

THE LAY APOSTOLATE IN ENGLAND

(Concluded from last week.)

In subsequent letters to his uncle (his Grace Archbishop Redwood), Mr. Vernon C. Redwood (London) wrote:—Since last writing, our work has been steadily going on every Sunday from 3 p.m. till often past 10 p.m., and our average attendance of hearers numbers 300. Sometimes 600 to 800 persons congregate around our platform, so that it is reasonable to assume that we address—coming and going—over 3000 people each Sunday. We have now, generally, eight speakers, who discourse on as many different Catholic subjects, and answer dozens of questions. Very inclement weather has been experienced on recent Sundays, but this does not deter people attending; listening and questioning all the time. We have no intervals. Ample proof is afforded that our platform is regarded as the leading one in Hyde Park. From it by far the greatest number of people are addressed, and it commands more respect than any other in the Park. We teach all the time, and denounce no one's personal views; thus the people are getting used to the crucifix, and to our prayers, and we are breaking down the prejudice entertained towards the Catholic Church. We have, privately, numbers asking us about the truths of the Church, and, in connection with our lectures, we have established just outside the gates of the Park a system of selling the Catholic Truth Society's publications. (We are not permitted to sell inside the Park.) One of our ladies carries a light contrivance, strapped to the shoulders, upon which are displayed 50 or more booklets on different subjects, and from this another lady sells. We have a good stock on hand, and sell about 100 books each Sunday—and this in the depth of winter. At Tyburn Convent during the afternoon, while the lectures are being given, members of the guild are praying before the Blessed Sacrament. In addition, the Holy Rosary is recited by several hundred associates each day for the success of our work. We have now 12 lecturers in connection with the guild, and six others going through a preparatory test. Several others, although not yet released from the army, are studying. The lady lecturers are quite as successful as the men, probably our best lecturer being a lady—a Miss Ward, daughter of the late Mr. Wilfrid Ward, a former editor of the *Dublin Review*. She is splendid; so also is her brother, Leo. We want hundreds of lecturers, men and women. Our mission is to break down the deep-rooted prejudice against the Catholic religion, and then the clergy will complete the work. The day is not far off when thousands will return to the fold. We have a system established in different parts of London whereby we keep in touch with our converts, assisting, instructing, and advising them, and eventually bringing them to the priests to receive the final instructions preparatory to their reception into the Church.

In conclusion, Mr. Redwood writes:—Our crucifix now stands without anyone having to stand by to protect it, as was our experience at first. Our sales of Catholic Truth publications are rapidly increasing, and our progress, generally, is steady and sound. It is apparently only a matter of getting enough men and women workers, with the help of Almighty God, to convert this country.

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CHRISTCHURCH CATHOLIC CLUB

On Monday evening last the Christchurch Catholic Club entertained the members of No. 17 Company Cadets at a social evening (writes our own correspondent, under date June 2) Amongst those present were Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Adm., Fathers Kilbride, C.S.S.R., Long, Murphy, and Seward, the Marist Brothers, and Sir George Clifford, Bart. The president (Mr. J. R. Hayward) presided. Over 100 boys were present under Lieutenant Amos, who is in charge of the company, and he was accompanied by Sergeant-Major Pound and Sergeant-Major Sullivan, both staunch friends to the Marist Brothers' Old Boys. A musical and elocutionary programme was contributed to by Father Murphy, Masters Upjohn and Pawson, Messrs. Banfield, Mannix, J. Noonan, and D. Dugay. Mr. Lawrence officiated as pianist. Sir George Clifford, who was enthusiastically received, expressed his pleasure at being present at the pleasant assemblage, and after relating some of his personal experiences of Volunteer life in his early manhood, gave the lads some sound advice. "Wherever you be act the part of a man" was the speaker's concluding remark. The chaplain (Father Murphy), who was accorded an enthusiastic greeting, emphasised the importance of Catholic boys living up to a Catholic standard. He had witnessed the horrors of war (he said) and paid a special tribute of praise to the men from Stonyhurst—Sir George Clifford's old college—as being typical of patriotism and Catholicity. Continuing, Father Murphy pointed out the necessity of following a manly course of conduct; that always resulted in popularity as well as happiness. Rev. Brother Justin said it was his first acquaintance with No. 17 Company as a fully representative unit, and expressed his gratitude, as head of the school, to Lieutenant Amos and his fellow officers for the amount of time and labor expended in the interests of the boys. Lieutenant Amos said he was proud of good boys, and complimented those under his charge on their discipline. He would like (he said) to see more unity amongst the Catholic boys of the Dominion. If they kept together, they would merit many honors which were necessarily lost to what should be a united Catholic company. The secretary (Mr. Dugay) deserves to be complimented on the success that has attended his efforts in promoting entertainments for the boys. The club membership has been considerably increased by the inclusion of a number of young men who manifest a very live interest in the welfare of the organisation.

The worst of tyrants is the man who attempts to proscribe and persecute another because of religious differences. His is a worse than Prussian despotism, and those who advocate and support it are not only odious and detestable, but poisonous to the atmosphere of free government.—*Baltimore Sun*.

When children come home from the pictures
Through the damp of a winter's night,
All parents who care and of colds beware,
Take measures to keep them right.
They tuck them warm and snug in bed,
For of croupy colds they've needful dread;
At signs of such to make things sure,
They give them Woods' Peppermint Cure.

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