

Chapter XVIII -- The Failure of Marion Crawford.

Crawford was an unwilling and innocent victim of Secularism, which is the form under which paganism operates most frequently in the United States. Secularism is the "broadminded" divorce of life, literature and art from morality. It is the modern paganism put over by the devil, so aptly described by Father O'Donnell in his sermon Wednesday night.

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Francis Marion Crawford was converted in his youth, and his strong Catholicity showed in all the important features of his private life. His last words were, "I die with Christ."

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His first book was the result of an accident, but Mr. Isaacs was the foundation of his fortune. He was not a genius, but had a talent for telling stories. He seemed unaware of the power of "isms" that had pervaded every department of literature, and he wrote about the Italian of the stillieto, etc. -- the Hugh type.

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He soon came to the place where he had to choose. He immediately began to write Catholic stories, and the Saracinesca Tales appeared. There were four books in this series, and they were filled with noble, gracious characters. But they were a financial failure, and his publishers immediately demanded a return to the poison and murder stories.

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His next production Casa Braccio, blasted the hopes of his Catholic admirers in this country. He seemed to be innocent of his intention, however, as he said that he has presented the manuscript to several prominent Catholics in Rome and secured their approval. He did not seem to realize that conditions were different in the United States. He could not have done a worse thing for the Catholic cause in America. Looking forward, one can see Crawford's standing. He is a writer of entertaining stories to while away a pleasant hour, but nothing more.

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From the Survey.

"Since it is a fact that Catholic men marry non-Catholic girls, why do we never hear a sermon on the duty of the Catholic men in these cases? I have never heard a sermon preached on this subject. Why not tell them the evil they do by not being good Catholics."

Stick around a while. This is your first year. Last year a student complained that there were too many sermons on the subject. You will find food for thought on the first page of last year's Survey, a copy of which you can find at the pamphlet rack. It shows that few students whose mothers are non-Catholics come to Notre Dame. You will also find on page thirty-six that only thirty-one of last year's students were bent on marrying non-Catholics. You and Yours and Courtship and Marriage offer food for thought; you will find these books and some smaller pamphlets on mixed marriage at the rack.

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"Would you tell us how to go about converting a friend?"

Prayer is the first and most important means. Good example comes next. Sound and thorough knowledge of your religion comes third. Send her a copy of You and Yours, The Hand of God and God and Myself. Come around and get instructions to suit the particular case.