

THE WORK OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC SOCIETIES

The official call for the fifth national convention of the American Federation of Catholics Societies, which is to be held in Buffalo on July 29, 30, 31 and August 1, is an important and interesting document. It bears the signatures of President Thomas B. Minahan and Secretary Anthony Matre, and is approved by Archbishop Messmer, of Milwaukee, and Bishop McFaul, of Trenton.

What it Has Done

"During six years of existence," says the convention call, "Federation has been brought to the attention of Catholics throughout the entire country. Its objects and aims are now quite fully understood and very generally approved. Notwithstanding considerable indifference and some opposition, Federation has succeeded even beyond the hopes of its organizers. Aside from specific matters of moment taken up and brought to successful issue, Federation rightfully claims to have been a large factor in educating American non-Catholic thought and public opinion to a more correct understanding of what Catholicity actually is, and for what it really stands for in the nation.

"Through the Federation Conventions, Catholicity more than at any previous time has had the ear of the American public. The press is read by the general public. Catholic magazines and weeklies are seldom seen outside of Catholic circles. Federation has been a much needed medium of communication. The unfounded fear that Federation would provoke hostility has been clearly shown to be a mistake. There never was a more kindly disposition towards Catholicity than during the past few years. Without claiming too much, Federation has certainly, by kindly, conservative and discreet word and action, done much to change the mistaken sentiment of bitterness. Our work has been largely a matter of education—education which always rights misunderstandings and erroneous conceptions.

"Instead of justifying the fears of some, by dabbling in partisan politics, Federation has unmistakably proved that the broadest Catholic unity is entirely consistent with disinterested as well as discreet and sane action towards the safeguarding of Catholic interests.

"Disorganized effort, even partial organization, can accomplish but little. Catholic strength intelligently, kindly and discreetly exercised can right every inequality and disarm all bitterness. Effort without disciplined organization to-day is practically useless; it has frequently proved a nuisance.

Co-operation of the Hierarchy

"At several of its sessions during the past year the Executive Board, discussing the future of Federation, was unanimous in the conviction that the time had come to urgently request more active co-operation with us on the part of the hierarchy. Although nearly all the Archbishops and Bishops have written letters of approval and in many instances expressed the heartiest commendation, it has still seemed they were content to leave the active work of organizing to the few prelates who have from the first had a strenuous hand on the laboring oar. Many laymen and some societies have interpreted this absence from active co-operation to mean that Federation is only tolerated, not earnestly encouraged. The Executive Board respectfully submit that the period of probation has been reasonably long and that Federation's record should now recommend it to the active, inter-

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Mrs. BROWN LEE, Aymer, Que., writes: "I have used Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry for Diarrhoea for several years past and I find it is the only medicine which brings relief in so short a time."

ested co-operation of episcopal and ecclesiastical leadership. Organization completed and prudently directed can become the right arm of Catholic interests in the magnificent development awaiting the earnest action of Catholic unity. We therefore most earnestly urge prelates and clergy to attend and to personally invite leading Catholic laymen to represent in the Buffalo convention each and every archdiocese, diocese, institution and parish in the country. Changes in the methods and organization of Federation may be desirable. What is most needed is representation of the best Catholic thought to so mold and direct the future of Catholic unity as to insure the beneficent results within the reach of united action. Our confidence in a favorable response to this appeal from prelates and priests is strengthened by the expressions of favor in the recent letter of His Holiness to the president of the Federation, in which he says:—

Commendation of His Holiness Pius X.

"How much joy all this gives us can be more easily imagined than expressed, for you are aware that we have Federation of this kind very much at heart because of the abundant blessings that thereby accrue to civil society. Rejoicing, therefore, at the fruit which you have already gathered, we see the hope and the promise of still more in the future. This hope is increased because of the fifth congress which you announce as soon to convene in Buffalo, New York, and at which no doubt a distinguished assemblage of prelates will assist. Meantime, we express the wish that your labors and those of the Federation, which has begun with prudence worthy of the highest praise, may be crowned with the blessing and assistance of God, and as a pledge of our benevolence we with all our heart impart to you and each of the societies associated the apostolic benediction."

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A Doctor's Story

A physician of large reputation tells a good story about himself. "During my absence," he says, "my two youngsters got into my consulting room, where they began to 'play at being doctors.' Presently one of them unlocked a door and disclosed a terrorized gaze to his playmate. "Pooh! What are you 'fraid of?' he asked. 'It's nothing but an old skeleton.' "Wh-wh-where did it come from?" asked the other with chattering teeth. "Oh, I don't know. Papa's had it a long time. I expect it was his first patient."—London Telegraph.

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Editor of the North West Review.

Sir—So the law has now passed for the running of the street cars on Sunday. I am very sorry for it. It will, I consider, do a great deal of harm to all and every religion. It may be the opinion of some who prefer their own ease, comfort, and enjoyment to the obeying the express command of God to keep His Day Holy. But there is no opinion allowed when the question is to obey or disobey Him. I notice a letter in your paper of June 28th from a Mr. Patrick Henry, in which he goes out of his way to make remarks on what he calls the dour Scottish Sabbath and compares the superior morals of a place he knows, but of which he wisely refrains to mention the name, where out-door games and dances are in full swing on Sunday evenings. Does the good gentleman actually believe that those who spend the afternoon and nights in that way are in the path of their duty, and when they retire, can they think when they say their prayers—if they do say them—that they have kept God's day holy. If he does believe that, I can only hope that the Lord will enlighten his mind before that day come when he will understand these things perfectly. I have often heard our good priests of St. Boniface utterly denounce that way of misusing the day. Who is Mr. Patrick Henry that he dare go against them? Sir, it is men like him that do more harm to the Catholic Faith than the bitterest enemy ever we had. Better an open foe than a false and foolish friend, and it would be well if others were more guarded in their public speaking, lest they too give scandal on this question. Sir, for twenty-seven years my wife and I passed through the city on our way to church, and all the city on our way to church, and peaceful ways remarked how quiet and peaceful the streets were on that day. How unlike some cities I have lived in. But now that charm is to be destroyed. All now that charm is to be destroyed. All these years I was proud of the city, these years I was proud of her progress, proud of her progress, proud of all beautiful homes; but most proud of all was I of her observance of the Lord's Day. It will grieve me now to enter the city on that day and see the crowded cars, and I will endeavour to keep out of it as much as possible so that I will not see them. For one that will use the cars to go to church, twenty will go to other places. And were it not that I am too old to change now, I would quit the place and go somewhere that there would be no chance of seeing Sunday cars during my life. Nor will I enter one to go to church, nor anyone belonging to me, if I can prevent it.

I am, Sir,
Yours truly,
POR EL DOMINYO

You have allowed Mr. Patrick Henry the floor, as you express it in his unprovoked attack on Scottish Morals. Please let me have my innings also.

It is better to go forward slowly than to go round and round ever so fast.

The Institutions of the National Sanitarium Association, including the Muskoka Cottage Sanatorium and the Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives, are under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada, and Countess Grey.

Readers of this announcement will be glad to know that there has been an encouraging response to our request for help for the

Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives



Since this institution was opened, a little more than three years ago, 560 patients have been cared for. Over 2,000 patients have been treated in our two Muskoka homes within the past seven years.

—Not a single applicant has ever been refused admission to the Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives because of his or her poverty.

Our plea for help is that the Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives cares for patients that all other hospitals refuse. If the needed money is forthcoming, this dread disease might be stamped out.

—Dr. T. G. RODDICK, an eminent physician of Montreal, ex-president of the Canadian Medical Association, and ex-president of the British Medical Association, stated at a meeting of the Montreal League for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, his firm belief that in twenty-five years, provided proper means are adopted, a case of consumption would be a curiosity.

Within the month the accommodation has been increased by twenty-five beds, adding to the burdens of maintenance, but in the faith that a generous public will come to the aid of the trustees.

Contributions may be sent to Sir Wm. R. Meredith, Kt., Osgoode Hall, Toronto, or W. J. GAGE, Esq., 54 Front St. W.

A party of young people were about to explore a coal mine. One of the young ladies appeared dressed in white. A friend remonstrated with her. Not liking the interference, she turned to the old miner who was to conduct them and said: "Can't I wear a white dress down into the mine?" "Yes, mum," was his reply, "there's nothing to hinder you from wearing a white frock down there, but there'll be considerable to keep you from wearing one back."

The efforts we make for any worthy object may not seem successful to-day or to-morrow, but they are a part of the grand work that is going on slowly but surely, and no one of them can we afford to lose.

The idler is a roamer on the highway of life. He walks in the companionship of poverty until satanic suggestion turns his footsteps into the avenues of the thief.

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