

Current Topics

To the Point

In the opinion of City Judge Charles W. Boote, of Yonkers, U.S.A., the following are the ten principal reasons why there is an increase in delinquency among girls in America:—

First, improper home atmosphere; second, no religious training; third, automobile riding; fourth, love of luxury; fifth, liquor; sixth, movies of the wrong type; seventh, sex immorality; eighth, boys with too much money; ninth, immodest dancing; tenth, trashy novels.

More Nonsense About Skulls

Oxford has just passed through a trying time. Sir Arthur Keith delivered a lecture there on the Rhodesian Skull, but we find it hard to believe that even a scientific romancer could make the subject a thrilling one. And yet Sir Arthur strained his powers of romancing to the utmost. He believes—or says he believes—the Rhodesian Skull to be the oldest in existence. Its owner must have lived between 100,000 and 200,000 years ago. 'Tis but a little year ago, however, since this same scientific gentleman lectured on the skull of the Moustarian man, and he said that skull was the oldest in existence, its owner having been hale and hearty 350,000 years ago! Some scientists are deplorably loose in arithmetic! Quite recently we told of a skull (the Galley Hill Skull) that was submitted to a committee of experts in order to obtain their opinion as to its age. The committee reported that the thing was not a skull at all, but was only an oddly-shaped bit of stone. Well, according to the *Catholic Herald of India*, when that skull was found Sir Arthur Keith without a moment's hesitation declared its age to be 250,000 years, 50,000 older than the skull he was talking about the other day. Dean Inge is reported as saying that religion must fall into step with science. We wonder is this the kind of "science" his reverence was thinking of?

Mussolini

Mussolini is not a popular figure in Europe. Most of the newspapers are filled with forecasts of what is about to happen to him. Needless to say, the wish is father to the thought. The Rome correspondent of the *Irish Weekly* says that while no man in Europe probably has more enemies than Mussolini, he has nevertheless done more solid good for Italy than all achieved by Salandra, Orlando, and Giolitti, three ex-Premiers. They were ruled by Freemasonry; he has trampled upon this "State within the State." They were forced to appoint three Freemasons to places in their Cabinets; he prohibits army officers from joining the sect, and he has now a Bill making secret societies illegal. As soon as the Grand Orient heard of this Bill it held a secret meeting. The proceedings have not leaked out. But it is thought that the Grand Orient will dissolve before the Bill has passed many stages. Like a lion Mussolini faces all opponents. He puts strength and courage into his Party,

and bears all the abuse the Communists pour on him as if he had not noticed it. We can all understand why he has so many enemies.

France and the Vatican

When the news arrived by cable that the French Government had decided to withdraw its Ambassador from the Vatican we expressed the opinion that France herself would be the first to suffer from the event. According to M. Chauffier, writing in *Le Figaro*, the great Parisian daily, the prophecy was not long in being fulfilled. He says:—

"France has separated her interests from those of Catholicism. The result has not been long in coming. Our influence in the Orient is diminishing from day to day and is descending to zero. Our national Catholic power of missionary expansion, which constitutes almost our entire action in the Orient, is in danger of becoming exhausted. The Holy See, no longer finding in France the necessary means, is turning to other countries more wide-awake, more active, and more able, to solicit their valued co-operation. We must also realise that if the interests of the Holy See and those of France are in conflict, it is France that will always be the loser. The Holy See can get on without us. We have need of her. And it is we who create the conflict."

France is sorely in need of a Mussolini just now. However, the French Catholics are showing a bold front, and judging by the sample of courage displayed by the political lackeys during the war, a few savage grimaces from General de Castelnau will be sufficient to put them to rout. As Mr. Chesterton said of another political gang, "they are not very warlike vassals even of their unwarlike lords; they are not very bold braves even for hire; and a hearty protest will sometimes shake them." The protest has been made with considerable determination, and the song birds tell us that M. Herriot likes it not.

Progress

Those who believe that the Church will succumb to persecution will find but cold comfort in the statistics just published of the progress of Catholicity in the missionary countries of Europe and other parts of the world during the past hundred years. In Sweden and Norway the number has increased from 10 to 5547; in Denmark, from 100 to 8700; in Holland and Luxemburg, from 350,000 to 1,900,000.

In Indo China, in spite of the persecution and massacres, there are 1,200,000 Catholics. In Japan and Corea, where Catholicism has had liberty only for about thirty years, there are now 170,000 Catholics. In 1820 there were only 10,000.

In Canada from six bishops, 30 priests, 500,000 faithful in 1822, the number has increased to 38 bishops, six Apostolic Vicariates, and 3,000,000 of faithful.

In the United States there were in 1822 nine dioceses with 12 priests in each, and 400,000 faithful. At the present moment

there are 16 archbishops, 23 bishops, 24,659 priests, and 17,855,000 Catholics.

In Australia, where there was in 1830 only one priest to minister to the Irish exiles and not a single church, there is to-day in union with New Zealand a large Catholic population, comprising 1,200,000 faithful, nine archbishops, six bishops, 2200 churches, and 1306 priests.

In the Oceanic Isles there are 22 vicariates and six Apostolic Prefects, with 600 missionaries, and 270,000 Catholics.

These figures are eloquent.

The Jesuits Again

The Jesuits have been at it again. According to a somewhat shrewish publication known as *The Protestant Woman*, the irrepressible sons of St. Ignatius have been "carrying on dreadful" at the English town of Lower Edmonton, and the good ladies of *The Protestant Woman* record their disapproval as follows:—

"At Lower Edmonton the French Jesuits have recently built a large church (called St. Edmund's) and a big school, both built of stone. Now, on Sundays, they are marching about with processions of the most aggressive and idolatrous character. On occasions they have marched about here with a girl dressed up as if for a wedding; a priest lifting and carrying an image of Christ on a chair, holding it with both hands high above his head, another carrying a tall crucifix and nuns beside it, with hands over their eyes. Where are we now?"

Indeed, it ought not be hard to enlighten that lady as to her whereabouts. We know where she is but we are too polite to tell her. The *Catholic Times* is reminded of a king who was received by the mayor of a small country town, but without the customary ringing of bells. Questioned by the monarch as to his default, the magistrate proceeded to give nineteen reasons why the joyous bells did not ring out. His nineteenth reason was that *there were no bells*. To reverse the process of circumlocution adopted by the mayor it should be said that there are no French Jesuits—or Jesuits of any other nationality—in the area known as Lower Edmonton. It follows logically that the story of the French Jesuits' recent erection of a "large church (called St. Edmund's) and a big school, both of stone," as well as the freakish description of the "processions of the most aggressive and idolatrous character," are without any foundation in fact. The reference to "a priest lifting and carrying an image of Christ on a chair, holding it with both hands high above his head, another carrying a tall crucifix and nuns beside it" suggests that the *Protestant Woman* lady must have been looking at a circus featuring professional strong men rather than at a religious procession. The *Catholic Times* investigated the matter still further. It interviewed the Redemptorist Superior of Lower Edmonton, who knew nothing of French Jesuits in that area; and the new church and school, both of stone, came as a revelation to him. Our contemporary concludes with this request:—"Will the *Protestant Woman* be ladylike enough to withdraw the ridiculous paragraph? Someone has been—dare we say it?—pulling her leg."

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