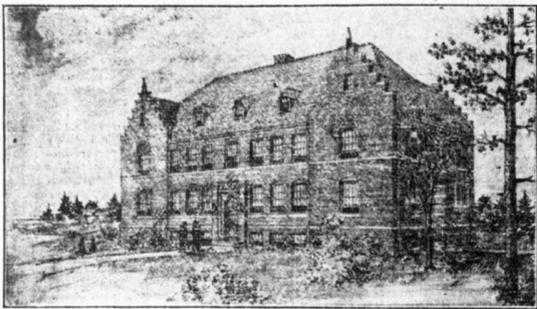


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Parents and Religious Vocations.

Parents who have the right idea of the sacredness of their obligations are always well disposed to further God's designs in respect to the welfare of the children He has given them. Hence, when the latter manifest a predilection for the religious state, truly Christian fathers and mothers take prudent counsel in this all-important crisis. They recognize the fact that the temporal as well as the eternal interests of their offspring are closely bound up with the course of action they may adopt, upon learning that their son or daughter is inclined to become a member of some approved religious order or congregation.

If it is certain that parents are bound by the natural, as well as by the positive Divine Law, to provide for the TEMPORAL welfare of their children, they are still more bound to provide for their SPIRITUAL needs; and, as the willful neglect to provide for their bodily wants is a violation of the Divine Law, it is a still greater breach of that same law to be careless in respect to procuring for them the means of securing eternal happiness.

Too often it happens that parents are over-solicitous about the temporal well-being of their sons and daughters. They exhaust all the resources of parental indulgence to advance them in the social order and insure them uninterrupted earthly enjoyment; to these things they attach an importance which they know is deserving; for the goods of life are fleeting, and the soul's worth far exceeds that of the body.

Such an attitude, it need hardly be said, is contrary to the dictates of reason and Christian morality. It argues at once gross ignorance in regard to the nature of the religious life and a false conception of the parental office. The desire of a boy or girl to enter a religious order should not

be treated as a matter of parental self-will, subject to the cold calculations of worldly prudence. There is question here, in fact, of making or marring the fortunes of an immortal soul; in such an awful crisis there can be no justification for making objections founded on maxims of interested self-seeking. All parents should understand—right-thinking ones do understand—that the expressed desire of a son or a daughter to join a religious congregation springs ordinarily from motives of supernatural charity.

Far from opposing the Divine Will thus made known, wise Christian parents will readily make the sacrifice which God demands of them. He will compensate them for this deed in granting them and their beloved ones the hundredfold of blessings to those who leave father and mother to follow in the footsteps of Christ's privileged companions.

After all, what higher or nobler course of life can one enter upon than that of performing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy? Does it not make those who are called to it co-operators with Christ in the salvation of souls? Does it not remove them from the very dangers which true parents are most anxious to have their children escape—from the occasions of sin and the countless evils to which the young are exposed in the midst of a corrupt world?

The father or mother that would hinder the child they profess to love so much from taking upon him the sweet yoke of Christ in the religious state, must be the victim of a delusion that blinds the reason and renders it incapable of seeing how the true welfare of themselves and their children is best secured by obedience to the will of God.

(To be continued.)

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Sixty-one per cent of our secretaries of state.

Sixty-seven per cent of our attorneys general.

Sixty-nine per cent of our justices of the supreme court.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR.

(Continued from page 3.)

diers hoped, if they kept the little girl, that her parents would come or send after her, and they could enter into some negotiations with them to get them back on the reserve. But the father and mother of the little Indian girl did not appear. It was a very serious thing for a lot of soldiers to have charge of a little three-and-a-half-year-old girl, and they were greatly puzzled.

Several days passed; and at last the soldiers decided that the little papoose must be taken back to her family, as they would not come for her. With her doll in her arms, she started with her protectors for the wigwam. When she reached the tribe with her doll, she created the greatest excitement. The soldiers left the child with her mother, and returned to the fort.

The next day the little papoose's mother appeared at the fort with the doll, to return it. She was received with the greatest courtesy by the soldiers, treated with great consideration, and made to understand that her little daughter was to keep the doll. The result was that the soldiers' kindness to the little girl, created a revulsion of feeling among the wandering Indians, and led to negotiations which

resulted in the Indians going back to the reserve—that is, the land set apart for them by the United States government—without any trouble.

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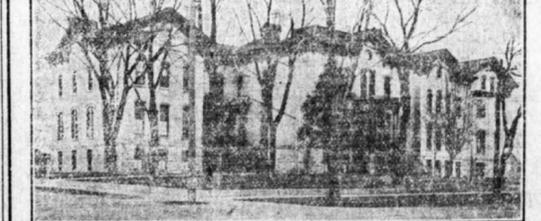
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