeded to the stone steps surrounding the church, where Cardinal Amette blessed the crowds. It is estimated that 20,000 persons, kneeling in the mud despite the rain and the cold received the blessing.

Admiral William S. Benson represented the United States. Edward N. Hurley, chairman of the American Shipping Board, also was present.

PRIEST WHO BRAVED HUNS

Abbe Deleare, cure of Ypres, has earned the gratitude of hundreds of Belgian children. After months of hardship in that shell-torn town, climbing repeatedly to the steeple of his church to extinguish fire brands, he gathered up more than one hundred little ones and took them to a chateau near Ypres. With the help of the American Red Cross he and several faithful sisters are caring for the children, many of whom were maimed by the Huns' shells and bombs.

CATHOLIC NOTES

A few weeks ago an entire congregation of Russian Orthodox Greeks—in all 150 families—at Monongahela, Pa., came over to the Catholic Church under the lead of their pastor.

The number of Catholics amongst the allied nations, according to the Month, is roughly 128,000,000, against 61,000,000 belonging to the Central Powers.

Announcement is made that Mr. Timothy Foley of St. Paul has made a munificent benefaction to the College of St. Thomas. This is a gift of \$100,000 for the erection of a dormitory building at the college. The purpose of this building will be to take care of students who are preparing for the priesthood.

Additional land has been secured for the actual site of the American Foreign Mission Seminary at Maryknoll. It adjoins and completes the former holdings, giving to the Seminary one of the finest outlooks over the Hudson River, which is in full view two miles distant and six hundred feet below. The property was bought at a reasonable cost as the Seminary was its logical purchaser.

A message from Cracow announced the formation of a Polish republic under the presidency of Deputy Daszynski. Poland is always Poland, the land of Catholic faith, of saints and of sacrifice. Its people are now rallying with big hearts around the Apostolic Visitor sent them by the Pope. With land horribly devastated by war, they are, despite their poverty and suffering, planning to establish a Catholic University at Warsaw, and have given for it a sum equal to \$4,700,000.

The bells of St. Peter's, the world's Cathedral, says the Western Catholic, gave the first signal to the people of Rome that the armistice had been signed. The great chimes rang out "Gloria in Excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus." How the bleeding heart of the Father of Christendom must have rejoiced. No man living—no power on earth—had done more to bring blessed peace to the nations.

Robert J. Collier, publisher of Collier's Weekly, died suddenly on Nov. 8, in his New York home. He had just returned from France, where he had been engaged in Knights of Columbus welfare work among the soldiers. Mr. Collier was forty-two years of age, and was the son of Peter Fenelon Collier, who, in the early '70s, was a student at Mt. St. Mary Seminary, Cincinnati, and who, after leaving the seminary established the publishing business, which he built up into a most extensive enterprise. The elder Collier died suddenly in 1909.

The will of Caleb D. Dorr, Minneapolis pioneer and a non-Catholic, who died November 2 at the age of 94 years, was filed for probate. The first bequest in the will to a charitable institution is as follows: "To the Little Sisters of the Poor, a charitable institution of Minneapolis which I have often helped a little, I give and bequeath my stock in the Zenith Telephone company in the par value of \$10,000, to use in their charitable work, which I highly approve."

The Bishop of Dijon has lately given us more particulars about the translation of St. Remi's relics from the City of Rheims. When the civil authorities compelled the Cardinal to leave the city he took the precious relics to the priory of Binson, noted as the birthplace of Urban II, Pope of the Crusades. The military carried them to Champaubert and on to Romilly, all the while ignorant of what they were transporting. A priest, on July 11, equally ignorant of what he carried, took them finally to the Bishop of Dijon. There they now remain.

Bonfires were burning the night of November 3 on all hills throughout Italy, spreading far and wide the news of the occupation of Trieste. Church bells were ringing and guns were fired. All the windows in Rome were illuminated, regardless of the police orders concerning restricted lighting. By a strange coincidence the Italians entered Trieste on the feast day of San Juste, the patron saint of the redeemed city, which all the population, including the Jews, formerly celebrated under Austrian rule as a patriotic demonstration of their Italian nationality.

The Czechoslovak Republic has begun its existence and the Czechs and Slavs, now numbering about 11,000,000 people, having thrown off the yoke of Austria-Hungary, became free for the first time since 1620. Thomas G. Masaryk, formerly professor of philosophy at the University of Prague, and since 1915 president of the Czechoslovak National Council, which was recognized by the United States and the Allies as a de facto Government, has been selected as the Republic's first president. He is now in Washington and was notified of his selection by the Council, which urged him to proceed immediately to Prague to take up further formation of the new Government.