

SPAIN AND RELIGIOUS ORDERS

(Contributed)

Mr. Andrew Shipman, one of the greatest living authorities on Spanish affairs, writes as follows in "America." A writer who signs himself as "Germade, a former Monk," has just published a book in Barcelona entitled "El terremoto en los Conventos." (Turbulence in the Convents) and the press agencies there are kindly supplying the Spanish radical papers and the entire European press with copious extracts from the book. It is hardly worth while to go over the entire work. Scattered all through the book are statistics of the various periods showing the growth of the monastic orders or congregations, and if the alleged figures given there are no more correct than the ones I shall presently mention, the whole book is a little more than a mass of misinformation.

After speaking about the religious orders in Spain he says: "Spain is simply filled with monasteries and religious houses. Today there are in this (Barcelona) diocese about 500 religious houses of which 95 per cent devote themselves to education and particularly to business enterprises, factories, trades and also commerce. Many monks have the superintendence over penal institutions, asylums, orphanages and hospitals, both governmental as well as local and private ones. Besides this there exist in said diocese which has not much more than a million inhabitants six thousand associations, brotherhoods and establishments, which are subject to the management of the religious orders. For the maintenance of these "Centros Catholicos" (Catholic Clubs) religious houses, cathedral, diocesan seminary, 286 parish priests, two bishops, the canons and the rest of the clergy, constituting 2000 persons, the government gives each year 8,000,000 duros, that is \$20,000,000. In other words, each individual inhabitant of the Diocese of Barcelona must pay annually the sum of \$30 for the maintenance of bishops, priests and the male and female members of religious orders." The "Former Monk" then gives a statistical sketch of the whole of Spain in this regard and adds:

"According to the above figures Spain has 4330 monasteries, and near them exist many other members of religious orders somewhat secretly under various pretences so that the government and the people may be deceived. These statistics are sufficient to justify the steps taken by Canalejas in the matter of the religious orders." I give this extract so that the readers of America may recognize the source whenever they see them printed as newly-made investigations in Spain. It is needless to say that they are untrue, and that they are given with a prolixity and verbiage that would deceive the average reader who has not the requisite books on Spain and Spanish affairs with which to elicit the truth.

I have by me the statistics of the religious houses in Barcelona diocese (1910) and an account of the work they are doing. There are in the Barcelona diocese 388 religious communities. Of them 72 are composed of men, and 316 of women. There are 855 male members of the religious communities, and 3,974 women. There are besides 1194 priests at present in charge of 243 parishes. The population of the Diocese of Barcelona is 1,054,540, of whom 850,000 are reckoned as Catholics. The amount of the population there and the number of clergy and members of religious communities somewhat agree with the statistics of New York, reckoning only the Catholic population.

In Barcelona the male religious orders have communities devoted as follows: To contemplative life, 2; refuges, protectories and manual training schools for children, 5; asylums for old people, 1; charitable associations, 17; schools and colleges, 47. The female religious orders have the following communities: Contemplative life, 27; houses of refuges, protectories and training schools for girls, 5; hospitals, asylums and homes for old people, 42; schools and colleges, 221. In the schools and colleges free instruction is given to 75,000 annually, and among them are included kindergarten, day nurseries and reception rooms for the children of the poor while their parents are at work during the day. All these are maintained at their own expense and efforts, are entirely exclusive of the state public schools, hospitals, and charitable institutions—except in regard to three religious orders, who perform at state expense in the public homes and hospitals the works of charity and mercy carried on by these institutions. If they were displaced that expense would be vastly increased by the employment of lay persons in the service of the state.

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But this anonymous author says nothing of this. Then he tries to bring in the various Catholic clubs, fraternal organizations, Christian Doctrine confraternities, sodalities, which exist in connection with every Catholic church the world over, and which are always organizations of laymen who pay their own meager expenses in every instance, and who are only too glad to contribute. In no single instance is there one cent contributed to their support or maintenance by the government. The statement of the anonymous author in this regard is an absolute invention. It is likewise untrue that any religious orders in Barcelona are engaged in business or trade, or carry on factories for the sale of their products. The list before me shows that there are none there which are so engaged. Then the author goes further in the realm of invention. He says the Spanish government gives every year 8,000,000 duros (that is 4,000,000 pesetas) or \$20,000,000 (!) for the support of the clergy, religious orders, and lay associations of Barcelona. In the first place, a duro is the Spanish word for dollar, and is equal to five pesetas, so that \$20,000,000 is that amount actually given multiplied by four. In the second place, the sum of 8,000,000 duros or 40,000,000 pesetas is the sum spent by the Spanish government for the entire church in all Spain. It goes to pay the secular salaries of the minister of worship and his clerks, the upkeep of church buildings, and finally the salaries and stipends of the clergy in actual charge of the churches and parishes. The religious orders and lay associations get none of it, except the three orders actually in the charitable and benevolent institutions of the state who receive their bare maintenance as individuals in lieu of a salary.

The total revenue of Spain is about 1,090,750,000 pesetas (or \$218,150,000), and the church—including the civil officers, who are paid out of the appropriation—get a little over 40,000,000 pesetas (some \$8,000,000) or about 3 1/2 per cent of the Spanish revenue. As Spain has 19,000,000 inhabitants (continuous with the diocese) nearly 1-19 of the total sum set aside for the church, and accordingly, to use the methods of the anonymous author, each individual inhabitant of Barcelona has to pay 42 cents (instead of \$30) for the support of the church. If the members of our congregations (of any creed) in America could be let off so cheaply, they would be proud to acclaim it. The rest of the figures in this latest book are about as true as the figures which the anonymous author gives for the Barcelona diocese and which I have just analyzed.

Don't Break Down.

Severe strains on the vital organs, like strains on machinery, cause severe break-downs. You can't over-tax stomach, liver, kidneys, bowels or nerves without serious danger to yourself. If you are weak or run-down, or under strain of any kind, take Electric Bitters, the matchless tonic medicine. Mrs. J. B. Van de Sande, of Kirkland, Ill., writes: "That I did not break down, while enduring a most severe strain, for three months, is due wholly to Electric Bitters." Use them and enjoy health and strength. Satisfaction positively guaranteed. 50c at Koepfen Bros.

FINLAND WILL REFUSE TO OBEY RUSSIAN LAW

Berlin.—Hard though Germans are themselves against the oppressed Poles and Danes in their eastern and northern provinces, they are nevertheless very outspoken in their condemnation of Russia's politics toward Finland, and many are the influences which have been brought to bear on the kaiser in an attempt to make him try to soften Czar Nicholas' heart toward his Finnish subjects during their meeting at Friedberg castle.

The kaiser himself is said to be a great admirer of the Finns, but it is exceedingly doubtful whether he had thought it wise to bring up the subject. If he did, the results are not yet apparent and Finland is awaiting her destiny in proud reserve. A German journalist who has just returned from a visit to that northern country says that whenever he spoke to a Finn, no matter of what class, high or low, he felt the sense of the coming tragedy, mingled with a spirit of grim determination that unites men of all sorts and condition.

The crisis in Finnish affairs will come in about three weeks, when the Diet, at the command of the czar, will have to send six representatives to St. Petersburg to become parties to the settlement by Russia of affairs which have been hitherto the exclusive business of Finland's own parliament.

One must admit that the Finns have tried in every possible way to assert their just national rights in a peaceful and dignified manner, and the statesmen, judges and politicians of Europe not long ago rendered a unanimous verdict in their favor, that the Russian premier, M. Stolypin, will be the one who will have to give in when the curtain raises for the next act of the great national political drama.

M. Leo Mechelin, Finnish senator and ex-premier, one of the most influential men in Finland, has given his opinion of the coming struggle in a letter to a friend in this city, which was shown to me the other day.

"It is a coup d'etat," he says; "the greater violation of the positive law in a modern state, but the crisis is, yet to come."

"The Finnish Diet will be convoked at the end of September to elect, under the new law, members to sit in the Russian duma and state council. M. Stolypin imagines that the interests of Finland are sufficiently guarded, but this trifling participation in

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between them. The marriage ceremony was conducted with the utmost privacy. The question of the two children has been most carefully considered. A morganatic union is a legitimate union, and the issue is legitimate. The youngsters, Counts of Terwuren and Rainenstein, if lawful sons of the late monarch, deserve a better fate than that of adoption by an elderly French baroness, but their future fate still remains a deep secret. Perhaps the Baronne, now that she has changed her name, may think the time opportune for making a statement. It may have a world of complications in the years to come.

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NOTICE

For the Purchase of Fire Hose, Hose Expander and Smoke Protectors.

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received at the office of the city recorder of the city of Pendleton until September 28, 1910, at 7:30 o'clock p. m., for the furnishing to the city of Pendleton of 500 feet standard brand, 3 1/2 inch fire hose, with couplings complete, 1 hose expander, standard make and 5 smoke protectors the bids to specify prices delivered f. o. b. Pendleton, Oregon. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Dated at Pendleton, Oregon, this 15th day of September, A. D. 1910.

THOS. FITZ GERALD, City Recorder.

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