

Notes From The Exchange Table

If you were in business would you hire a clerk interested in carrying on a rival business? If you were a farmer would you employ a man who considers your farm worthless and is more interested in another farm than in yours? Would you employ a domestic who denounces you and your family as worthless and immoral and unfit for existence? Would you entrust your financial affairs to a banker who hates you and denounces you? If not, will you employ as teachers of your children members of a sect who are interested in building up a rival school organization, who hold themselves aloof from you and consider you an irreligious heretical element, and whose leaders call you pagans and heathen, and denounce your schools as sinks of iniquity, hot beds of anarchy, and so immoral as to be unsafe for the children of their sect to attend? Use a little common sense in this matter and save yourselves future trouble.

Then he wanted Uncle Sam to yank the French priests out of the trenches and put them back on their jobs, and again there was nothing doing. Then he demanded that the pope be at the head of the peace council, or, at least be officially represented there; but, so far as can be learned, Benny is taking things easy in the Vatican, waiting, like Micawber, for something to turn up. Now he is going to kick the English out of Ireland, or kick the League of Nations into the high seas. In this he will be as greatly disappointed as in his other schemes; and, if he and his church don't die prematurely of grief, or heart failure, he will continue to be a boomerang to the end of his days.

The attack on the Y. M. C. A. was a regular boomerang to the fellows who pulled it off. Like an old rusty gun, it kicked the fellow who used it. The daily papers state that, of the \$203,000,000 subscribed in the November war drive, but little over one half had been paid in; and now the priest-edited papers complain that the Knights are not going to get enough money to carry out their plans. Great exhibition of common sense, wasn't it? Jump at the Y. M. C. A., charge it with grafting and incompetency, scare the people into withholding their money, and then whine because the money wasn't paid in. It certainly seems that there is plenty of work for the fool killer to do yet.

"Self determination" is a phrase much used of late. Like other popular stock phrases, it sounds well, slips off the tongue easily; and, like charity, and the under-taker, can be made to cover a multitude of sins. We don't know so much about its application to the world at large; but do know that, so far as the United States is concerned, its people are self-determined to be a free and independent nation, in which there is a complete separation of church and state, with no favoritism for any sect, and in which there is a public school for every child in which it can be trained to think, speak, and read, in a language common to all the people. Yes, the American people are determined that all must be Americans, and that there is no room in the country for any other element.

What will the papist press have for an issue when the Irish question is laid aside, which it will be within the next few months? Talk about the saints and the church at large is too common-places to interest its readers, so each sheet is forced to keep up some sort of an agitation as an excuse for existence. Poor fellows, they are about ashore for something to talk about, and someone should help them out.

Have you noticed that since the tide turned against Austro-Germany, the secular press had nothing to say concerning the black pope or superior general of the Jesuits? Even the pope's papers ignore his existence. In fact, we have heard very little concerning him since the Gerlach incident. Is it possible, that he, too, is gone into retirement and is sawing wood a la Kaiser Bill?

Speaking of the efforts of certain well meaning but misguided Protestants to secure a union of the Protestant churches with Roman Catholic organization, and the coming visit to the pope for a consultation with that purpose in view, by a self-authorized committee, causes us to wonder, whose fatted calf will be killed to make the feast when the prodigals get home. We may never know, for one thing is certain, and that is that this old man won't be there for either a feast or a frolic.

We have long wondered why so many papist writers and priests are so bitterly opposed to prohibition and determined in their opposition to it. Since they contend that fermented liquors are necessary to the existence of the church, it may be that indulgence in booze is included in their idea of the constitutional proviso which guarantees to every man "the pursuit of happiness."

Making the world safe for democracy involves making the world uncomfortable for democracy's enemies.

The Bulletin of Catholic Federation for January-February devotes most of its front page to an argument that the president's much-exploited fourteen points are borrowed from the pope's peace note of August, 1917. This is the severest criticism yet directed against the fourteen points.

As to Anarchism

The scribblers and barn-stormers of the papal propaganda can't do business without a bogey. The bigger and uglier that bogey, the more frightful; and the better for Benedict's business.

And now they have a new one; in fact a double one which they are making to do double duty. Leading articles in the pope's numerous organs are mostly about "Bolshevism and Anarchy." Sometimes they are about "Anarchy and Bolshevism." Whenever some mighty mutt of the mangod's following rises to lecture, it is generally on the perils of the day which are nothing other than Anarchy and Bolshevism, or Bolshevism and Anarchy.

If the pope's official devil had two tails, one of them would be anarchy and the other Bolshevism; for so the tale is told by those ordained to speak and write concerning these weighty matters of the only faith.

But it is only a slight variation on the old established practice. Priestcraft has always banked on hatred and fear. Its dupes have been taught to hate heretics and fear the devil until familiarity with those bogies destroyed their usefulness.

And now the Bolshevik and the anarchist have taken Satan's place in practical papist theology. If you don't be good the anarchists will get you; and if you don't give the pope power to prevent it, the Bolsheviks will eat you alive.

The logical answer to such nonsense appears in the reprint of an exchange which is here given. Whenever and wherever there is anarchy, there is also a reason. Whenever and wherever any intemperate mental attitude sways number of people, there is a reason. Read and reflect:

We have the spectacle in this state of seeing orators and newspapers warn the people of anarchy. That's the tactics of the ignorant. The wise method is not to give anarchy a cause for securing converts. Where there is abuse of law there is a growth of anarchy. Logic becomes twisted and the ignorant, suffering from injustice, believe their deliverance can be brought about by the abolition of law. There can be no denying that there is strong feeling of unrest in this country. It is given birth by the scandals the slipshod conduct of some departments, the many ignorant officials, the arrogance of so-called leaders, the suspicious actions of the free holders. They are treading on a dangerous path. They are propagandists for bolshevism, and anarchy. The warning against anarchy should not be directed to the people. That's a waste of effort. The warning should be sent to those responsible for abuses.—Bremen Gateway.

Religious (?) Finance

St. Patrick's ten-million-dollar cathedral, which stands conspicuously in the heart of New York City, does not belong to that saint; and never did. Saint Pat was dead some several centuries before its first foundation rock was laid; so there is no danger that he will ever disturb the real owner who uses his name as a profitable convenience.

The real owner is a corporation which has its general office in the city of Rome, Italy; and branch offices practically everywhere in the world. Although this corporate body is known as a "church," and is commonly supposed to be wholly concerned with the cultivation of religion, it is very much in the real estate business; and St. Patrick's cathedral is one of its exceedingly profitable investments.

This much is revealed by a document which hangs upon the cathedral's interior; the Abstract of Title to St. Patrick's Cathedral Property. From that we copy the following paragraphs:

MAY 1ST, 1799, THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COMMONALTY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, SOLD THE BLOCK BOUNDED BY FIFTH AVENUE, 50TH AND 51ST STREET, TO ROBERT SLYBURN FOR 405 POUNDS STERLING (\$2,000), PLUS ANNUAL RENTALS OF 4 BUSHELS OF WHEAT.

SEPTEMBER 13, 1828, THE GROUND WAS SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION UNDER FORECLOSURE TO FRANCIS COOPER FOR \$5,550.

JANUARY 30TH, 1829, FRANCIS COOPER SOLD THE PROPERTY TO THE TRUSTEES OF ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL AND OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH FOR \$5,550 PLUS \$51 INTEREST.

IN 1852 THE TRUSTEES OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION THEIR SHARE IN THE PROPERTY, TO THE TRUSTEES OF ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL FOR \$59,500.

This land, which passed into the hands of the pope's corporation in 1829 at a cost of \$5,601, is now worth more than six million dollars, the huge increase of value being due to the industry of others whose legitimate enterprise improved adjacent property.

It is called St. Patrick's as an inducement to susceptible Irish servant girls to contribute from their meager earnings for construction of the building and for candles thereafter. Verily, the pope is quite successful as a speculator in realty; and his local agents are also capable of carrying on the business.

Food for Thought

The Rev. John O'Gorman, LL. D., C. F., head of the Catholic war news service, declares that "the fact that the Allies have won the war will be of untold advantage to the Catholic church." He specifies:

"One of the most far-reaching consequences of our victory is that the freedom, integrity and prosperity of the British Empire and of the United States of America are secured for the rest of the Twentieth Century. This is of incalculable benefit to the church, for, during the last epoch of the world's history (that is, since 1870), in no portion of the world has the Catholic church enjoyed

such liberty and made such progress as in the British Empire and the American republic."

Quite true. The Catholic church does not "enjoy" much liberty where it has been supreme for ages and where it is long since well known. It does not "enjoy" the kind of liberty it has now been restricted to in Catholic Mexico, Spain, Italy, Portugal. It does "enjoy" the kind of liberty it has in the United States. But why? There is food for thought in that little question.—Central Christian Advocate.

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I. W. W. and A. O. H.

Some time ago the Jesuit organ, miscalled America, suffering from a complication of emotions, delivered itself of the following:

"Take up any evening paper and you can read of the marriage of Gladys Murphy to Mr. Francis Burke, in the Second Baptist church, by the Rev. Peter Doyle, and every one in the group, from parson to flower girl, had grandmothers that took their beads to bed with them. And to read over the roster of the I. W. W. and other anarchistic organizations is to be forcibly reminded of the A. O. H. directory.

Quite true. It is happily possible for the grandchildren of superstitious grandparents to flee from the fanaticism of their family, and to go in any direction to escape it.

Some negroes of slave-time in the South fled to Mexico and some to Canada—their chief concern was to get away from the hateful thing that oppressed them; and so with the priest-ridden Irish when they get some glimpse of relief from this priest-made thing.

This remarkable paragraph from the Jesuit sheet also explains where the I. W. W. gets the turbulence with which it is sometimes charged by like periodicals. It is a remnant of the same stuff so noticeable among Hibernians; and both got it from early association with bead-worshipping ancestors.

Papal Coronation

When a new pope is crowned, the triple tiara is placed upon his head with the following speech:

"Receive this tiara, adorned with three crowns, and know that thou art the father of all princes and sovereigns, the ruler of the globe, and on earth the vice-gerent of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, to whom all honor and glory forever and ever, Amen."

This seems to explain why so many princes and sovereigns are below the average in character—they all have the papacy for a daddy. And there is about an even mixture of truth and poetry in the statement.

Lieut. Col. Roosevelt, son of the late Teddy, expressed his opinion recently in regard to certain banners carried by papal-Irish in a New York St. Patrick's-Day parade. One of these banners bore the inscription: "England, Damn Your Concessions; We Want Our Country." "I have no sympathy with the people who feel that way," said the indignant young soldier. "If they feel that way, I wish they would go back to the country from which they came." So pointed a hint ought to penetrate the skulls of these flannel-mouthed fanatics.

"I CURED MYSELF OF TUBERCULOSIS"



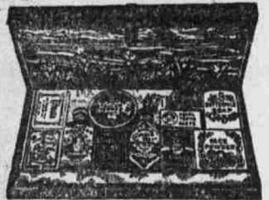
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