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AN INFORMED CATHOLIC APOSTOLATE

By the Most Revd. Daniel J. Feeney,
AUXILIARY BISHOP OF PORTLAND, MAINE.

There is great need today for an informed lay Apostolate. We need an informed lay Apostolate for its own instruction, for its influence on those whose religious knowledge is almost nil, and for the example that can be given our fellows in the faith.

Theology is simply the study of God. It is the speciality of the clergy, it is true, but it need not be the exclusive interest of the clergy. I learned within the past two years that a classmate of mine is now the leading Catholic layman of a large mid-western city, and that his hobby, if you will, is the study of theology. And the priest-professor who told me this added that he knew his theology better than many priests who ought to be specialists in that subject. What, for instance, is the catechism but the reduction of the whole system of Catholic theology to the simple method of orderly teaching. The catechism is theology in a nutshell.

The study of theology for many of the laity will begin with the catechism, but you can easily supplement the catechism with any number of books. There are many pamphlets on the various proofs for the existence of God, the Incarnation, the Real Presence, the purpose of man's existence, etc. The more you read and study, the more will you inevitably find yourself developing a new sense of values. You will come to have a greater understanding of the question "What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and suffer the loss of his own soul?" You must come to the final conclusion that only with God as the centre of your life and Jesus Christ as your model can you hope to live the Christian life in all its aspects. It is from the study of theology alone that you will appreciate the real dignity of man as a child of God, and, once you will have grasped this truth, then will the sublime principles of the Gospel and their application in Papal encyclicals have a real meaning for you. By your familiarity with theology you also learn that tremendously important truth "Without Me you can do nothing," and there is opened up to you the magnificent doctrine of the grace of God, or the elevation of man to the supernatural state. The doctrine of grace also reveals the precision of Catholic morality. We are old masters in dealing with human nature. In the world about us there is no instruction on the great virtues, there is very little understanding of them. If there were how could you possibly explain mercy killing, the horrible perversion of sex, the rotten economic conditions that have brought such disaster to both capital and labour? There is a fixed, rigid morality based on the law of God, but if God be but an oratorical figure to be rung in on certain occasions to add a bit of solemnity to public address, how can we expect those who so think and talk to adhere to His law? There is no reason why our Catholic laity should not acquaint themselves more and more with the great theological explanations of life. The first step therefore for an informed lay Apostolate is a systematic study of theology—and let us not fear the word.

The second thought I would bring to your attention is the influence you as

informed Catholics can exert on those whose religious knowledge is almost nil.

Over a period of a year I instructed a young man, a graduate of Cornell University, a member of a strong Congregational family. He told me that he shared, as a student and later as a professional man, all the errors of the day—divorce, birth-control, sex freedom, contempt for any ecclesiastical authority. His work took him among Catholics. His curiosity was aroused. He slipped into Catholic churches occasionally. You will be slightly amazed to know that it was not heavy sermons, pamphlet racks or intellectual discussions with well-informed Catholics that started him on the road to the Faith. No, it was the simple gesture that Catholics kneel when they pray. He found in the Catholic attitude of prayer an answer to the pride of this day. He came to the conclusion that it was pride that forbade man to submit to God and His commandments. This was his first step. He proved an apt student. He took his time; read the books I lent him, asked many questions and prayed. Today he is one of us and has told me that he finds it hard to realise that the world is not beating a path to the door of the Church.

A few years ago a young couple moved into my parish. The young woman was a Catholic, the young man was not. His wife was the type of informed Catholic we are talking about. She subscribed to Catholic reading matter; lived her faith; was active in a discussion group. After four years he came to me and said that he had lived long enough with the Catholic faith to wish to know more about it. He was a college graduate and had done extra university work. The Protestant tradition was strong in his family, one of his grandfathers having been a Congregational minister. His opening remark the night we had our first session was this: "If anyone told me four years ago that I would be doing this, I would have said he was crazy." We took plenty of time and I finally had the happiness of receiving him into the Church. Today that young man is a vigorous Catholic, and his vigour finds its chief outlet in attendance at daily Mass.

In these examples we have the answer to the effect an informed lay Apostolate can have on those outside the fold.

My third suggestion is the manner in which our laity can inform themselves. It is related directly to the first idea, the study of theology. Of the thousands of young people who graduate annually from our schools, the number who can be induced to take an active part in any form of Catholic Action is lamentably few. They simply haven't caught on. I know from parish experience that there are lay people interested in extending their education in the Faith. But they know not how to go about it. They want the active direction of their priests. So often have I heard the lame old expression: "But Father has so many other duties in the parish." There are few other duties more important than preaching the Word of God. And all this business of developing an informed lay Apostolate is but another method of preaching the word. Call the group by

ST. BENEDICT WOULD SAY "LISTEN, SON!"

St. Benedict is often thought of as the founder of the monastic way of life. He was not the first monk, for there were large numbers of men both in Europe and in the Near East, who were living secluded from the world in the pursuit of perfection before the year of Benedict's birth, A.D. 480. But St. Benedict was the one who wrote definite rules for the monks and established the monasteries which spread over Europe, serving as centres for the conversion of the "barbarians" of the north European countries and renewing the spirit of religion among the people of the older Christian nations.

Those who entered the monasteries established by Benedict had to give up all connections with families and the world and to promise "stability," which meant living perpetually as members of the monastic groups. There were no exceptions because of noble birth or prior position in society. St. Benedict himself belonged to the family of Anicia, which traced itself back to the Roman nobility, and he is known as Benedict of Nursia, because that was his family's ancestral palace.

The spirit of the monasteries was strictly democratic. The monks were required, by turns, to serve each other at table and in the domestic work of the house. They were allowed to have only a rough costume and were required to sleep in dormitories—and "to sleep but little."

The most important work of the monks was community worship of Almighty God. They were required, in the words of their rule, "to give themselves to prayer, chanted aloud by the community, first in the night, at vigils, which began about two in the morning and continued until dawn; then six times during the day."

While the monasteries became centres of Christian worship in the pagan regions of Europe, they also served as dispensaries of charity to the poor and destitute, the monks receiving gifts from the rich for this purpose. But they were more than mere houses for dispensing charity. There were examples for the people—rich and poor—of the perfection of Christian life, which involves not only charity, but justice.

Those who were victims of injustice and oppression could point to the monks as examples of the Christ-spirit, which holds all men equal in the sight of God and expects what is due in justice from those who have little as well as those who have much.

any other name, discussion group, current events session; the words "study" and "class" are words of ominous meaning to many. I found my best success in recent years with a group of young women interested in informing themselves and just keeping in touch with current Catholic reading. My practice was to keep all my Catholic magazines and papers for the group. I soon discovered there were members who had particular interests. To them I marked out feature articles on such subjects in the various papers and magazines. I soon had a group of specialists. One young married woman became our specialist in all arguments pertaining to compulsory military training, taking

(Continued on Page 4.)

One of the most amazing periods in world history was that in which the Benedictine monasteries spread over Europe. While the Roman Empire, which had been the protector of Christianity, became weak under the guidance of feeble rulers, the sturdy, pagan "barbarians" of the more northerly countries were converted and, in turn, became protectors of the Christian Faith.

This was accomplished by the monks, without participation in politics or the formation of complicated organizations for the promotion of social justice.

The history of St. Benedict and his monks in the Europe of the fifth and sixth centuries should give encouragement to Christians who worry about the state of the world in our own times. Some are inclined to believe that the evils of our day have never been equalled, but this might be questioned. The Count de Montalant, in his famous history *The Monks of the West*, gives this picture of fifth-century Europe:

"Confusion, corruption, despair, and death were everywhere; social dismemberment seemed complete. Authority, morals, laws, sciences, arts, religion herself, might have been supposed condemned to irremediable ruin. The Church was more than ever infected by heresy, schisms, and divisions. The political edifice originated by Augustus was crumbling into dust under the blows of the barbarians. In the East, two tyrants disputed the dishonoured throne of Constantinople. Germany was still entirely pagan, as was also Great Britain. Gaul was invaded on the north by the pagan Franks, and on the South by the Arian Burgundians. Spain was overrun and ravaged. In a word, all those countries into which the first disciples of Jesus Christ carried the Faith had fallen a prey to barbarism, and most frequently to a barbarism which the Arian heresy employed as the instrument of its hatred against the Church. The world had to be a second time reconquered."

The areas of strife in today's world are much larger than the Europe of St. Benedict's time, but to the people of the fifth and sixth centuries it seemed as if the whole world was involved in the evils which afflicted them, for nothing was known to them except Europe and the immediately adjacent lands.

It is the history of the Catholic Church that she has met many times the same foes, who have returned century after century under different names and guises. It is—or should be—a source of strength to those who must fight the battles for the Faith in our times to recall how Benedict and his monks conquered the barbarians of pre-medieval Europe with nothing but the fire power of Christ-like living.

The rules which St. Benedict wrote for his monks begin with two words which have the ring of a modern wisecrack: "Ausculta, O fili!"—"Listen, son!" And perhaps there is much in the example and teachings of St. Benedict that can be applied to the problems of today's world—for the comfort of the God-fearing, and for the guidance of both Christians and pagans, who, it seems, must work together for the establishment of peace, if there is to be peace now or in any future time.—(The Shield.)

RED MASS

The Annual Red Mass for Catholic Judges and Lawyers and their families will be held this year at St. Lucia's Cathedral, Kotahena on Whit Sunday 25th May at 9 a.m.

The Bishop of Chilaw will say Mass and preach.

Sgd. J. B. GREGORY, O.M.I.

'The Science' of Love : A Study of the Teachings of St. Therese of Lisieux

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Church Calendar

MAY 1947

FRI.	...16 S. Ubald.
SAT.	...17 S. Paschal Bay.
SUN.	...18 S. Venantius.
MON.	...19 S. Peter Celest.
TUES.	...20 S. Bernardine.
WED.	...21 S. Julia.
THURS.	...22 S. Rita.
FRI.	...23 S. Desiderius.

The Catholic Guardian

MAY 16TH 1947

DEVOTION TO OUR LADY

The month of May brings to a focus the devotion to her whom we so affectionately call Our Lady. It will not be out of place if we attempt within the limits considerations of space impose on us to bring to a focus some of the many thoughts that reflection on our Blessed Lady evokes. The particular angle may be somewhat unusual but it is being chosen to reinforce what is common to us all.

Briefly, let us consider what Our Blessed Lady meant to St. John, the Apostle and the Seer.

One of the dominant ideas of St. John's Gospel is the idea of Light. The Word came into the world as the Light to dispel our darkness and in the wonderful Prologue to that Gospel, the Apostle has clearly in mind the first creative word spoken in Genesis 'Let there be light', the first stage in the development of creation. 'In the re-creation to be effected by the Incarnation, St. John places in the forefront the Light that came and claimed to be the Light of men, of the world.

Against the background thus sketchily outlined let us recall St. John's vision of Heaven given in the Apocalypse, the Gospel as it has been called of the victorious Christ reigning triumphant in Heaven. In that vision occurs the wonderful picture of the woman who defended her child against the serpent. She is seen clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and on her head a crown of twelve stars. Thus all the light of earth is gathered to make a raiment for her so that knowing the place of light in St. John's scheme of things, we see that for him she is

a special gift of God for the illumination of human life.

For St. John as for his Master on Calvary, Mary 'of whom was born Jesus' is 'the woman', and we naturally and inevitably link up the woman of promise pledged in the first message of hope to mankind after the Fall with 'the woman' at the foot of the Cross and 'the woman' so prominently featured in the Victory celebrations in Heaven.

'Take the comparison of Scripture with Scripture and see how the whole thing hangs together, as we Catholics interpret it. A war between the woman and the serpent is spoken of in Genesis. Who is the serpent? Scripture nowhere says till the 12th chapter of the Apocalypse. There at last, for the first time the serpent is interpreted to mean the Evil Spirit. Now, how is he introduced? Why, by the vision again of a woman, his enemy—and just as in the first vision in Genesis, the woman has a 'seed', so here is a 'child'. Can we help saying then that the woman is Mary in the third chapter of Genesis? And if so, and our reading is right, the first prophecy ever given connects the Second Woman with the First—Mary with Eve.' (Newman).

In the re-creation planned in the Incarnation, Mary is thus the real Eve 'the Mother of the Living' and if St. John clothes her in light, it is not merely because it was given to her to utter the living and eternal Word of God in time, to usher in the Light of Men, but because that Light shone in and through her so completely that it is her function to bring us to that Light and Life which she embodies and conveys to us. 'I have always envied Catholics' wrote the new England Puritan, Nathaniel Hawthorne 'their faith in that sweet Virgin Mother who stands twixt them and the Deity, intercepting somewhat of His awful splendour but permitting His love to stream upon the worshipper more intelligently through the medium of a woman's tenderness.'

Her name is therefore a dear one to us, especially because of her complete identification with the mission of her Son. Mother and Son 'have been together from the beginning, at Eden in the promise, in the prophecies and longings of Israel, in the Annunciation, at Bethlehem, at Nazareth, at Calvary and now in Heaven.'

We call her 'our sweetness and our hope' and well does a modern writer address her: "There was a time when the world's evil did frighten my soul, when I looked upon it with scared eyes and an anguished heart, as if it were something mighty with power and substance in it. But from the day when I began to understand thy Motherhood more clearly and to love it more ardently, my soul has ever made merry over the idle efforts of the Princes of Darkness to cow man's spirit into timidity through their attempts at establishing a mendacious sovereignty of gloom. The Creator of the starry skies smiles sweetly at thee, O fairest of all women and thou returnest His smile in triumphant peace

and I know that with God smiling at His sweet Mother, the grim powers of evil are already defeated." (Vonier).

Very Revd. Fr. Leo Deschaeteles, O.M.I., has been elected Superior-General of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate at the General Chapter of the Congregation now sitting in Rome.

The new General is a Canadian? he has been Superior of the Scholasticate and Provincial.

It is a pleasant duty to assure him of our best wishes and prayers. May Our Blessed Lord and Our Blessed Lady shower on him every grace to make his tenure of office supernaturally rich and strong.

CHEV. C. A. GARDINER, K.S.S.
AND

DAME ANGELINA GARDINER

Last Sunday's ceremony at Kandy Cathedral when Mr. C. A. Gardiner was made a Knight of St. Sylvester and Mrs. Gardiner had the Cross *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* bestowed upon her will live long in the memories of those who were privileged to be present.

One might stress several features: the ceremony impressive in itself but rendered still more so by the presence of all the Bishops of Ceylon, the number of clergy and people present from all over the Island and their representative character, the historical quality of the function as it was one of the rare occasions in history when husband and wife were simultaneously and independently honoured. All of us are grateful to the Bishop and clergy of Kandy for their invitations and for the meticulous preparation and attention to detail that were the secret of the success of the impressive pageantry.

The social afterwards at the Phoenix Garden enabled the general public to have its say. The Chief Justice, Professor Karunaratne and the Mayors of Colombo and Kandy were amongst those who spoke and testified to their lively satisfaction at the honours conferred. One note dominated: the vote of appreciation that signal service to the community and generosity in coming to the help of the deserving had been recognized. The Bishop of Kandy had already hinted in his moving address at the investiture that he could have wished to be able to be more explicit about the scope and quality of that generosity.

All of us in Jaffna are particularly happy. Chevalier Gardiner is one of our own. He comes from Jaffna and the more men of his stamp are forthcoming, the greater will be Jaffna's contribution to the national well-being and the deeper will be the conviction of the country that it cannot do without the Jaffna man.

BOOK REVIEW

The Priests' Bookshelf

THE CARTHAGINIAN CLERGY during the Episcopate of St. Cyprian. By Rev. Xavier Stanislaus Thaninayagam D.D., Pp. XVIII and 112 Colombo Book

Centre, Parson's Road 1947. Price Rs. 6/-.

This monograph, written eight years ago in Rome as a dissertation for the doctorate in theology, is a valuable contribution to early Church history. It studies the Carthaginian clergy during the period 248—258 mainly from the writings of St. Cyprian himself—its organization, its reactions to the Decian and Valerian persecutions, with the biographies of all the known members of Cyprian's clergy. It is not only a scholarly work but well-written and will be read with interest and profit by priests and church students. —(The Clergy Monthly, May 1947.)

Sunday Within the Octave of the Ascension

Epistle:

The end of all things is close at hand; live wisely, and keep your senses awake to greet the hours of prayer.

Above all things, preserve constant charity among yourselves; charity draws the veil over a multitude of sins.

Make one another free of what is yours ungrudgingly, sharing with all whatever gift each of you has received, as befits the stewards of a God so rich in graces.

One of you preaches, let him remember that it is God's message he is uttering; another distributes relief, let him remember that it is God who supplies him the opportunity; that so, in all you do, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ; to him be the glory and the power through endless ages, Amen.

(1 St. Peter : Ch. 4, 7-11),

Gospel:

Well, when the truth-giving Spirit, who proceeds from the Father, has come to befriend you, he whom I will send to you from the Father's side, he will bear witness of what I was;

And you too are to be my witnesses, you who from the first have been in my company.

I have told you this, so that your faith may not be taken unawares.

They will forbid you the synagogue; nay, the time is coming when anyone who puts you to death will claim that he is performing an act of worship to God.

Such things they will do to you, because they have no knowledge of the Father, or of me.

And I have told you this, so that when the time comes for it to happen, you may remember that I told you of it. If I did not tell you of it from the first, it was because I was to be still in your company.

(St. John : Ch. 15 : 26-27; Ch. 16 : 1-4).

Day by Day With the Saints

May 17 : St. Paschal Baylon :

Even as a boy, Paschal found time to instruct the herdsmen who kept their flocks on the hills of Aragon. At the age of twenty-four he entered the Franciscan Order, in which he remained, from humility, a simple lay-brother, doing the most servile tasks. He had an ardent love and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. He would spend hours on his knees before the tabernacle; he was often raised from the ground in the fervour of his prayer.

May 19 : St. Peter Celestine :

As a child, Peter had visions of our Blessed Lady, and of the angels and saints. At the age of twenty he left his home in Apulia to live in a mountain solitude. After some years he was elected Pope. Finding himself torn from his loved solitude, he took the name of Celestine, to remind him of the heaven he was leaving. After four months, he summoned the Cardinals and solemnly resigned his trust. He built himself a cell and continued his hermit's life. There he enjoyed his former loving intimacy with the saints and angels.

May 20 : St. Bernardine of Siena :

St. Bernardine became a great preacher, obtaining many conversions and reforming the greater part of Italy by his burning words and by the power of the Holy Name of Jesus. As a youth, he

undertook the charge of a holy old woman, a relative of his, who had been left destitute. She was blind and bedridden, and during her long illness could only utter the Holy Name of Jesus. It was from her that St. Bernardine learned the devotion to the Holy Name.

May 22: St. Rita of Cascia:

St. Rita met with much opposition from her parents when as a young girl she made known her intentions of becoming a nun. Yielding to their entreaties, she married a man who, in a short time, lost his reputation on account of his cruelty. After converting him from his wicked ways, he was murdered by an enemy. Rita's two sons resolved to take revenge, but through her prayers they repented of their sins and were taken away by death. Left alone in the world, she applied several times for admission into the Augustinian Convent at Cascia. Finally she was received and lived the life of a holy and devout Religious for 42 years, a shining example of every Christian virtue. Owing to the great number of miracles wrought by St. Rita, she is often styled "The Saint of the Impossible."

The Confraternity of the Sacred Heart

At the monthly meeting of the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Revd. Fr. A. R. Brown, O.M.I., gave a very interesting talk on some impressions of his visit to Europe. Speaking about conditions in England the lecturer said that during the war everyone had been tensed up to work. With the advent of peace though it was very important that people should work to save the country from economic ruin, people did not work as well as they ought. They took things easy. Strikes and stoppages of work took place for very flimsy reasons. The food shortage was acute. Queues were getting longer, but rations were getting shorter. Eggs were almost unobtainable, so were fruits. The lecturer then went on to describe his visits to the monasteries of Buckfast and Downside. He described how the Benedictine monks of Buckfast had built the monastery on the foundations of an old monastery destroyed during the Reformation. Not more than a dozen monks working off and on for 38 years had done the whole work. The singing of the Gregorian chant by the Monks was an unforgettable memory. The lecturer then went on to describe his visit to Lourdes and to certain houses of the Oblates, especially those sacred to the memory of their revered founder Mgr. de Mazenod.

Mr. J. A. V. Sylvester proposed a vote of thanks which was carried with acclamation.

LOCAL & GENERAL

Confraternity of the Sacred Heart.—The monthly meeting of the members of the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart, S.P.C. Branch, Senior Division was held on Sunday the 11th inst. at 5.30 p.m. at the College Hall. The Revd. Fr. L. J. Augustine, O.M.I., presided. Mr. G. S. Puvirajasinghe seconded by Mr. N. E. M. Cherubim moved a vote of condolence on the death of the late Rev. Fr. M. Gunese-kera, O.M.I., for many years Vice-President of the Colombo Branch and the Senior Members late Messrs. B. M. Lopiath, J. P. Edirmanasinghe and P. J. Rajah, Gate Mudaliyar. The motion was passed in the usual manner.

The Rev. Fr. A. R. Brown, O.M.I., B.A. gave an interesting and detailed talk of his holiday in England and France. Mr. J. A. V. Sylvester moved a vote of thanks seconded by Mr. B. F. Xavier. Fr. Augustine also highly complimented and thanked Fr. Brown.

A Public Lecture.—Under the auspices of the Literature Committee of the Jaffna Catholic Diocesan Union, Mr. P. F. Chrysostom, M.B.E., will deliver a lecture on "Life in Malaya during the Japanese Occupation" on Sunday the 18th inst. at 6 p.m. in the Catholic Club. Mr. Chrysostom who ran a secret British news service throughout the Peninsula during the Japanese occupation is full of first hand information on the subject. All are welcome.

Food Front.—The food position in Ceylon is quite satisfactory according to Mr. K. Alvapillai, the Director of Food Supplies. One thousand cases of apples has been received from Australia and sent to the various Co-operative Stores for distribution. A shipment of 6,500 tons of rice and 8,000 tons of flour was expected from Australia on May 10 and 11. A cargo of 5,000 tons of sugar from the United Kingdom is expected shortly. The only article in short supply at the moment is potatoes but the supply expected from Egypt will relieve this want.

Errors in Voters' Lists.—The register of voters in Jaffna, Galle, Ambalangoda-Balapitya and Attanagala electorates have been found to contain many errors. Since there is no time to get the errors rectified in London the Ceylon Government Printer has undertaken to rectify them. Day and night shifts of workmen have been arranged to get the lists in time for the elections.

The Minister of Home Affairs Initiates Settlement of Bus Strike.—Initial steps were taken by the Hon'ble Mr. A. Mahadeva, Minister of Home Affairs and the final finishing touches to what is hoped to be a permanent settlement were given by Mr. C. Ponnampalam, Chairman, Urban Council, Jaffna. Representatives of the Employers and employees met the Minister and the Chairman first in the Council building and then at the Chairman's residence. Discussions went on till 1 a. m. on Sunday and the way was paved for a settlement. Agreements binding both parties to the dispute are being drawn and the buses will ply as formerly. The Minister who left for Colombo on Sunday evening promised to take such steps as to prevent the occurrence of similar strikes in the future. The interests of the employees were looked after by Dr. N. M. Perera.

The "Morning Star" and the Education Bill.—Our contemporary *The Morning Star* of 9.5.47 condemns the tactics adopted by the supporters of the Education Bill as it is today in the following words: "We would wish to condemn in even stronger language the disgraceful tactics used by the adherents of the Minister of Education in furthering the case for the Bill as entirely ungentlemanly, low, and misleading."

Mr. Subramaniam Lewis Retires.—Mr. Subramaniam Lewis, Manager of the Jaffna Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., retired from service as from May 1 after a period of ten years fruitful work as a Co-operator. Having worked as a Civil Servant under Finance Department of the Government of India, the Co-operative Department benefited by his experience a great deal. Though he has retired from active service yet the kindly and obliging gentleman that he is, his advice and direction will we hope be available to all who seek them.

Ceylon's First Parliament.—Between August 30 and September 19 Ceylon will be electing her members for her first Parliament. Altogether there are 89 electoral districts and the preliminary registers of voters contain 2,887,820 names. When the battle of claims and objections has been fought and decided nearly 3,000,000 voters are expected to poll. This figure shows an increase of about half-a-million over the 1936 figure which was 2,451,323.

Gangsters Make Bonfire of Bus.—A bus belonging to the Point-Pedro route while plying out of the Police escort along the Palali-Point-Pedro Road was waylaid by a body of strikers who overpowered the driver and took the bus away to a lonely spot and set fire to it. The passengers were unharmed but the entire woodwork of the bus was burnt beyond recognition. It will be recalled that the only Company that did not join the strikes is the Point Pedro Bus Co. which was afforded Police protection.

Heavy Roll of Business in the State Council.—When the State Council meets this week after its long vacation it will have a heavy roll of business to be gone through with no less than 89 supplementary votes to be passed. These votes involve nearly 11½ million rupees. The Minister of Education will ask for Rs. 543,000 for three Training Colleges to accommodate 1,200 trainees.

Mr. Ratnayake Denounces the Tactics of the Supporters of the Education Bill.—Mr. A. Ratnayake, M.S.C., who supported the Education Bill when it was under fire before the State Council closed for vacation disapproves of the recent public utterances of some of the most ardent supporters of the Bill. In an interview to the *Times* correspondent, he said, "I do not like the way the present agitation is taking. Certain speakers at recent public meetings, by their ill-informed criticisms of those who have been helpful in furthering the cause of free education, have, I fear, done the cause more harm than good. Among those who have been helpful in furthering the cause of free education" he mentioned "even representatives of denominational schools."

University to Cost Twice its Original Estimate.—Col. J. L. Kotelawela, Minister of Communication of Works laid the foundation stones of the first five Halls of Residence for the University of Ceylon at Peradeniya. Mr. A. Gardiner, Managing Director of Messrs. Boustead Bros., who welcomed Col. Kotelawela said that Messrs. Boustead Bros., had blundered into a bad bargain by the University Contract and that they were likely to lose over a lakh of rupees. He did not regret the deal, he said, because the firm's loss will be the country's gain and the firm itself by its loss will have made a direct contribution to the University. As it is at present designed the University will accommodate about 5,000 students and will cover an area of 3,000 acres.

Transfer of Power in India to be Disclosed.—His Excellency the Viceroy Rear Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten has invited representatives of the Congress, Muslim League and the Sikhs to meet him in New Delhi on Saturday May 17. He will then disclose to them the British plans for transferring ruling power to the Indians in June 1948.

Political Professor's Views About China and India.—Professor George Catlin who is visiting China as a guest of the Chinese Government said that he believed in the formation of a strong China and Independent India. He further added, "When India pauses to think calmly and soberly, after getting her freedom she will realise the benefits of a close association with the Anglo-Saxon powers."

His Holiness Uses the Cinema to Plead for World Peace.—His Holiness the Pope has decided to appear at the end of the film "War against War" and appeal for World Peace. The picture is produced by the Catholic Cinematographic centre and His Holiness' appeal will be made in seven languages—Italian, English, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Latin. The Catholic Church leaves no resource on earth untried for the Glory of God and the salvation of souls.

The Cockpit of Another War.—Mr. A. C. Allen, British Labour Member of Parliament said the other day at a Workers' Conference that Greece may become the cockpit of another European War, which would not be provoked by Britain. "If Russian incorporation of States for 'security' was right then it was equally right that Britain or America should incorporate France, Belgium Denmark or other countries."

The Duke of Windsor.—The Duke and Duchess of Windsor are bound for England aboard the "Queen Elizabeth." The Secretary to the Duke said that their plan is to remain in England for the time being.

Argentine's Bumper Harvest.—The Argentine has garnered a better than average harvest this year and has large stocks for export. Mr. Denis A. Fitzgerald, Secretary General of the International Emergency Food Council has appealed to President Peron of the Argentine to increase the grains exports to 1,000,000 tons monthly to help the importing countries during the critical months of May, June and July.

Death of a Great Medical Scientist.—Sir Almroth Wright, the British Medical Scientist who discovered the anti-typhoid inoculation died in London at the age of 85. His discovery has saved and is saving millions of lives all the world over. He was in the habit of drawing a tea-spoonful of blood every day from his body for experimental purposes.

Food Position in Germany.—The food situation in Germany continues to deteriorate. Daily rations have fallen to 800 calories from the normal 1,550 in Hamburg and the Ruhr area. Hunger demonstrations and token strikes are planned against food shortage. The Ruhr's longest food crisis is getting to the end of the third week with few signs of immediate improvement.

Britain and War Debts.—Dr. Hugh Dalton, Chancellor of the Exchequer told the Brazilian Chamber of Commerce that Britain's war debts ought to be considerably scaled down. He sees no reason why Britain alone should "carry a crushing load which even the defeated enemies of freedom—Germans, Japanese and the rest—would escape. The suggestion behind this seems to indicate that the total war cost should be added together and equitably distributed among all the allied nations that enjoy "the fruits of victory." Mr. Churchill the Opposition leader expressed his complete agreement with the Chancellor's views at a London ceremony in which he received the freedom of the Borough of Darlington.

Roken: I cook and bake for you.
What do I get? NOTHING.
Norman: You're lucky. We get indigestion.

Notice to Correspondent
"The Entertainment Tax" and "Do You Know Series XXVII" held over for want of space will appear next week.

OBITUARY

GATE MUDALIYAR P. J. RAJAH

The funeral of Philippupillai John Rajah, Mudaliyar of the Governor's Gate, took place on Monday morning the 12th inst. in the presence of a large gathering.

He died as he had lived—an exemplary and generous Catholic who was one of the pillars of the Church of Jaffna. Revd. Fr. P. T. James, O.M.I., Parish Priest Cathedral, assisted by Revd. Frs. A. Rasanayagam, O.M.I., and L. J. Augustine, O.M.I., conducted the funeral service at the house, the Cathedral and the cemetery. Several other priests were present at the Cathedral. Very Revd. Fr. T. M. F. Long, O.M.I., represented His Lordship the Bishop of Jaffna.

The pall-bearers were Adigar Naganathan (representing the Tamil Chief Headmen), R. J. Paul, Esq., Retired District Judge, Nagpur, R. C. Proctor, Esq. and P. Mortimer, Esq., J.P.

The chief mourners are his wife Elizabeth, Mrs. James Christian (niece), Mr. Vital A. Moses (nephew) and Mr. R. D. Anthonipillai. R. I. P.
(An appreciation will be published in our next issue).

Junior School Certificate (English) Examination December 1947

Applications for the above examination close on 1st Oct., 1947. Copies of the syllabus and regulations can be had from the Secretary.

Bound copies of all questions set for 1946 examination are available at 75 cts. per copy.

C. S. PONNUTHURAI,
Secretary,
J. S. C. Exam. Council.
Jaffna College,
Vaddukodai.

WANTED

Wanted by the Government Agent, N.P., Jaffna, an acting Cultivation Overseer for the Irinamadu Tank Area. Minimum educational qualification is Junior School Certificate (English). The candidate selected should reside at Kilinochchi and work under the immediate direction and supervision of the Village Cultivation Officer, Kilinochchi. The duties involve travelling and the maintenance of a bicycle is necessary. The appointment will be non-pensionable on a daily pay of Rs. 2.20 plus war allowance at Government rates and terminable on a month's notice on either side; but the selected candidate will be eligible for consideration on his merits when the post is filled by a permanent appointment on a salary of Rs. 660-42-Rs. 1,164 per annum. A bicycle allowance of Rs. 7 per month will be paid.
Only those between the ages of 21 and 30 need apply.
Applications on forms to be obtained on or before 30.5.47 from the Jaffna Kachcheri, should reach the Government Agent on or before 15.6.47.

—History Behind the News—

The American Awakening

Who has not heard of the issue being settled for the two Frenchmen in front of a railway carriage by the train steaming out of the station, leaving both bowing to each other on the platform? France is the land of Fraternity. The Englishman's only objection to the *Entente Cordiale* is the embracing habit of the Frenchman. England is the home of Freedom but the liberty which the Englishman values most is the liberty to refuse; there are many things in Britain which simply "are not done." Serfdom died out in England nearly five centuries ago when personal freedom became universal. Men fought and died to acquire the status of freemen with all the rights of the *liber homo* of Magna Carta. This accounts for the Englishman's ideological attachment to freedom but equality is quite a different matter. There never was and perhaps there never will be more than a lip-service paid to the idea of Equality in Free-England. Democracy does give each man a vote but all the attendant defects are set off by a rigid division of social classes which everyone, from pit-boy to Peer, recognizes as essential for the smooth working of political democracy. But America is the land of

Equality

where the millionaire and the mill-hand are equated to the American dollar. All ideas of class are definitely rejected, although the New World's love for Lords and Ladies is real and enthusiastic. If Momma has a fancy for a 'dook' or a Count as a son-in-law, why, bless her heart! she will have him but Poppa is quite content to smoke his big cigar and buy railroads as easily as others purchase postage stamps. 'Society' is recruited almost entirely from the ranks of the rich and every American's ambition is to live in Park Avenue and dance and dine in the night-clubs of Upper East Side. The U.S.A. is a land with a glorious future but without a Past. The roots of her people are in every country in Europe. The American believes that the dollar can buy anything from Virtue to Victory. The visible evidence of her European culture is seen in the amazing collection of Literary and Art treasures—Old Masters and Mugs—which has found a home in America; if the Crown Jewels or the Tower of London are on the wrong side of the herring pond it is due to the cussedness of the natives! Social, political and civil equality are freely conceded but an attempt to expunge all differences in wealth will be construed as an attack on the free American 'way of life' to be opposed with all the resources of wealth and power.

Party Government

in the U.S.A. does not follow the British pattern. The Republican and Democratic Parties will not fit into an English model. Parties in America are not unions of people with the same ideas; they are rather alliances with a common interest. Whatever the differences may be in respect of internal policy, the parties are agreed on the foreign policy of their country. The difference is rather in emphasis in the ways of doing than in fundamentals. The Democratic party platform in 1940 in respect of foreign policy was to keep out of the war—then raging in Europe, Asia and Africa. The Republican programme was a little more emphatic in opposing 'American involvement in foreign wars.' But Hitler solved the problem by declaring war on the U.S.A. The war compelled the Americans to revise their traditional policy of isolation. The U.S.A. has now definitely abandoned what James Reston, the national correspondent of the "New York Times" called "the Preach-and-run" policy the country followed after World War I. America is not proof against either the Atom-bomb or Communism. Fear of

Encirclement

governs the course of Russo American relations. The alliance between Stalin and Hitler before the latter launched his campaign against Russia was a result of the Soviet fear that the

U.S.S.R. was being encircled, that Great Britain and the United States had snubbed Moscow and that the Soviet therefore had to have some kind of ally. The Nazis were a choice of necessity. It is true that the U.S.A. fears encirclement by Soviet-dominated Communism and is determined to resist Russian expansion beyond certain limits throughout the world. American troops are facing Russian soldiers on the other side of the thirty eighth parallel in Korea; American Marines are stationed in North China and a military mission is advising and training Chiang-Kai Sheik's troops and air forces. In Germany the American position has considerably stiffened and American representatives are having a watchful eye in Vienna. In many parts of the world American air and naval bases are being maintained and millions throughout Eastern and Central Europe from the Baltic to the Adriatic have acclaimed President Truman's aid to Greece and Turkey. If, instead of the U.S.S.R., Great Britain and the U.S.A. had been in control of that part of Europe that counts—Germany, Poland, Austria and Czechoslovakia—the Russians would not be in the advantageous position in which we find them today. As it is the Soviet has extended her ideology throughout the regions she is occupying now and the satellite states like Yugoslavia whose foreign policy she controls are backing her interests in the United Nations Organization whose failure to reach agreement on the major problems of the Peace has intensified the fear of war which haunts the world today. Perhaps war-ravaged Russia is not so strong as Stalin wants the world to believe but it is quite probable that in a decade the Soviet will have sufficiently recovered from her war-wounds to acquire a stock of atom-bombs and be strong enough on the sea and in the air to plunge the world into a world war which will mean the extermination of the human race. If humanity is to be saved a world-wide campaign to "wage" Peace must be launched forthwith.

An Informed Catholic Apostolate

(Continued from Page 1)

them frequently from the moral point of view. Another, a business girl, became thoroughly conversant with the Vatican's peace efforts and its diplomacy in dealing with the problems of Catholic populations affected by the war. Another developed into an expert book reviewer. Another, a graduate of a Baptist college, told me she never knew the meaning of her Faith until she joined actively in the group, and with her superior mind she became a sort of universal expert, a vigorous protagonist of all things Catholic. Those young women produced effects on our own parishioners, and as I had means of knowing, among our non-Catholic friends.

The Faith is active; it alone has the answer to the problems of the world, for it alone is the divine deposit of truth given us by Christ. Today we need informed Catholic laymen to act as ambassadors of goodwill to our non-Catholic neighbours in order that such laymen may also share in spreading "the riches of Catholic teaching."—(Information.)

TENDER NOTICE

The Chairman, Tender Board, General Treasury, Colombo, will receive tenders up to 12 noon on Tuesday June 10, 1947, for the necessary improvements to Kanchikulam alias Manipay kulam and its inlet channel in Manipay N. P. Tenders should be made on forms obtainable on application from the Government Agent, N. P., Jaffna, on a deposit of Rs. 100/- for each form. Further particulars can be had from him.

The Chairman, Tender Board, General Treasury, Colombo, will receive tenders up to 12 noon on Thursday June 10, 1947, for silt clearing and widening Kenral Vakkal in Maravanpattu N. P. Tenders should be made on forms obtainable on application from the Government Agent, N. P., Jaffna, on a deposit of Rs. 100/- for each form. Further particulars can be had from him.

CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

'NOTICE

The Railway Level Crossing at 85 miles 43 chains, Northern Line, near Maho Railway Station, will be closed for vehicular traffic from 9.00 p.m. on 23.5.47 till 3.00 a.m. on 29.5.47 for effecting repairs.

During the period of closure, urgent traffic will be assisted over the crossing.

J. E. S. BODGER,
General Manager.

17th April, 1947.

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Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

In the matter of the Estate of the late James Ignatius Bastiampillai of Jaffna deceased of Jaffna.

Deceased.

Testamentary } No. 690

Jurisdiction } Ambrose Joseph Selvadurai of Jaffna Town.

Petitioner.

Vs.

Joseph Francis Xavier Bastiampillai of Jaffna, now of No. 25, 42nd Lane Wellawatte.

Respondent.

This matter coming on for disposal before R. R. Selvadurai Esqr., District Judge, Jaffna on the 17th day of April 1947, in the presence of Mr. Alfred Swampi Iai, Proctor,

on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the abovenamed petitioner dated 8th April 1947 having been read:

It is ordered that the petitioner be declared entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him accordingly, unless the respondents or others interested shall on or before the 13th day of May 1947 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 17th day of April 1947.
Sgd. R. R. SELVADURAI,
District Judge.

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