

to her; the time has already come when large families cause amusement and ridicule. A scented pug-dog, a shorn and tonsured spaniel are fit and proper objects for the maternal care of the female *animal rationale* who has no room in her home for a cradle. Amid this degeneracy there is more than ever need for Catholics to hold fast to their holy religion and to their noble traditions. They alone retain the true and sacred ideals of matrimony, and they alone have in their hearts the grace and the faith from which whatever hope there be of regeneration must spring. To make their silent apostolate more efficacious it will be incumbent on them to safeguard jealously their treasure. They must keep before their eyes at all times the model home of Nazareth, which will always remain a beacon and a guide for parents and for children.

To begin with: On parents it is incumbent to cling fast to the right conception of Christian marriage, which is a sacrament whereby man and wife are inseparably joined together until death. God joins them and no man may put them asunder until God calls one or other to Himself. Christ elevated the contract between man and wife to the dignity of a Sacrament for Christians; He has made it one of the seven great channels whereby He communicates to mankind His grace. To ensure the fullness of the supernatural graces and blessings attached to the married state, husband and wife must enter into it with right dispositions, mindful of its obligations, of its dignity, of its sacredness inasmuch as it is the very symbol of the indivisible union between Christ and His Church. Protestants and pagans may square their consciences to suit their passions; they may find support in the demoralising advice of unworthy medical practitioners; they may look for the excuses they need in current materialistic and hedonistic philosophy, but Catholics must never forget that the chief end of marriage is the procreation of children, and that however low the views of others may be, marital union between one man and one woman must for them always remain the sacred and inviolable institution elevated by Christ to be a Sacrament of the New Law. They will not be sensualists, for they know that they have undertaken a solemn duty; they will not be cowards, for they know that they are soldiers of Christ; they will not live for self alone, for they know that it is theirs to rear up the new generations who will follow Christ when they are gone.

Parents have their duties towards the children whom they bring into the world. In a word, these duties may be summed up by saying that the parent is bound to bring up the offspring in a manner calculated to make them good Christians and good citizens. Children have their duties in turn; and they are all comprehended under the text: "Honor thy father and thy mother, that thou mayst be long-lived upon the land which the Lord God will give thee." In Christian countries there is no need to emphasise the duty of reverence and love for parents. The common sense of the community would regard as a monster the boy or girl who would treat a father or mother with disrespect. What Christianity dictates even instinct provides for. It is only in degraded and decadent countries that the Fourth Commandment is violated with impunity even in this life. The irrational animals have the instinct of love for the mother that bore them. Pagan and savage races jealously maintain the sacredness of filial relations. It is in countries like New Zealand, where the evil example of atheistic politicians has led the people away from God and removed those restraints of the passions that prevent men and women from falling lower than beasts, that irreverence for parents and unnatural perversion of the filial instinct are common. Whatever the barbarians around us do, let us remember that it is a crime in the sight of God for any child to anger a parent: "He that angereth his mother is accused of God." Let us remember that children who love and respect their parents will enjoy God's special protection in this life

and in the life to come: "He that honoreth his mother is one that layeth up a treasure." And let parents remember that to gain riches for their children, to obtain possession of broad acres or of high positions, avail nothing unless they rear up their children as God commands. "The three pillars which hold up the happy home are a worthy father, a pious mother, and an obedient child."

NOTES

"Sonia Married"

Stephen McKenna has in a high degree the gift of interesting. Engrossing interest and brilliancy mark all the work of this gifted writer. He is a shrewd observer of humanity and an outspoken critic of public men and their ways. He exposes mercilessly the sins and the foibles of English society, and the decent people in his books help to throw the others into a deeper shade of ugliness. *Sonia Married* is hardly as great a novel as *Sonia*; but that leaves it a very large margin between greatness and mediocrity. Indeed, mediocrity is unthinkable in Mr. McKenna's work, and no modern author flags and fails less than he. *Sonia married* is the same wilful, thoughtless girl who missed "the match of the season" to marry the blind Irish boy, David O'Rane; and it is not until she has been tried by suffering and crushed by consciousness of sin that the elemental good in her nature rises above the tinsel and pinchbeck attractions of the cruel butterfly that society had made her. As a sample of the author's frank criticism, his reference to the leading English statesman who, having been saved and dragged out of the gutter after the Marconi scandal by Mr. Asquith, turned to bite the hand that fed him, will be remembered.

The Servile State

We cannot help quoting one passage of true appreciation of the ruin and confusion that the man who was dragged from the gutter (and his wealthy masters) have brought on their country:

"I sometimes feel that war is the new expression of our national activity. Don't the Rolls-Royce people build only for the Government? Well, that's typical of a gigantic State-Socialism which has grown up in a night; you can't build a house or buy a suit of clothes until the war-needs have been satisfied. Production, transport, distribution have all been taken over; you've an army of controllers directing the machine; and in time we shall dress as we're told, eat the quantity of food we're allowed, move here and there, do this and that, as we're ordered. At one age we shall be drafted into the army, at another we shall be knocked on the head to save feeding; there'll be birth-rate bonuses amounting to State-subsidised polygamy. . . . Everything that a man did in the old days for his own benefit and amusement—his daily task, his career, his material output, his accumulation of wealth, his pioneer work in developing and improving the world, his family—life even—will now be directed to feeding the war. . . . I don't see where it's going to stop, and I don't see who's going to stop it. Not the soldiers, because they're shot if they disobey orders; not the Government, because they're the Board of Directors.' 'You'll only stop it by a general strike,' said George reflectively."

This is a fair summary of what war has done for Democracy. We in New Zealand need no proof to convince us of that. And we have, in our blindness, elected again the same "Board of Directors" to increase the servitude of the existing servile State in our midst. There will be no general strike here. The people who lay down in contemptible submission and allowed the Conscriptors to ride rough-shod over them, will never have courage or soul enough to see that New Zealand is governed by and for the people. If we have got a worthless Government it is because we are a worthless people.

Try Catholic Supplies Ltd.,
78 MANNERS ST. (next Everybody's Picture Theatre),
WELLINGTON

For all kinds of Religious Articles—Rosaries, Prayer Books, Statues, Pictures, etc. Latest and Up-to-date Catholic Literature. PRINTING IN ALL ITS BRANCHES. Agents for N.Z. Tablet