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LONDON, SATURDAY, DEC. 22, 1928

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

There is sometimes heard the plaint that Christmas is too merry : that the religious significance of the feast is lost in the merry-making. The religious feature is the all-important feature. the unique event that is commemorated is the reason for its existence. Still we have always felt that there was a leaven of puritanism in the of faith or morals ex-cathedra. complaint that Christmas has been secularized. Vulgarized and commercialized as it is to some extent we rejoice that the observance of Christmas is universal. It is a lastic. Outside the questions of great, a marvellous advance since the time that it was looked upon with cold and stern disapproval. when it was suppressed with other "man-made Sabbaths" as Popish superstition.

There is perhaps something to be universal observance of the Christmas feast. But there is no fear, no possibility of the stupendous event that it commemorates being lost sight of. Rather in a compelling. inescapable way, it brings home to everyone, young and old, Catholic and non-Catholic, fervent, tepid or indifferent, the great fact that this supreme arbiter in those grave Acton's remarks the day after day brings good tidings of great joy political disputes that threatened Cecils attack will be appreciated : that shall be to all the people ; for this day is born to us a Saviour who tian Europe. But that was not by has received much encouragement is Christ the Lord.

The very name is eloquent, Cristes Maesse, it was called before the Christian Catholic people of will proclaim as long as the Eng- the sake of their best interests. By lish language lasts the birth of Christ and the Holy Sacrifice that real head of a real league of nations. tions. Similarly, the Vatican was He instituted.

And if we look beyond the vulgarized commercial Santa Claus, which not be denied that that league of on ad hoc or on permanent bodies." after all is but an incident in the nations functioned more effectively universal celebration, we see that for peace and order than any we the much-abused secular press in- may hope to form today. thousand ways the great fun-

readers, one and all, A Merry tical pronouncement dealing with Christmas ! question from the Albanian murders onwards? And has he REINSTATING THE POPE any reason to suppose that the In his "Pope Leo XIII." parties to the dispute would pay

Justin McCarthy notes that " the wildest and most erroneous ideas prevail upon the subject of Papal infallibility sometimes among perfectly intelligent and impartial men, who are willing and eager to know the truth."

Then as a necessary preliminary appeal for Papal interference comes he explains for the ordinary reader most prominently at present from those who, till quite recently, would what Catholics mean by Papal infallibility :

have regarded such an act as going "The faith of Rome is that when outside the powers of a mere 'Bishop.' the Pope and his Council have to "In any case, the head of an define some question of creed or morals, that inspiration will guide international institution like the them right. It is furthermore the Catholic Church is not bound to such querulous attacks on the Pope faith of Rome that if, on any occa- pronounce at a moment's notice on as those we have been considering. sion, at any crisis, the Pope should a political quarrel on which his It is the silver lining of ablack cloud. find it impossible to convene his opinion has not been asked and in They can not ignore the Vicar of Council, and because of some newwhich one of the parties involved is not subject to his spiritual authority. risen doubt on a question of creed or morals a definition should be In the words of Holy Scripture :--'Who made me a judge or a divider necessary, the Holy Spirit would then be with the Pope, and would over you?'

metaphorically touch his lips with "It is the duty of the Church in sacred fire. The Pope has no power these days to point out the way of greatest priest in the world." to start new dogmas. He only peace, and it is the duty of States interprets revelation. He defines and individuals to walk in that way and declares doctrines, extracting by observing the precepts of the say, in reinstating the Pope. of that deposit of faith originally entrusted to the Apostles, and pro-

only when he expounds a question ity can make possible." After similarly replying Mr. and on behalf of the Church. His Bernard Holland pertinently asked : private opinion, even on a question "What would have been said in of faith or morals, is but as the England if, in 1775, the Pope had opinion of any other learned eccles- issued an opinion that the Americans were in the right against the faith and morals the Pope has no English, or if the Pope had said in claim whatever to infallibility. The 1801 that the English had done an most unlettered Irish peasant under- immoral thing in bombarding

stands the distinction perfectly Copenhagen in order to seize the well. . . There is no man in the Danish warships, or if, in 1900, the world more devoted to his Church Pope had given voice to the then than the Irish peasant; but he feeling of almost all Europe and desired, something wanting in the knows that divine inspiration was had condemned our action in the not given to the Church to teach Transvaal ?" politics. It would be as easy to The League of Nations which

make him believe that the opinion Lord Hugh is credited with fatherof the Pope was infallible as to the ing and of which his brother is a time and method of harvest opera- guiding spirit cut a sorry figure in

the dispute between France and There was a time when the Italy. When this is borne in mind Pope was generally recognized as the point-blank sarcasm of Lord the peace and good order of Chris-"I do not think that the Pope virtue of his office as spiritual Head towards intervention during the of the Church; but rather because past seven years of war. By Article XV. of the Pact of London the modern English language was Europe desired that he should of April, 1915, Great Britain formed, the Christ Mass, Christmas assume that additional burden for pledged herself to support Italy in preventing the Holy See from common consent the Pope was the participating in the peace negotia-

Whatever mistakes may have been previously excluded from repremade at any particular time it will sentation at The Hague, whether Let it go at that. Lord Birkenhead's recent Rec-

dicates and emphasizes in ten The time came when nations sity was widely commented upon. seceded from the unity of the Church He condemned idealism and altrudamental fact which lies beneath and rejected the Pope's jurisdiction ism in international affairs and Act are constituted the Children's even in matters purely spiritual. declared that "politically, economic-And then we may not overlook That perforce precluded him from ally and philosophically the motive that consoling fact that a great further exercise of the temporal of self-interest not only is but many people whose hearts are power once delegated to him by the ought to be the main spring of touched by the spirit of Christmas common consent of Catholic Europe. human conduct." And further he lars to bring joy to poor homes and seceded from Catholic unity reject terms the Prussian doctrine that "Might is Right," justifying it the Christmas message is "Peace vist ruthlessness all those who German kultur. "Rightly or rather by English self-interest than and good will toward men." It has acknowledged the spiritual juris- wrongly," he said, "nations of not the deep significance of " Peace diction of the successor of St. Peter. stronger fibre confronted by indigenous weaklings have asserted the even offends common sense, and tury all England was aflame at the right of forcible expropriation." provokes the cynical. But, as our restoration of the Catholic hier- This was the main thesis and this it was that drew forth the newspaper comments.

CATHOLIC RECORD THE

phrase we wish our friends and dispute. Does he wish for a poli-The Bishop of Brentwood continuing his address to the Interthe rights and wrongs of the whole Guild Conference at Stratford said :

"For all that, it is an instance of the re-instatement of the Pope on his own terms.

"There has been this re-instatethe slightest heed to an appeal for ment of the Pope, and there is going peace coming from that august to be more of it, and the Catholic quarter? I have not heard that young laymen are going forward the League has yet invited 'the first with their work in order that the unfounded. "I do not know whether these men. bishop of Christendom' to take any part in its deliberations; and it is Pope and know what we teach about furthermore noticeable that the him. There has been a great deal of hatred of the Pope, but when people get to know what he is, we believe that they will be ready to submit themselves to his leadership."

> And that we believe is the pertinent and sufficient comment on Christ; they attack him, they blame him, but they recognize through the mists of prejudice, in spite of generations of traditional bias, that the world's hope lies in "the first bishop of Christendom," "the MacEwan "who happens to be a They are making the first step, shall show at another time, the Act "the step that costs" as the French

> functions. They are not compli- violated. Here in London the mentary to the Pope; but they do officials of the Children's Aid Society recognize, as through a glass, dark- have been uniformly fair and just, ly, that the principle of Catholic observing the law both in the letter unity is involved in the divinely con- and in the spirit, always courteous, stituted Head of the Church. In the neighboring republic there dealing unfairly with Catholics. So

> modernists" who deny every position to know whereof they distinctive Christian doctrine and speak. Though without the same the "fundamentalists" who cling detailed inquiry elsewhere we have desperately to the fundamental reason to think that the same spirit Christian truths and in spite of obtains generally in the administraprivate judgment would impose tion of this law. That is all the them on others. The writer of a greater reason why this peculiar Sunday column in the New York and exceptional case should be Times thus humorously shows the explained and otherwise adequately eaction of the average man to their dealt with. bitter quarrel:

> "All credit to these earnest gentlemen; but it may be submitted that Baptists who go into the binding-and-loosing business are on strange ground, where they will have to compete with old-estab- population is overwhelmingly Cathlished institutions. A good many Protestants will feel that, if we must have a Pope, it is better to have one Pope trained for his calling olic in Prescott and Russell would a and selected for his merits than a whole flock of bush-league Popes with no special qualifications except a desire to send their enemies to hell.'

THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES

The Children's Protective Act is legislation that should interest every Catholic in Ontario; for under its provisions come Catholic as well as non-Catholic neglected or dependent children. Under this of this Children's Protective Act. In

the Children's Aid Society, by Rev. P. A. MacEwan, local inspector of

P. A. Machwan, the society. "I would be doing him an injus-"I would be doing him an injus-"I would be doing him an injuspression, 'I happen to be a Baptist. "However, be this as it may, the religion of the father is the religion of his infant children.

"On the evidence, I am convinced that the applicant is and has always been a Roman Catholic, and the con-tention to the contrary is wholly

committed an innocent mistake or otherwise, and it is of no immediate The judge directs that the three foster fathers of the three Bigras

children, sent to Protestant hor shall receive \$25 each in part payment of outlay. 'On payment of these sums." the

judgment concludes, "the order will go, directing that the society remove the children from their present foster-homes, and place them in suitable Roman Catholic foster homes, as the Act provides."

Now we are very anxious not co mislead our readers. There is nothing in the Children's Protective Act to justify the outrage perpetrated whether by "innocent mistake or otherwise" by the Rev. Mr. Baptist." On the contrary, as we ing zeal. The spirit of the Act is

never open even to the suspicion of is a terrific cleavage between the we are informed by those in a

Our readers, we are sure, will want to know.

1. Why it is that a Baptist Prescott and Russell where the olic? In any county in Ontario

where the people are as predominantly Protestant as they are Cath. Catholic priest be acceptable as Inspector of the Children's Aid Society ?

2. What is the composition of the Children's Aid Society in Prescott and Russell? How many Catholic members has it?

action of its Local Inspector and take responsibility for it? 4. To whom is this officer re-

sponsible and from whom does he take his instructions ? 5. There is a Provincial Minister CATHOLIC STUDENTS MISSION CRUSADE

We willingly give space to this fervent appeal of a Catholic student to his fellow-students. To Our Catholic Fellow-Students :

-Any and every movement which will draw Catholics together and hold them bound by the golden chains of Faith and Love is surely' worthy of our whole-hearted and untiring support. Slowly but surely, overturning obstacles one by one, there is rising in our midst a mighty force for good. It is the Canadian Catholic Students' Mission Crusade. Its general aim is to aid all missions at home and abroad by

prayer and material offerings. But more than this; we can see in it a means for binding into a harmonious whole our Catholic young people. As the strength of a nation depends on the moral culture and physical fitness of its subjects, so also the future good and welfare of the Catholic Church in Canada depends on spiritual health of you who are her young members.

To-day on every side we see unions aiding every branch of industry. The Canadian Catholic Students' Mission Crusade has the expressly prohibits such proselvtiz- fundamental qualifications of an active Christian union. It will them, as one writer puts it, out Gospel. But it is emphatically not _ During the controversy going on fair and just in the matter of relig- unite you, the rising Catholic the duty of those who reject the over Church Union amongst our ion. And we are happy to say that generation, as no other power will. Pope's spiritual authority to gird Protestant fellow-countrymen the this is the first instance that has In union there is strength and the another man, is, by comparison posing them to be received by all at him for not doing what only a Pope is referred to, one party accus- come to our notice in which both strength arising from such a source the faithful. The Pope is infallible general recognition of that author- ing the other of usurping Papal letter and spirit were flagrantly is invincible. Before you is placed an objective which no Catholic can refuse striving for. This end, which is the primary end, is the securing the world for Christ. Our motto is: "The Kingdom of the World for its King and Lord." What possible objections can be raised against such an organization? What reason can an earnest Catholic student have for refusing or neglecting to join it? It is Catholic and Catholic means universal; in this movement everyone has the widest field possible to use one's talents.

Let us hope that every Catholic with us. The only necessary qualifications are Charity and Goodwill. Stop, reflect,-then write to the Canadian Catholic Students' when it is a clear case calling for EOIN. the help of the State, there is a

OBSCENE LITERATURE

League of Nations has decided to false principle that the State has hold open till March 31st, 1924, its no duty in such matters. At least new international treaty for the it will be difficult for those who suppression of obscene, literature. have in the past opposed the prin-On that date the treaty will be ciple of censorship, to find any made effective in all the States that ground to stand on, when thirtyhave adhered to it, and other States five nations have solemnly recogmay afterwards sign and ratify it. nized the soundness of that prin-It is expected that the United States | ciple.

will eventually sign it, and thus make it applicable to practically the whole world.

To date thirty-five States have adhered to it, the principal ones as a "stylist." The term as generbeing Albania, Austria, Belgium, ally understood, could not be mo

DECEMBER 22. 1928

merely forbids something is good only as a declaration of intention on the part of the law-making power. Such a declaration ought to be enough to command obedience by all who wish to be considered good citizens. But unfortunately experience in all countries has shown that unless there are teeth in a law; unless it bites sharply all who venture to disobey it, so many people will disobey it that its effect becomes hardly perceptible. It is a reproach to our civilization that so many people have to be compelled to obey law; but that is the state of the case, and in all countries.

Of all the methods by which men make money out of the sins of their fellow-men, the worst, the most contemptible, and the rottenest, is the traffic in dirty publications. Perhaps we ought to except the traffic in prostitutes; but eyen that is hardly worse than the traffic in the means of corrupting young and innocent souls. God's judgment on those who scandalize others is, that it were better for them that a mill stone were hung about their neck and that they were drowned in the depths of the sea. That judgment stands forever, and it will be enforced before the whole world on the terrible day of the General Judgment.

The craze for money when it with the traffic in dirty publications, almost respectable. But the world takes great precautions to protect property, and very few precautions to protect souls. Let people look out for their own souls say the "men of the world." If that is the correct principle, why not let people look out for their property ? Let the public beware, say some wise acres who preside in the seats of law-making power. Over in New York State not long ago, a legislator said that the reading of dirty books was a matter best dealt with by means of 'mamma's slipper," and therefore he did not favor putting teeth in young man and woman will join the law against the sale of such books. There is a strong tendency nowadays to interfere by legislative action with several different things which ought to be left to parents; and on the other hand

responsibility upon the parents. The new treaty promoted by the League of Nations, will serve as Advices from Geneva say that the a denial by thirty five States of the

distinct tendency to leave the whole

NOTES AND COMMENTS

IT HAS become a habit with certain writers to speak of Newman

Minister is the Local Inspector of Mission Crusade, St. Augustine's the Children's Aid Society in Seminary, Kingston Rd., Toronto. LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND BY THE OBSERVER

3. Does this Society approve the

responsible for the administration

all Christmas celebraticn

tions."

many people whose hearts are power once delegated to him by the give hundreds of thousands of dol- Not only did those nations which poor children at this festive season. all Papal authority in matters tem-

True the Protestant translation of poral but they pursued with Bolsheon earth to men of good will." It Only in the middle of the last cen-Scottish friends say, the root of the archy ! To this day the rejection of matter is there and Christmas all semblance of allegiance to the becomes for them a season of peace Pope is a proud Protestant boast. glorious message, "Glory to God in time this imagined political activ- the outbreak of the

A last little friendly word to our it becomes an obsession. puritanical Catholics who not only complain of the secular appearance tions it will be interesting to note far as to substitute for the time for not interfering in matters honored Christmas greeting "A political ! Merry Christmas" the smugly orthodox variant "A Happy Christmas." | trouble Lord Hugh Cecil in the

Now Christmas is a feast day. And in all Catholic times and Cath- the Pope, "the first Bishop of Chrisolic countries feast days, after tendom," for not intervening in the Mass, were days of feasting and merry - making. That universal He received some prompt and pun-Catholic custom, we take it, faith- gent Catholic answers. fully interprets the mind and the writes : heart of our holy mother, the Catholic Church.

in the old time honored and Catholic with regard to the Graco-Italian Copenhagen, and the Boer War.)

and good will. But Catholics But the Pope and the Church are whom he called "the greatest But he then attacked the Pope never forget the condition of the suspected, may openly charged with priest in the world" for not Peace, nor do they truncate the political activity. From time to fixing the responsibility for the highest; and on earth peace to ity of the Pope looms up as a por- or protesting against the methods the purport of its contents. The tentous danger ; with whole classes by which it was conducted. He

intimated that the Pope was influ-With these prefatory consideraenced by the fact that Catholics were on both sides. He must have known of Christmas festivities but go so some recent strictures on the Pope the right or he lacked "divine guidance." We wonder if Justin

McCarthy ever met more grotesque At the time of the Italo-Greek ideas of Papal Infallibility ? The Bishop of Brentwood, referring London Times violently attacked leading and guidance of the Pope. dispute between Italy and Greece. What they really want, he continued. is that the Pope declare that we One were in the right and other people in the wrong.

"It would be interesting to know exactly what steps Lord Hugh Cecil Bernard Holland's query, quoted

(We must re-read here Mr. lic Church. So from the bottom of our hearts would wish the Holy See to take above, anent the American War. With regard to the Græco-Italian Copenhagen, and the Boer War.) dianship is accepted, on behalf of the action of the Minister.

statutory power. The scope, provisions and purpose of The Children's Protective Act and the Children's Aid Societies that function under it we shall discuss at another time. Just now we wish to bring before our readers a concrete case that will serve to illustrate the importance, the necessity, of interesting and informing themselves in the premises.

Aid Societies enjoying considerable

The case is this : The children of Adolph Bigras, a Catholic of Rockland, Ont., were, contrary to the express provision of the Act, placed out for adoption with Protestant families under the pretence that the father was not a Catholic. This contention was supported by a document to this effect signed by the War father apparently in ignorance of matter was brought to court and came before Mr. Justice Lennox in Ottawa. His decision is thus condensed and quoted by the Toronto Star of Dec. 7th instant :

lic," says the judge, "and died about three years ago. On December 30th, 1922, the father of the children executed an instrument to Lord Birkenhead's attack, notes under seal, called a transfer of that such people are asking for the guardiansnip, committing the children to the care, guardianship, and control of the Children's Aid Society, Minister responsible for the admin of Prescutt, and Russell counties, and purporting to release to the society all his control over them,

view of the judgment of Mr. Justice Lennox will he try to discover if it was all an "innocent mistake or otherwise ?" Will he, in brief, investigate as fully and act as energetically as if the Rev. P. A. MacEwan happened to be a Catholic priest and the children Protestants in an overwhelmingly Protestant

community ? That the people may have confid-

ence in the administration of this and other public welfare Acts we believe that the responsible Minister action in this very unpleasant matter. It is not a case of vague charges founded on suspicion or of allegations due to prejudice. The matter has been sifted in the Court, the grave injustice to the children has been remedied. The contention on which the perpetration of this grave injustice was based is

innocent mistake or otherwise" was "a matter of no immediate consequence" to the Court which had been appealed to solely for the remedy the treaty.

immediate consequence to the Court

England, China, Columbia, Czecho inaptly applied. For while New-Slovakia, France, Greece, Hungary, man as a master of English speech India, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Holland, Persia, Poland, Serbia, preceding generation, his "style" Siam, Spain, Switzerland, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Haiti, a well-ordered mind, and the flower-Luxembourg, and New Zealand.

This is the first time that anything in the nature of an international effort has been made in self told us, was to make his meaning this very important matter. The clear and if in the process English treaty covers the suppression in the literature was enriched with some traffic in obscene writings, draw- of its noblest passages it was ings, prints, paintings, printed simply because the regal soul of the matter, pictures, emblems, posters, man shone through his every word will see the necessity of adequate photographs, moving pictures, and and deed. A mere "stylist," that obscene objects generally: and the is one whose chief aim is to formupenalties to be imposed will be on late phrases, Newman certainly was those who produce such matter and not, and it is to misapprehend his also on those who circulate them whole life's purpose to classify either publicly or privately, or who him as such. And, by the way, send out advertisements seeking to there are few words in the English build up trade in such publications. language more "overworked," or Each country is to be free to decide more loosely applied than that same for itself so far as its own territory word "stylist. is concerned what constitutes

obscene matter, and a violation of declared by the Judge to be "wholly the treaty; but doubtless inter- of the Sacred Heart in the United "The mother was a Roman Catho- unfounded." Whether it was "an national representations between States for the month of November

Minister responsible for the admin- a great deal of good. It is to be the Mohammedans, it is scarcely istration of the Act what was of no hoped that the law will have teeth necessary to recall, formed the in it. A law without adequate Intention of the League for that and constituting the society their guardian during minority. The in-strument recites that he does this voluntarily and of his own free will ance. The Court did its part; we await with a good deal of confidence punishment, might almost as well judgment of those in a position to

was not excelled in his own or any was but the outward expression of ing of a beautiful and poetic soul.

NEWMAN'S ONE aim, as he has him-

one country and another will have so lucidly and concisely summed up some influence in arriving at some the problem which confronts Chrisgeneral definition of what is con- tianity in the present state of the trary to the spirit and intention of Islamic world that we feel we cannot do better than transcribe its It is a step forward, and may do substance here. The conversion of not be enacted at all. A law which know there is no problem before