

AMERICAN CATHOLICS AND EDUCATION A PERFECT SYSTEM

But Its Maintenance Entails Much Personal Sacrifice--Religion the Basic Principle.

In the current number of Donahoe's Magazine appears an excellent article, entitled "Catholic Education in the United States," by Morgan J. O'Brien...

On determining the benefits of any system, either of religion or education, it must be judged not alone by its effects or results upon man in his connection with what transpires about him here...

Man's rights and duties, whether considered as an individual, as a member of the family, or of that greater society known as the state, cannot be correctly determined without bearing this fact constantly in mind.

They came over a trackless ocean, and cut a way through impenetrable forests, and through their religion, intelligence and courage, established society and governments and laws...

That, in material prosperity, we have made giant strides, is apparent. Our towns, cities and states have increased and multiplied.

There can be no question of more vital importance to the American people than this: How are children who, in a few years, are to be entrusted with the responsibilities of citizenship...

Educational institutions may be divided into primary and secondary. The former embrace public, parochial and similar schools, devoted to elementary education, while secondary institutions comprise colleges and universities.

But when we come to consider the parochial, as compared with the public schools, then the results are remarkable. That the public schools, in their appointments, completeness and system of instruction, are superior, must be conceded.

Yet statistics show that there are between 700,000 and 800,000 in our parochial as against seven to eight millions in the public schools.

When we remember that this involves a double burden of building and maintaining our own schools, besides contributing, in the way of taxation, to public instruction, the result is only extraordinary, but is evidence of a deep seated sincere belief in the necessity of Catholic Schools and Catholic Education.

We recognize the necessity and utility of public schools and public instruction. These are essential for the safety and maintenance of our country, needful to the intelligent citizens, and, for those who are indifferent or opposed to religion...

Gladly would they avail themselves of their great advantages, willingly would they lay down the burden of maintaining private schools, if this could be done without the sacrifice of principle.

nominal plan of Canada, which permits religious training, then could Catholics conscientiously give up their own schools.

Religion, however, it may be asserted, is the proper theme for the church or home, but has no place in the school. That churches and the teaching of Christian homes do much to foster and promote religion must be conceded...

That churches, Sunday schools and home influence have not been as far reaching as demanded by the religious wants of the people or nation, may be conclusively shown by dwelling for a moment on the past and present religious condition of our country.

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vidual, the family and the state, that Catholics regard religious training as superior in its claims to mere mental training.

If we would, therefore, ask what Catholics have done for education, we would answer, though we might point with pride to the number and character of our schools, colleges and universities...

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3d, Greatest Sales

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SOME COSTLY THINGS.

[BY FRANK A. CLARK.]

The State Capitol at Albany, N.Y., is the costliest building of modern times. Over twenty million of dollars have been expended upon it.

The most expensive municipal hall in the world, and the largest in the United States, is the City Building of Philadelphia, upon whose tower the largest clock in the world is displayed.

The most expensive Legislature in the world is that of France, which costs annually \$3,600,000. The Italian Parliament costs \$420,000 a year.

The next to the highest price ever paid for a horse in the world was the \$105,000 for which the trotter Axtell was sold in Indiana at the age of three years.

The next highest price ever paid for a horse in the United States was the \$100,000 given by Charles Reed of the Fairview farm, Tennessee, for the great stallion, St. Blaise, at a sale in New York city, in October, 1891.

A buff Leghorn pullet exhibited at the chicken fair in Madison Square Garden in January, 1892, was valued at \$100.

The costliest paintings of modern times have proved to be Meissonier's "1814" and Millet's "The Angelus." M. Chaudard gave \$50,000 francs (\$170,000) for "1814," and 750,000 francs (\$2,500,000) for "The Angelus."

The Shah of Persia has a tobacco pipe worth \$400,000. The most costly book in the world is declared to be a Hebrew Bible now in the Vatican.

In the year 1635 a tulip bulb was sold in Holland for \$2,200. It weighed 200 grains.

The costliest meal ever served, as far as history shows, was a supper given by Aelius Verus, one of the most lavish of all the Romans of the latter day, to a dozen guests.

The largest sum ever asked or offered for a single diamond is £430,000, which

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The Nizam of Hyderabad agreed to give to Mr. Jacobs, the famous jeweler of Simla, for the "Imperial" diamond. This is considered the finest stone in the world.

The costliest toy on record was a broken nose wooden horse which belonged to Napoleon Bonaparte, and was sold a few years ago for 1000 francs.

The costliest cigars ever brought to this country were a box of the brand specially made for the Prince of Wales in Havana, the manufacturer's price for which was \$1.87 apiece.

The largest price ever paid for a cane was bid at an auction in London of the walking sticks which were once the property of George III. and George IV. It was £15, or \$90, and was given for a walking stick of ebony, with a gold top, engraved "G. R." and with a crown, and also containing the hair of the Princesses Augusta Elizabeth, Mary Sophia and Amelia, and inscribed, "The Gift of the Princess Mary, 1804."

The costliest mats in the world are owned by the Shah of Persia and the Sultan of Turkey. The Shah and the Sultan each possess a mat made of pearls and diamonds, valued at over \$2,500,000.

The costliest crown in Europe, experts say, is that worn by the Czar of Russia on state occasions. It is surmounted by a cross formed of five magnificent diamonds resting upon an immense uncut but polished ruby.

The most expensive royal regalia in the world are said to be those of the Maharajah of Baroda, India. First comes a gorgeous collar containing 500 diamonds, arranged in five rows, some of these as large as walnuts.

The most valuable gold ore ever mined in the United States, and probably in the world, was a lot containing 200 pounds of quartz, carrying gold at the rate of \$50,000 a ton.

The greatest sum ever paid for telegraph tolls in one week by a newspaper was the expenditure of the London Times for cable service from Buenos Ayres during the revolution in the Argentine Republic.

At a recent meeting of the Academy of Science F. W. Warner spoke upon the subject of "Biometry." Mr. Warner began his discussion by explaining that the subject was a science treating of the measure of life and the laws and conditions which govern its duration.

"Every person," said he, "carries about with him the physical indications of his longevity. A long-lived person may be distinguished from a short-lived person at sight. In many instances a physician may look at the hand of a patient and tell whether he will live or die."

"In the vegetable as well as in the animal kingdom, each life takes its characteristics from the life from which it sprang. Among these inherited characteristics we find the capacity for continuing its life for a given length of time. This capacity for living we call the inherent or potential longevity."

"Under favorable conditions and environment the individual should live out the potential longevity. With unfavorable conditions this longevity may be greatly decreased, but with a favorable environment the longevity of the person, the family or the race may be increased."

The speaker then spoke of plant life, stating that trees which have long, thick trunks with small limbs invariably have long life. Animals with large bodies and short limbs have a much greater longevity than these with the opposite characteristics.

"Each individual inherits a potential longevity, and should live out this longevity as uniformly as does the lower animal. Allowing for accidents and accidental diseases, the family records will show that the family longevity is reached with a surprising accuracy."

"The primary conditions of longevity are that the heart, lungs, and digestive organs, as well as the brain, should be large. If these organs are large the trunk will be long and the limbs comparatively short. The person will ap-

pear tall in sitting and short in standing. The hand will have a long and somewhat heavy palm and short fingers. The brain will be deeply seated, as shown by the orifice of the ear being low. The blue hazel or brown hazel eye, as showing an intermission of temperament, is a favorable indication. The nostrils being large, open, and free, indicates large lungs. A pinched and half-closed nostril indicates small or weak lungs.

"In the case of persons who have short lived parentage on one side and long-lived on the other side the question becomes more involved. It is shown in grafting and hybridizing that nature makes a supreme effort to pass the period of the shorter longevity and extend the life to the greater longevity. Any one who understands these weak and dangerous periods of life is forewarned and forearmed. It has been observed that the children of long-lived parents mature much later and are usually backward in their studies."

An instance was given of a gentleman who had indications of great longevity. He was taken from his hotel ill with yellow fever and removed to the hospital, where he was placed in a ward with six other patients. In a few days the six were buried and he was discharged. He had the same type of disease and the same treatment. His longevity carried him through. In conclusion he said: "If time is money, longevity is wealth. A person who has great inherited longevity will outlive disease and enjoy the most valued inheritance which parents can give to their children."

BISHOP O'DONNELL

On the Situation in Ireland--His Contribution to the Irish Party Fund.

The Most Rev. P. O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe, who was Chairman of the Dublin Convention, has written the following letter to the editor of the Dublin Freeman, at the same time giving a generous contribution to the Irish National Fund:--

"DEAR SIR--With the bleak prospects before our agricultural population during the coming year in the poorer parts of Ireland it needs more than an ordinary cause to draw a subscription for political purposes from one situated as I am. Yet I feel I ought to double my usual contribution to the Parliamentary Fund.

"The Nationalist Party cannot subsist without public support; and it would be difficult to name a time when so much was at stake as now depends on maintaining a thoroughly efficient force in Parliament to compel attention to the wants of Ireland. The state of taxation, now branded with injustice, the condition of Agriculture, the condition of Education, the method of government, comprising in itself an epitome of Irish grievances, all demand that the existing unnatural system of legislation and administration from without should be changed for one that will accord with the just claims and best aspirations of the people.

"In that conviction I enclose a check for £20; and, needless to say, my contribution is unreservedly at the disposal of the party, to be used according to its judgment of what is best for the National cause. But while not desiring to fetter in any way the discretion of our representatives, it may be well to express publicly the feeling under which I subscribe.

"I should not contribute it all if I thought my little sum would be available for anyone who in the time to come would absent himself from party meetings or break party discipline, or fail in ordinary common-sense allegiance to the pledge, no matter how good his intentions or how specious his pleas. Whoever the leader is we must have discipline to make progress.

"I have sometimes been asked what course I would take if the party selected a chairman whom I should distrust. Well, there is discipline for the electorate as well as for the Members of Parliament, and as there is no question of a Cataline in the State I should feel bound as an Irish Nationalist not to oppose the elected chairman of the party either in word or deed; but I would feel perfectly free to keep out of the political arena altogether; and I do not think, while we are fighting for Home Rule against such powerful opposition, that any less stringent discipline will at all meet the requirements of the case.

"On such lines as these, so far as I can form an opinion, the men who attended the Convention and the many leading Nationalists who were unable to be with us except in spirit, may even in a poor year not only make the just appeal issued by Mr. Dillon a financial success, but can see that it receives such a response as will be worthy of Ireland's cause and put an end to disruption in the Irish Party. That party, even in its days of bitterest pruning, never questioned the truth that the mercy and consideration we all need so much from Above should be imitated in our dealings public as well as private, with our fellow-men. The Christian law requires that the door of forgiveness be never closed. It is always open, on conditions, in the realm of higher things. No matter, then, what the past record may be, for all who give unmistakable earnest of a determination to act henceforth in loyal comradeship, the Irish Party will know, without any thought of humiliation,

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how to reconcile the respect due to its members with the imperative demands of the country they serve.

"I have written all this rather with the object of helping to clear the ground than of attempting to sound any high note on behalf of the appeal. The party, now pledged before our race to maintain discipline in our own ranks, and promote reunion at any personal sacrifice, has a right to generous support from the nation, and eloquent voices will be raised to press the claim for a splendid national effort. I think I may promise that the priests and people of this diocese, though their difficulties are not slight, will do their part to sustain the old cause. I am, dear sir, sincerely yours,

PATRICK O'DONNELL, Bishop of Raphoe. Letterkenny, October 24, 1896.

Early Closing Movement.

The Real Estate Record refers to the Early Closing law in the following manner:--

Speaking of the early closing movement, it is evident that the Mayor's sound sense comes to the front in that question also. He appears to regard it as an interference with the liberty of the citizen who pays taxes to do business in the city and is entitled to do it, in his own way and at his own time. There are certain sections of the city where evening business is imperative if business is to be done at all. There are other sections where business cannot be done in the evening, any more than water can be made to run uphill. It is therefore a sectional struggle, and the Mayor is perfectly right to discontinue it. Another feature of the question is that it is a fight of the large stores against the small ones. Not satisfied with absorbing the day business of the smaller stores--the big fellows want to prevent them from doing business at night, which is in many cases their only harvest time. A distinction too should be made in favor of those small stores where only the proprietor or his family serves or where the home is connected with the shop. In such case no hardship is inflicted and the work is purely voluntary. We leave this in the Mayor's hands.

"Who'd you vote for yesterday, Ben?" "De man what makes de 'rangement wid me." "What man?" "De man what change a one dollar bill fer me 'en give me two fives en' a ten in change!"

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