

## Motherhood.

I hold within my arms today  
A priceless bit of mortal clay,  
Divinely fashioned, and so fair,  
The angels well may kinship share.  
My soul with gratitude is filled,  
My heart with mother love is thrilled,  
My eyes brim o'er with new-born joy,  
While gazing on my cherub boy.  
O precious one! through tears I see  
A mighty task awaiting me.  
My happy sky grows overcast,  
Life's duties loom so grand, so vast.  
To shield from wrong, to right incline,  
This little life now linked to mine—  
Divine the gift. Oh, may the mould  
A heart of truth and honor hold!  
Help me, O God, to know the way  
From out the tangle of each day,  
To guide him safe to manhood's shrine,  
And all the glory shall be Thine.

—M. E. PIATT.

## Naming the Child.

Attention is periodically called to an abuse which has been condemned by Catholic publications ever since they first began to be issued from the press, and an abuse which will probably continue to be condemned until the end of time. It is the giving of names to children, which have been borne by anything or everything in the vegetable and animal kingdom, by politicians and pagans, by heroes and heroines of fiction, by plants, shrubs, flowers and nuts. Catholic parents are not altogether free from blame in this matter, and it is one of the mysteries of life that fathers and mothers, supposedly endowed with common sense, should occasionally desire to inflict upon a child a name that is sometimes as inappropriate as it is ridiculous. Pansy and Violet, Hazel and Estelle, may sound all right when applied to the child in the tender years of infancy, but children, like flowers and shrubs, do grow up, and the Pansy of nine may become a wilted and faded blossom some forty or fifty years later.

Any list of saints' names is sufficiently varied and extended, to satisfy any and every taste. The heroes and heroines of the Church should furnish all the inspiration necessary for parents in the settlement of the important question, "What to call the baby." All catechisms in the lesson on Baptism give the reason why the child should bear the name of a saint, that it may have an intercessor with God and an example for imitation. The Litany of the Saints furnishes a better guide in this matter than either the seed catalogue, theater programme or the modern novel. There are Saints aplenty without going into botany, truly remarks the "Echo".

## Old-Fashioned Mothers.

The Jesuit Father John McCarthy preaches a sermon on the old-fashioned mother. She did not long for a career away from home nor refuse to do her duty there. She loved her husband and her children. Her chief ambition was to be her husband's dearest companion and to rear her sons and daughters to be a credit to the name they bore. She was willing to work early and late, for she toiled for those she loved.

The old-fashioned mother was loved in return for the love she gave. Her husband thought the world and all of her, and her children were sure that she was the best, the dearest, the sweetest woman they ever knew. Even when her boys and girls grew up and went away to homes of their own, they came back to her often for advice and consolation, encouragement and mother-love. She was a great force for morality. Faith was to her like the breath of life. Virtue was for her the only course. Vice she hated in all its forms. She preached by example how to practice the Christian life.

This old-fashioned mother can still be found today. She still reigns, where she does exist, the queen of a Christian home.

## A PLEA FOR THE CATHOL. PRESS

(Delivered on Aug. 31, 1919 at the K. of C. Banquet, Humboldt.)

At the present day the world is confronted by many serious problems. External and intestine troubles disturb our peace and happiness. Over the whole world there hovers a dark cloud of growing discontent, social unrest and ferment. One of the present day difficulties with which the Catholic Church has to contend with is the press. Everywhere the enemies of the Faith are working incessantly to destroy that Church, which, founded by Christ Himself, has successfully weathered all storms. To this effect the chief weapon employed by the enemies of the Church is the secular press. Before proceeding further on my subject it might be well to define a few terms. No doubt you all know what we mean by the Catholic Press. Still, for such as do not grasp its true meaning and real significance I wish to say that by the Catholic Press we mean all periodicals and newspapers which are recognized as Catholic. Such publications fall into two great classes: firstly, such as view and treat questions from a Catholic standpoint, secondly, such as explain, refute, defend Catholic practices, customs and dogmas. By the secular press we mean all such publications as do not fall within any of the above mentioned groups.

Having defined the necessary terms we come to the second part of our thesis, namely the necessity for a Catholic Press. It appears to be universally recognized—especially by Catholics—that there is a crying need for a Catholic Press. This universality of opinion has arisen for two reasons. "Firstly, critics of the present-day secular press see the great harm being done by their infidelity and immorality, their misrepresentations and erroneous guiding principles. Secondly, the willful suppression and distortion which is on the increase, since the demon of bigotry has once again come into his own." The press, so to speak, is the handbook of knowledge for the masses. The editors of the secular press are little concerned as a rule whether this knowledge is always correct, safe and sound; their chief object being a large subscription list, and the turning out of dividends. Nevertheless, if we wish to be informed on present-day events and topics, we must necessarily read the newspapers, because they are "the prompt chroniclers of events," not only in the political, financial, and mercantile world, but also in arts and letters, in society and religion. The public clamors for the newspapers, since it is the supreme guide for many. Thus the press exerts a mighty influence, which ultimately will shape a people's destiny.

Alas, too many editors forget to use their power properly. Glance over the newspapers of the day, and what does one usually find in them? I can give no better answer than that of a college editor when he wrote: "Crime and vice are depicted in most attractive colors; lawlessness is advocated; vice applauded, and sympathies for criminals are profusely proclaimed. Most of our popular magazines," he goes on to say, "are on the same level with our daily press. They reek in the filth of immorality and their venal publishers do not hesitate to administer the deadly fumes to innocent and guilty alike, for the paltry price of the subscription. But what is most astonishing is the immense circulation these vendors of filth enjoy. Still it only goes to show that immorality is the dominating vice of our times; it is the viper that is gnawing at the very heartstrings of our religion

and our country." Besides yellow journalism, and its chief exponent, socialism, deals in arson, murders, scandals, divorce suits and marital infidelities; dynamite outrages, lynchings, labor riots and strikes. And yet, dear friends, how greedily are such accounts not read by old and young alike. For the latter especially there is grave danger, because they are too inexperienced in the ways of the world, and because their youthful minds are not sufficiently trained and instructed in order to be able to pick out the grain from the chaff. Sometimes, I dare say, one does find an occasional article or editorial of merit, but what about Catholic news? These are usually, if they are printed at all, printed in some obscure corner of the newspapers, or as a writer has so aptly put it: "Sandwiched in between a Patent Medicine Cure for Cancer and some cold facts about glaciers."

And yet, dear friends and countrymen, these organs find a welcome haven and a cordial reception in thousands of American homes and there are doing their dreadful work, "vitiatting character, lowering manhood, polluting citizenship, degrading Christian virtue, slandering our Church, ridiculing and insulting the Creator." And without any effort on our part and the government to stem it, "the glaring cataclysm of slanderous, sensational, and obscene literature is tearing up the innocence of childhood, the fragrant purity of youth, the moral strength of manhood."

The world takes its ideas, manners, and laws from this teacher of men. This powerful organ of public opinion can sway at will its immense audience. Did not great world events happen because of the press? Have its editors not a corresponding moral duty and responsibility, "commensurate with their vast audience, since they are called to be the conscientious standard bearers of truth and liberty and to implant sound principles in the popular mind?" Should they, therefore, not unite in themselves a high degree of intelligence and true devotion to these principles? Should they not be men of clear and strong conviction, fearless in defending the right and denouncing the wrong? Should they not criticize the ill-done, suggest the necessary and expedient remedies, teach men moral and religious principles? Why cannot the press be an instrument of good? Why must it cater to the public? What harm cannot an unscrupulous man, and especially an editor, cause by this medium? Falsehood travels quickly, but truth—slowly.

If, therefore, the press is in such a deplorable and pitiful state, why not remedy this awful condition? In order, however, to counteract the evil and debasing influence of the present-day secular press, we need a powerful and well-patronized Catholic Press, which will "instruct our people in the cardinal points of the Catholic Faith; defend our religion against slanders and wicked rationalistic teachings; inculcate true morality, the right principles of business and government."

It is the opinion of a noted churchman "that without a vigorous, militant Catholic Press, the Church will be unable to resist the encroachments of her enemies, and nothing less than a miracle will be able to save the world from socialism." "Our homes, our country, religion and morality demand a Catholic Press."

Why must our Catholic clergy repeatedly call upon the Faithful to support and patronize the Catholic papers? Why cannot Catholics support our few Catholic papers and magazines as the St. Peter's Bote, the Catholic Tribune, the West Canada, America, Benziger's Magazine, Extension, Cathol. World, Catholic Quarterly Review, Fortnightly Review, Sunday Visitor,

and others? Are we too weak numerically and financially? Have we not Catholic journalists of note and literary ability? Why not cast off our indolence and indifference, and combat the evil tendencies of our present-day secular press? If we must read, why not obtain the best, the purest, and the most reliable news? Pope Pius X of happy memory wrote: "One of the greatest needs of the day is an intelligent and loyal Catholic laity." "But how can they be intelligent Catholics unless they are educated in Catholic Truths and principles? How can they be loyal unless a love and reverence for our Holy Church be instilled in their hearts? But the present-day Catholic is lulled by a security more imaginary than real. True security will he only find when clothed in the warm and close embrace of truth. He will then weather all storms and, in the calm, his virtues will shine forth more resplendent after the storm."

It is our sacred duty to spread the light of truth. But how are we best to accomplish this? Indeed, we have our priests and missionaries. But, they alone can accomplish little, if we do not cooperate with them. Here again the press can further a laudable movement. "Will it not fill us with special joy and satisfaction to have promoted with apostolic zeal, the interests of truth and right living, the eternal and only principle that lead to temporal and eternal happiness?" "May the Faithful," wrote the saintly Pope Leo XIII, "unite their efforts more efficaciously for the common good, and may their union rise like an impregnable wall against the fierce violence of the enemies of God." Will we not respond to the appeal of such an authority? Surely, one of the best means to effect this is the Catholic Press. Must we not stand united in a noble enterprise, if we wish to see the successful establishment of a Catholic Press? Will such a press not be a tower of strength to the Church, and a lasting credit and perpetual memorial to ourselves and our country?

Not so long ago I noticed a paragraph in The Catholic Tribune that the Catholic women of Uruguay, South America, inaugurated a movement for a Catholic Press, and that the same shows signs of every success. Let us sincerely hope that it will be a real success! Can we not also do what these noble women are doing? Will we be found lacking in such a worthy enterprise? Will we not support the movement and cause in every way? Will the Catholics throughout the world not aid in stemming this "tide of atheistic and materialistic progress?" Even though the "political and social forces active in this country," and throughout the world, "make the realization of the Catholic Press almost impossible today," yet it is "inevitable on the Catholic Press to enlighten the world on Catholic topics, an understanding of which may be sweeping in its results, and to set right the wrongs committed by partisan or religious fanaticism." Let us, therefore, unite our efforts so that the Catholic Press will be an assured success. Let everyone, no matter of what nation, tribe or tongue, contribute his mite.

Before closing our discourse I wish to say a few words in favor of our Catholic newspaper, the "St. Peter's Bote." You all know what it is doing at the present time, and what it has done in the past. Thus far it has attained marked success, even though it is laboring under serious difficulties. I hope to see the day when this paper will appear as a daily, and that in the German language. Let us support it financially and otherwise, so that the first Catholic newspaper of Western Canada will enjoy a wide circulation, and that it will be supported and patronized by Catholics.

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