

## Current Topics

### "I Spy Strangers"

Once upon a time a Member of Parliament could have the galleries of the House of Commons cleared by simply raising the cry: "I spy strangers." It was done time and again. O'Connell cleared out the reporters of that fair-minded British press which then as to-day threw in its lot with the top dog and had no sense of justice or honor where Ireland was concerned. But the greatest blow that an Irishman ever struck at British priggishness was when that stalwart fighter, Biggar, cleared the galleries and forced the Prince of Wales to leave with the rest. If some Catholics had been disposed they might have raised the cry in St. Joseph's Cathedral recently when a number of P.P.A. spies attended eleven o'clock Mass, presumably to find out if Catholic clergymen imitated their own celestial leaders and gave their congregations the gospel of hatred instead of the message of Christian charity. Catholics had a good laugh at the expense of these foolish persons, and it is to be hoped that the difference in matter and form between what they heard in our church and what they heard a few evenings previously from those scrupulously honorable and truthful gentlemen, Messrs. Griffith and Elliott, made some impression on the poor camp-followers in the army for the New Zealand P.P.A. war on women. They are always welcome to come. And when they hear any priest in the pulpit fanning the fires of sectarian hatred by lies and calumnies against Protestants they are welcome to make the most of it.

### The Importance of the School

Father Hull, S.J., editor of the *Bombay Examiner*, has published a number of books which no intelligent Catholic ought to be without. He has dealt with many subjects, from the point of view of a theologian, a scholar, and a historian, and his books are a real course of apologetics. They are worth ten times what they cost: and it is a pity our booksellers do not do more than they are doing to bring them before the reading Catholics of New Zealand. Most important in the series are the volumes that treat of education and the formation of character. At least all Catholic teachers, and all catechists, ought to know these volumes, and know them well. They are compact with solid instructive matter, and the author is a man who knows what he is talking about. In *Collapses in Adult Life*, a book specially written for parents and teachers, he insists that the present state of society makes the Catholic school more important than ever:

"The work of character-forming is being thrown more and more upon the schools; first because the home no longer does its share in the training of the child, and secondly because there exists no home tradition calculated to impress favorably the budding mind.

The school authorities must come to look more and more upon themselves as the arbiters of the future of the rising generation entrusted to them, and to bend their backs to the task of making the best of their disciples, as if present formation and future destiny depended upon them alone."

That is true everywhere except in Ireland to-day. It is particularly true in this country of stock-yard morality, of godless and spineless politicians, of dishonorable and lying pressmen, of filth-flinging parsons who are more bent on exciting hatred of Catholics than on teaching the people the gospel of Christ. And therefore, whatever the others may do, we must never relax our efforts to maintain the high moral and cultural standard of our Catholic schools. Religion depends on them. They are the keystones in the arch.

### President Harding's Advice to Journalists

Americans have been criticising Harding's speeches rather adversely. They have found a want of origin-

ality and a lack of distinction and polish in his utterances, and they have contrasted him in this respect with Wilson. Wilson, with all his sounding rhetoric was a poor thing when all is said and done, and Harding need not regret being unlike him in diction if he is also unlike him in action. Whatever truth there be in the captious critics' complaints, Harding, who was a journalist, had a lofty ideal of the mission of the press, and he once drew up for his staff on the *Marion Star* a set of rules that deserves to be framed and exhibited in every editorial office in the world. Here they are, as published by *America*:

"Remember there are two sides to a question. Get them both.

Be truthful. Get the facts.

Mistakes are inevitable, but strive for accuracy. I would rather have one short story exactly right than a hundred half wrong.

Be decent, be fair, be generous.

Boost—don't knock.

There's good in everybody. Bring out the good and never needlessly hurt the feelings of anybody.

In reporting a political gathering give the facts, tell the story as it is, not as you would like to have it. Treat all parties alike. If there is any politics to be played we will play it in our editorial columns.

Treat all religious matters reverently.

If it can possibly be avoided never bring ignominy to an innocent man or child in telling of the misdeeds or misfortunes of a relative.

Don't wait to be asked, but do it without the asking, and, above all, be clean and never let a dirty word or suggestive story get into type.

I want this paper so conducted that it can go into any home without destroying the innocence of any child."

We endorse the editor of *America*, who says:

"All honor to the President-elect for this noble code. May its underlying principles of reverence, justice, charity, and fair play for all dominate his own presidential career."

### Duties of Parents

There are three natural duties binding on parents: these are:

1. The Duty of Nurture;
2. The Duty of Protection;
3. The Duty of Education.

1. God endowed man with free-will and reason for the carrying out of the designs of Providence. For the perpetuation of the human race he gave to Adam the precept: Increase and multiply. The free-will and the reason of the parents are thus involved in carrying out the design of God. The parents must use their reason and free-will to co-operate with God's will in this regard from the first moment of the child's being. From the first quickening of the child in her womb, the mother becomes responsible to God for another life besides her own. That life is a human life, and the mother's obligations extend to soul as well as to body. Inasmuch as the soul is more than the body, the child's right to be born and baptised is greater than the mother's right to live. It is a supernatural duty, as well as a natural, for her to see that her child is born alive: it is therefore a crime against nature for a doctor to destroy a child under such circumstances. To neglect the proper care and nursing of the child is also a sin against nature. As head of the family, the father is responsible to God for his stewardship: therefore he is bound to see that the mother does not neglect the children.

2. The child is under the power of the father, as head of the family. Until the child comes to the use of reason this paternal power is paramount. Power and responsibility go hand in hand; therefore the father's responsibility is extremely great. It is inalienable: he cannot get rid of it. He is bound to see that the mother does her duty; he is also bound to provide proper housing, food, and clothing for his children, according to their station in life. The Duty of Protection extends not only to the temporal but

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