

AN ENLIGHTENED LAITY

There are many grave and vexing problems confronting society to-day (states the *Boston Pilot*). They embrace every field of thought and action. Theories, systems, and movements almost without number are thrust under the notice of men.

We are living in times when secular thought has broken from its moorings and drifted afar, even to the province of theology. Writers, commendable in their own sphere, puffed up by popular applause, have presumed to speak with authority on matters of faith. Readers enthused by former and legitimate works of such authors peruse these later scintillations and imbibe novel doctrines that are destitute of truth and subversive of faith and morals.

Agitators are at their discreditable work of breaking down traditions held sacred for centuries, intent only on ministering to popular whims and fancies. Ideas contrary to revealed religion and the commandments of God are thus rendered widely prevalent. In fact there is a distinct purpose of perverting the souls of men and women to the bane of society.

One need but scan the publications of the day to note the influences steadily busy attacking the basic doctrines of our faith and fomenting rebellion against the time-honored institutions of family life.

Hence to-day, there is especial need of vigilance on the part of Catholics. The world realises well that the Church, and the Church alone stands like a wall

of adamant against the inroads of irreligion and detestable social experiments. It knows that in modern life she stands forth as the foe of error and the champion of truth and justice. So every agency is employed to nullify her efforts and bring men under the spell of false teaching.

Our Catholic societies well understand the trend of thought and action that is striving for ascendancy. Federation has put forth splendid efforts to enlighten the public on the truths of Christianity and expose the false doctrine of irreligious bodies. These efforts have been successful to an eminent degree.

But still there remains a personal duty on the part of Catholics to inform themselves on the doctrines and principles of their faith. It is a serious and responsible task and its fulfilment is a sacred duty for every Catholic.

The salvation of souls lays an obligation on the conscience of every individual Catholic, not only to know his faith, but to be able to dissipate error and spread the gospel of truth among those who sit in darkness. Example will do much, but an intelligent understanding of the teachings of our religion will not only beget a more sterling faith and lead us to love the Church of Christ more ardently, but it will make us lights in a world that seeks truth and is often disappointed at failing to find it.

The end of reading (as of everything else we do) should be self-improvement.

Undertakers and Funeral Directors

GREEN & BEAVEN, Ltd.

"Dexters"

162 AVENUE .. WANGANUI

FUNERALS FURNISHED (Town or Country)

Moderate Charges Day Phone, 128; Night Phone, 817

When Requiring
Furniture, Carpets, Linoleums, Curtains,
Blinds, &c., go to

GREEN & BEAVEN, Ltd.

"Dexters"

The Furnishers, 162 Victoria Avenue,
WANGANUI



E. MORRIS, Junr.
The Undertaker .: WELLINGTON.

Catholics will do well to bear in mind that we cater for their esteemed patronage, and by keeping ourselves equipped with the very latest machinery plant and stock we are enabled to give the best possible article at the lowest possible prices. PHONE 937.

Head Office—60 Taranaki Street, WELLINGTON. Livery Stables—Tinakori Road

***** The AEOLIAN VOCALION *****

This is an artistic musical instrument which produces from Gramophone disc records such pure tone, so faithful to the original, that it gives genuine pleasure to all. A novel feature is the GRADUOLA device which allows you to control the tone and expression of every selection. In fact, you play the piece according to your fancy. The new Sound Box and Symphonetic Horn are vast improvements upon anything previously invented in the Talking Instrument World.

—Please Call or Write for Particulars.—

SOLE AGENTS:

British & Continental Piano Co. Strand Arcade, Auckland

A. HEGMAN, Manager.

YOUR OWN PHOTOGRAPH

Or one of the Family Group will be more pleasing than anything else you can send as a Present. Make an appointment with—

GAZE & CO.
HAMILTON