

WHAT I SAW IN ROME.

From "The Experiences of a Convert" by Rev. Robert Hugh Benson.

I very soon after I had been received into the Church I went to Rome, and for eight or nine months studied in preparation for the priesthood, at San Vito's—a church served by a community of all nations, amongst which the English nation is particularly prominent.

First I noticed its Unity and its Catholicity. The very first Mass I was present at in Rome was celebrated by a German, served by a negro, and attended by English, Germans, French and Italians.

The next mark of the Church that I saw in Rome was that of sanctity. Now, sanctity is an extraordinarily difficult thing to speak of.

Her sanctity is to be seen again in the way in which the people pray. I remember once observing a country boy—the dirtiest boy I have ever set eyes on, and who looked as if he had not taken off his clothes for six weeks.

In Rome, too, you are everywhere reminded of the fact that the Church is Apostolic. I have been accustomed to look upon the Apostolic age as being very far distant, but in Rome it appears to be very near.

I saw the Holy Father several times. I heard him preach in the great courtyard of the Vatican. Twenty thousand people had assembled to hear him.

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I saw the Holy Father two or three times after that, and each time the impression deepened. There was the man who sat in the Chair of Peter. When I saw him celebrating Mass, there on the dome above the altar were inscribed the significant words: "Tu es Petrus et super hanc petram prevelebut ad versus eam."

THE NEGLECT OF THE CATHOLIC PRESS.

The press of the Twentieth Century is the greatest power on earth for good or evil. It is the maker of public opinion, and public opinion shapes our social, political and national destinies.

I regret to say that we Catholics are apathetic towards the Catholic press and Catholic literature. We give little support to Catholic writers and thinkers.

A glance at the condition of Catholicity in the various countries of Europe will prove the truth of these burning words, Contrast France and Germany. At the present moment the Catholics of Germany are a great power at home and abroad.

What are we Catholics doing in our own dear republic for our Catholic press? We are alive to the necessity of an aggressive Catholic defender of religion? Making every allowance for our shortcomings and inactivity, we are not doing all in our power to support the means of strengthening the Catholic faith in the hearts of our children.

Without exaggeration it is safe to say that Catholics of this country neither read nor encourage the Catholic publication to that extent which might reasonably be expected.

The sporting columns of our daily press and the frivolous magazines are all the rage. Our graduates from Catholic institutions have little taste for reading. They have plenty of money to spend on theaters and amusements, but to subscribe for a good sound Catholic journal never enters their minds.

The graduates of our colleges and convents are not doing all they should do for Catholic literature. They have plenty of money for pleasure and recreation of all kinds, but not a dollar for a Catholic periodical.

It's a pretty good sort of PLEASURE to eat good bread. You will always have the best bread if you use PURITY FLOUR. Buy it to-day WESTERN CANADA FLOUR MILLS CO., LIMITED

fields. The day is near at hand when the rising generation will be called upon to take part in the great struggle. The battle is to be fought, not with the sword, but with the pen, not with noise and shouting, but with keen intellects well-stored with correct data.

IS AMERICAN CHRISTIANITY DYING?

This week the local press has given much publicity to the views of a University of Chicago professor who boldly asserts that Christianity in this country is dying.

The general public ought to be sufficiently aware of the character of the Chicago University by this time. We presume there are sane, upright men and women within its walls, but unfortunately, those of the highest order, from appear to be long haired freaks.

Then there was Triggs—Teigs, the worshipper of Walt Whitman, John R. Rockefeller and Nature. What delicate notions he had and how, finally, they got him into all sorts of trouble and caused his undoing.

Then Ziebell arose—he who advocated trial marriages and other contrived ideas, each of which was a growing insult to Christianity. The daily press heralded abroad the vagaries of these men until the impression made on the minds of people of sanity was one of continual disgust.

Yet is Christianity dying in the United States? How can any man, with the stupendous growth of the Catholic Church before him, make such an assertion? Look at its advance in New York during the last century—razing, convincing, soul-thrilling.

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No; Christianity will not die so long as time exists. The Catholic Church cannot die; neither can she be retrained in her forward advance. A France may strike her down here, yet behold she rises in Africa. A cloud may darken her face in Uruguay; in Germany there glows a moonday splendor. Here a fool may go out; yonder a Newman comes in.

BIGOTRY LYING OUT.

Thus the Ave Maria:—The imposition of a fine of \$150 on a newsdealer in New York for selling copies of French and Italian anti-Catholic publications is another illustration of the marked change in public sentiment toward the Catholic body in this country.

DIocese of London.

On Sunday last, Rev. Father McPhail of the Resurrection Order, opened the renewal of the mission in the parish of Woodville. Rev. Father McPhail was largely attended, and the devotion of the people was truly edifying. Sadism, if ever, has been heard here; a clear, more complete, or more eloquent explanation of Catholic teaching in that parish, presented by the great Redeemer, and that the beautiful instructions bore abundant fruit was plainly proven by nearly every member of the parish approaching the Holy Sacraments during the week.

THE HOME BANK of Canada Dividend No. 6. Notice is hereby given that a dividend at the rate of SIX PER CENT. per annum upon the paid up Capital Stock of The Home Bank of Canada has been declared for the three months ending 31st of May, 1908, and that the same will be payable at the Head Office and Branches of the Bank on and after MONDAY, the FIRST DAY OF JUNE next.

papers, in sermons and public documents. O! folk must wonder at the change that has come over the American people. Hardly more than fifty years ago Father Baret was tagged and tethered in Maine for the crime of being a Catholic priest. True, the citizens of Bangor condemned the outrage and sent him a substantial token of their sympathy; but the anti-Catholic spirit was then too strong to allow the perpetrators of the outrage to be brought to trial.

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NEW BOOKS

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Saint Patrick—A Monograph in paragraphs. By HUBERT M. SKINNER, Ph. D. Introduction by Rev. FRANCIS CASSILLY, S. J. Price, 25 Cents

Ancient Catholic Homes of Scotland. By DOM. ODO. BLUNDELL, O. S. B. Introduction by Hon. Mrs. MAXWELL SCOTT, of Abbotsford. Price \$1.25

The Lord of the World. By ROBERT HUGH BENSON. Price \$1.50

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