

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

Organ of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, 55, Berners Street, London, W.I.

VOL. V, No. 6

June 15th, 1919.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give;
Who knows the gifts which *you* shall give,
Daughter of the newer Eve?

—Francis Thompson.

STANDING ROOM ONLY.

BY JOSEPH CLAYTON.

The memorable question put by Napper Tandy concerning Ireland may not unreasonably be urged on behalf of England. There is small comfort in the assurance that to stand and wait counts for service. We stand, we English people, that is plain; and it is equally plain that at present there is standing room only for most of us. True there are seats in Parliament for the chosen, benches for judges, and country seats for all who can purchase them. (No one calls the labourer's cottage a seat. It is far too overcrowded for such a title, and far too insecurely held. He may at any time be evicted should the lord of the soil so order it. A country seat must be spacious and contain a certain number of unoccupied rooms, no matter how closely the seatholder's neighbours are packed, no matter how many folk are roomless). Bishops of the Established Church have their seats in the House of Lords, in government offices are many stools, even an honest juryman sits at a coroner's inquest. But it is standing room only for the multitude, and we cannot stand at ease, and still less stand easy.

Is it to be so always?

The old order of things in Europe crumbled in August, 1914, and has now gone utterly to pieces in many lands once governed by imperial rule. The old order is passing away in England, too, passing away before our eyes, and it is vain to refuse to see the change to pretend that all is as it was, and that in a short time the 'lower classes' will be brought to their senses and gladly resume their appointed task of waiting on their 'betters.' If only the Government would stop this out of work pay we should soon get our cooks

and housemaids, our laundry workers and housemaids, and the whole army of flunkeys back to our service—so some of our friends imagine. But they are hopelessly in the dark. There isn't any likelihood of such a restoration, and sensible people are fast realising that one familiar and particularly dreary old topic of conversation—'servants' may well be abandoned. (And thank God for that! For of all the unspeakably, boring and wearisome forms of chatter was there one more detestable, more profoundly irreligious and anti-Christian than the discussion on the 'servant question'?)

The old order passes, but what of the new? What is emerging from the changing elements of our society?

Our citizenship must give the answer. Upon the enfranchised women and men of England is the responsibility for the direction of the change.

The British tradition in politics, the plain historical method is clear. It is to proceed by the decisions of elected representatives, by acceptance of the will of the majority, and in a spirit of goodwill, allowing discipline and authority their place in public affairs. Of course from time to time popular tumult, riots, 'militant' methods, and appeals to force have helped political changes when delay became intolerable, but only in the case of the Commonwealth under Cromwell have arms been used in England to overturn successfully a government and replace it by the victors; and that particular victory was not to survive its accomplishers, so little to our taste was government by protestant 'saints' and puritans.

The weakness of our representative system is the little trouble taken to choose the right candidates. We claim passionately the right to vote, but are amazingly indifferent as to whom we vote for, and leave the selecting of candidates to some small political coterie mainly intent on getting a candidate with money to spend. Things are not so conducted in the world of sport; far more trouble and pains are spent in selecting a County Cricket XI. or League Football Team than in getting the right sort of candidate for Parliament, and the smaller clubs are more anxious to put their best players in the field than their best men and women on local councils. If the social changes are to be wrought wisely, we have got to organize in our constituencies and insist on taking a keener part in the selection of candidates. It really doesn't do at all to leave it to the handful who control the political machine in the constituencies, and the machine in any case is quite out of date. If the political 'bosses' decline to consult the electors before bringing out candidates, let independent citizens combine, and ignoring the old machinery, seek independent candidates. Representative government has its origins in the Catholic Church, its use in Great Britain has made it desired by the nations of the world seeking political freedom, and it can work out for us, if we will to have it so, an England for all, a Co-operative Commonwealth where there shall be more than standing room only in England for the English people. But representative government and majority rule remain but human expedients, however great their traditions and however deep-rooted their origins. That the very articles of our faith and the canon of our Bible have been shaped and framed by the decisions of majorities at councils representative of the whole church; that the Spirit of God has manifested the Divine Will through these Councils, may endear to Catholics the political expedients of popular representation and majority rule, but such memories naturally make no appeal to our non-Christian neighbours. Hence the threat of revolutionary anarchism, which, rejecting the authority of the State and the Elected

Assembly, declares for industrial action rather than political, and whether Bolshevik, industrial unionist, syndicalist, or plain anarchist, despises politics and believes that out of disorder alone can true order arise. And the fact that it is still standing room only for the multitude—grossest overcrowding and no place to call our own—despite our citizenship, and despite our power of electing representatives who will end the present scandal, gives the anarchist his opportunity. He derides our weakness and promises a better way, and the government, believing it can afford to despise the enfranchised citizens, trusts to the old political machinery for the exclusion of troublesome representatives, and to the army for the suppression of anarchists.

And so we stand. It might be worse. *Stabat mater dolorosa*. There is always standing room at the Cross, and Our Lady is always there. In standing for England in the years of war we stood at the Cross, and many died, laying down their lives in the glory of life's morning that others might live. (God rest your souls, friends and comrades mine!)

It were better to stand homeless by the Cross than to kneel within palaces at the feet of kings and capitalists, and be comfortably housed by mammon. For we who kneel to receive the Bread of Angels are apt to find it irksome and of little profit genuflecting for the favours of this world.

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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Women's Emancipation Bill has been passed by the Grand Committee, and the Government's amendment to delete the second clause has been rejected. This clause, it will be remembered, confers the franchise to women on the same terms as men. The Bill comes up for the Report stage on July 4th. If all who feel the injustice of the present franchise law will unite in a campaign in support of the Emancipation Bill there is much hope of its passing into law. The Government is pledged to the principle of the equality of the sexes, and will respond to popular pressure. It was the work done by the young women of the nation during the war which converted numberless anti-suffragists and changed opponents into supporters. We do not think that the work of women in the war was a valid reason for conferring the franchise on them, for the vote is not a reward; nevertheless it was the reason given by many men, and it is a strange sample of that male logic of which we have heard so much, that the vote was denied to the very women who were supposed to have won it. For it was mainly the young women under thirty who crowded into the munition factories, and replaced men in many industries.

* * * *

The House of Lords is distinguishing itself in the battle for women's freedom. On May 26th Earl Beauchamp moved the second reading of the Justices of the Peace Qualification of Women Bill, which provides that a woman shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from being appointed a Justice of the Peace. "Women Justices," he said, "would be of great assistance in dealing with cases affecting young girls, women and children."

The Lord Chancellor admitted that language had been used by leading members of the Government which made it quite impossible for the Government to refuse assent to the Bill. They would either give assistance to the Bill or bring in one of their own. In either case it might be anticipated that within a reasonable period of time women would be

eligible as magistrates. It would be his duty to see that effect was given to the Act when occasion offered, but he warned women that the commissions all over the country were tolerably full, and he hoped they would not expect him at once to make a large addition to the benches merely that women might sit as magistrates.

The first step is to make women eligible, then we have no doubt qualified women will be forthcoming, and the public will press for their appointment.

Since the above was written Mr. Bonar Law has announced in the Commons that a Bill is in preparation to enable women to be appointed Justices of the Peace.

* * * *

May 20th was a great day for French suffragists—indeed for all suffragists—for on that day the Chamber of Deputies passed for the first time—and by an immense majority—a Bill giving the women of France the same voting rights as the men. The great majority—344 to 97—will no doubt carry weight when the Bill comes up for discussion in the Senate. Even if the Senate rejects the Bill French Suffragists have gained a victory, which denotes that final victory cannot be for long delayed.

* * * *

Miss Janie Patricia Christitch (Mother Mary of the Cross), one of the earliest and keenest members of the C.W.S.S., made her perpetual vows in Tyburn Convent on May 23rd. Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, B.A., and Miss Gabrielle Jeffery represented the C.W.S.S.

We offer our congratulations to Mother Mary of the Cross, and we ask her prayers for the success of the work which lies before the C.W.S.S.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

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THE URGENT NEED FOR MOTHERS' PENSIONS.

It is not necessary in this paper to bring forward arguments in favour of granting pensions to necessitous mothers with dependent children. Our readers are familiar with the system introduced by Judge Neil in the United States, and they know how successfully that system has worked. Nor is it necessary to dwell on the pitiless lot of the widow with a family to bring up and start in life. But it may be as well to call attention once more to the dangers of the charitable schemes which seem to be the only alternative to the granting of State pensions to necessitous mothers. Now and again we read in the Press of meetings held to forward a scheme for girdling England with associations for the adoption of children; for the foundation of homes for babies. The object is to bring together the "homeless child and the childless home." To find happy homes for the care of those children whose mothers cannot face the responsibility of bringing them up. When a child is adopted a legal document is drawn up, under which the parent agrees to give up the child entirely and promises never to reclaim it. This is the description of the Adoption Association as given in the Press. We feel certain that the promoters of this scheme are actuated by the purest motives, and charitable people are likely to contribute generously in support of it. But we may well ask these prospective contributors to pause and to consider whether they would not be better employed in devoting their money and energy to a campaign to

obtain State pensions for mothers. No child whose mother is living should be a homeless child. Nature has ordained that a motherless infant or young child is a much more pitiful object than one bereft of its father; but our harsh economic system has altered, or tends to alter that. When the normal bread-winner of a family dies or is incapacitated the first idea seems to be to tear the children from their mother and send her out to work, while we build homes and play at charity by supporting the children. People who would discourse, with tears in their eyes and distraction in their aspect, on the sacredness of maternity, on the great service rendered to the State by mothers, see nothing unnatural in this heartless breaking up of homes and severing of family ties. Perhaps it is a lack of imagination, or perhaps they have never heard of Judge Neil's scheme. In the latter case it lies with us to teach them.

In the old days of suffrage processions when we were greeted with cries of "go home and mind the baby" and "woman's place is the home," we used to reply that we had come out to mind the baby and the home. Now is the time to redeem that promise. When Mr. Tyson Wilson brought up the question of pensions for mothers in the House of Commons, Major Astor for the Government promised that the matter should be dealt with when the machinery of the old poor law administration is being swept away.

The Local Government Board recently issued a report of the working of the system

in the United States, and the women's societies are pressing for the system to be adopted here. We could raise no better monument to the long campaign for woman suffrage than to establish in this country so soon after the enfranchisement of women, a reform which will permanently ameliorate the hard lot of numberless women and children.

L. DE ALBERTI.

HOUSING AND BUILDING MATERIALS.

In the May number of the "Catholic Citizen," Mrs. V. M. Crawford, in her interesting article on the housing problem, makes the following observation:—"For if the Israelites of old could not make bricks without straw, it is equally true that municipal authorities cannot build houses without bricks. And it is the shortage of bricks, together with the many obstacles in the way of acquiring land at a reasonable price, that is bound to delay the building of much-needed houses."

Mrs. V. M. Crawford is a writer of much experience, consequently her observations give rise to reflection, and furnish an added interest to the following, culled from the "Daily News," May 10th:—"Bricks ready by Millions. But no Railway Trucks to Take Them." Peterborough, we are informed, is the greatest brick manufacturing centre of the world; orders are pouring in from all quarters. Collectively the 27 yards can produce 2,000,000 bricks every working day, but the lack of transport is paralysing distribution. Orders are coming in from France and Belgium, but the "trade authorities profess themselves sceptical of the report that bricks are already being sent abroad from this country." Incidentally it is well to remember a higher price obtains on the continent, as our profiteers have already discovered in their continental deals over tea. In connection with the foregoing statements, the findings of the "Government Committee on Trusts and Combines," appointed by the Ministry of Reconstruction shed further light:—"The British iron and steel trade is now practically one firm. The textile trades are ringed right through from bottom to top in a worse way, for the extra profits are added on each time, till we come to 300 per cent. profits in the wool trade, etc." Here follows this useful in-

formation, which may well cause a thrill to a houseless public:—"The building trade is full of combines; there is a ring in cement; there are agreed prices in bricks, arrangements between manufacturers as to the cost of such things as castings, water gutters, baths, etc."

To quote from the pages which deal with "Combinations in Building Material Trades," "One of the most powerful associations, whose membership manufactures goods needed in the construction of workmen's cottages, had until recently at the head of its rules:—

(1) The object the Association has in view is that of raising and keeping up the price to the buyer of goods and articles made or supplied by its members."

At the exhibition of house planning held at the Central Hall, Westminster, which can only be described as a "lost opportunity," models are exhibited without prices, which to say the least, is irritating, as something approximate might have been attempted. When a gentleman concerned was pressed to make a statement as to probable cost, he said to add 100 per cent. to pre-war charges would give an idea as to price, the rise he attributed entirely to rise in wages, which he said had risen 100 per cent., a proposition that can be challenged. He refused utterly to admit a forcing up of price in materials.

Mrs. Crawford hazards the conjecture as to where the money is to come from. Possibly from the same source that is still providing funds for wars conducted on 23 different fronts, that constitute a dead loss and can in no way bring in remuneration in the shape of dividends. Houses in themselves represent capital of the first order. Mrs. Crawford says: "We may at least reasonably hope that the money so spent will prove a good investment." It would seem to be a very reasonable hope. Proper sanitary accommodation lies at the root of the real prosperity and well-being of a nation, which is itself our greatest national asset, even reckoned in terms of cash.

In the face of the national menace of the trusts and combines, the "Coal Commission" gives us ground for hope. There in the beautiful King's robing room a drama is being fought out second to none in history, and is of epoch making importance. The conclusions are already clear.

V. J. HEAD.

THE PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS.

In an age of educational progress it has been gradually, some would say grudgingly, admitted that there was much room for improvement in the matter and method of religious instruction.

The disintegration of historical Protestantism has tended to reduce religion to the position of a polite "extra." Catholicism retains many of its traditional enemies and not a few admirers. But to the vast majority of our educated countrymen it remains a belated wonder, a tolerated survival of the curious, if not of the "unfit."

To this type of mind mere devotional excellence makes little appeal: the occasional aberration of a Prince in Israel into the Roman Communion may be a nine days wonder, but it has no rational explanation!

In this matter we Catholics have had rather less of the missionary spirit than was good: and, by no means incidentally, we have not sufficiently grasped the changed tactics of the enemy.

It were proof sufficient to question the senior students of our Secondary Schools as to the meaning value and use of Apologetics.

Latterly, however, it has been emphasized, in the right quarters, that the battle is set, for our days, in terms of doubt and agnosticism.

Consequently there is need to be able to give a reasoned account of the faith within us: to show that Science, (with the capital 'S'), has not demolished religion, nor yet can it do that which was never intended to be its purpose.

But if you wish to win your battles you need your text books of tactics and war. For our military academies—in the religious sense—these were sadly to seek in the English tongue.

The want is now supplied, and well supplied, in two recent publications of value.

Dr. Sheehan, of Maynooth, has provided an invaluable text-book for beginners—and others too—in his *Apologetics and Catholic Doctrine*. (Gill & Son, Dublin, 1/6 net.)

Father T. J. Walshe in "*The Principles of Catholic Apologetics*" (Longmans, 6/- net.), has followed with a work of first-rate importance, which deserves the close attention of every serious student of religion.

The author declares that his book is written specially for senior students, and he meets in

advance a certain objection with these words:

"If such students are called upon to unravel the intricacies of the Differential and Integral Calculus set for B.A. and B.Sc. degrees, it is surely not too much to expect that the metaphysical principles, which are the support of Natural and Supernatural Religion, should have some share of their attention." (*Preface*—p. viii).

That is the keynote to the whole book. The Revelation of the Infinite Wisdom of God, developed and elaborated by the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, is not a mere side-issue in the field of mind-training. It is neither fairly nor decently treated by being shelved or side-tracked to make time or way for the all-important subjects of secular examinations. It must not be appraised at the comparative value of a penny catechism when set beside the dignity of an expensive text-book of Science or History!

There is a very important and very elusive science called metaphysics, and the student who is grounded in its sound principles knows that the Church of the Fathers is neither disarmed nor defeated in contest with the intellectual princes of any age.

Father Walshe wisely begins at the beginning. He establishes, on sound scholastic lines, the reality and validity of our knowledge of the internal world. He gives fair and patient hearing, and equally fair reply, to the noteworthy and fundamental objections of our own day.

He is well versed in the theories of German, French and English metaphysicians, and is neither ashamed nor afraid to ask them to submit to the transcendental wisdom of the Angel of the Schools. It cannot be charged against him that he fights physical science with weapons outworn. A careful and distinguished student of the physical sciences himself, he speaks the language of his critics and understands their mind.

And when, (on page 49 and elsewhere in the book,) he gives the testimony of leading scientists to the reasonable attraction of the Christian Faith he is but confirming for others the personal conviction which is the most impressive argument of all.

The Existence and Nature of God: Difficulties arising from God's Perfection and Man's Limitation: Man's Nature and

THE RESTORATION OF PRE-WAR PRACTICES BILL.

Women are viewing with the gravest anxiety the progress of this Bill, which is likely to affect the future of many thousands of women workers. The artificial restrictions on women's work cannot, we firmly believe, continue for ever, but if established by law it will require a long and bitter fight before they can be removed. It is lamentable to think that the women affected by the Bill will be for the most part the young unenfranchised women. The very women who came forward at their country's call in the hour of danger. This desire to restrict the work of women and to drive them into the unskilled trades is a sure sign that the war is over, if other signs are lacking. There is little use in the Labour Party's clamouring for the opening of learned professions to women if the doors of industry are closed on them. Meanwhile the government's plan of rushing the Bill through in one day has been frustrated, and the Bill has been referred to a Committee, which affords an opportunity for the interests of women to be considered.

THE AMERICAN SUFFRAGE VICTORY.

As we go to Press we learn that the American Senate has adopted the resolution in favour of women's suffrage. An amendment to the United States Constitution embodying women's suffrage will now be submitted to the States for ratification. The State Legislature's vote upon the amendment without further reference to the people. It is considered certain that the necessary three-fourths of the States will ratify the amendment.

THE CATHOLIC READING GUILD.

The report of the above Guild is pleasant reading, showing, as it does, that the apostolic work of this missionary Society is extending. The conversion of England by books is its motto. It has 58 libraries outside of London. The Headquarters are at 17, Red Lion Passage, and anyone who has not done so should pay a visit to this oasis in the heart of Holborn; they will be sure of a welcome from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Coldwell. The "catacombs," or lecture hall, under the library has a charm of its own. Those who have been once will go again; there are interesting people to meet at 17, Red Lion Passage, and interesting books and papers to read, and good work to be done by helping the Catholic Reading Guild.

Destiny: Man's Relation and Duty to God: God's Message to Man: Man's Salvation by God: the Divine Economy of Salvation—these, in broad outline, are the main themes of a remarkable book.

The Problem of Evil, the difficulties of eternal punishment for the modern mind, the true meaning and necessity of miracle, are other burning topics, treated with a quiet dignity, a patient knowledge, and a persuasive clearness.

It is not an easy book. It were no compliment to call it light reading.

Even Senior Students will need no inconsiderable help from professor or teacher to make the best use of it.

But it is a book for which the Catholic Community of this country should be extremely grateful; it is a book which is a distinct credit to Christian Scholarship; and it is, above all, a book to be in the armoury of every intelligent Catholic who desires to know the intellectual proofs of his faith.

Let us further hope that all our higher schools and colleges will add "*Walshe on Christian Apologetics*" to their litany of invaluable and worthy text-books. D.J.Q.

HON. TREASURER'S APPEAL.

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"Grand Parade"	1	1	0
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*Musson, Miss A. J.	1	0	0
Northcote, Miss M.	0	2	0
Robson, Mrs. Hugh	0	1	0
Rochford, Miss	0	9	0
Stammers, Miss Frances E.	0	1	0
Williams, Miss R.	0	2	6
	£4	18	0

The above sums are gratefully acknowledged, but we hope that the number of contributors will have greatly increased before the July number of the CATHOLIC CITIZEN appears. The harvest is great, but it cannot be reaped without funds.

GABRIELLE JEFFERY.

*For Rent.

WOMEN UNDER THIRTY.

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All Speakers will be women under 30.

Chairman: Miss Madeleine Symons (Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations).

Speakers: Mrs. Stocks (National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship), Miss F. Campbell (National Federation of Women Workers), Miss Ruby Part (Workers' Union), Miss Rea (Cambridge University), Miss Howell (National Federation of Women Teachers), Miss Jessie Stephen (Poor Law Guardian).

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