
The Critics of the Encyclical.

Casti connubii, the epoch-making encyclical on marriage issued last week by the Holy Father, has created a profound impression. It has raised a storm of protest, quite naturally; but, on the other hand, it has given guidance to millions of people outside the Church whose minds were becoming confused on the sacred subjects which it treats. It has given guidance to them because, in addition to the force which the very word of the Holy Father has for Catholics, it gives the natural reasons behind the legislation of the Church, and these reasons must appeal to all right-thinking people.

Some of the criticisms which are now appearing contain specious arguments calculated to deceive the unwary. The Bulletin will answer such of these as you will be likely to have brought to your attention by outsiders, so that you will not be at a loss for reply in such an event. Three letters to the Chicago Tribune claim attention today. All three of them ignore the Pope's appeal to continence -- why, they do not say. If they presume that it is impossible to married people, they must grant unmarried people, widows and widowers as well as young men and women, the leeway they assume for the married. The presumption is a vile insinuation and slur on chaste manhood and womanhood, and cannot be resented too forcibly by sons and brothers of chaste women.

G.T. pleads for the life and health of the baby whose birthday is too close to his brother's, and for the life and health of the mother of too numerous offspring. As already stated, he ignores the plea for continence; in its place he would degrade the woman's soul by making her merely an instrument for lust, and wreck her nervous system by unbridled and unsatisfactory indulgence.

C.R. argues that since nature is prodigal of her gifts man may frustrate nature with impunity. By continuing his argument one could justify euthanasia, or the so-called mercy-killing. If man is to aid in the so-called "survival of the fittest," euthanasia is surely more reasonable than birth control, for the one who is to judge who is fittest can judge best if he has an individual rather than an imaginary individual upon whom to pass judgment.

J.G.H. laughs at the attempt to check "the greatest humanitarian movement since the feudal system was thrown out." He calls the degradation of womanhood humanitarian. He forgets that we had such degradation -- from such causes -- before Christianity; he need only read the history of Rome to discover that unbridled lust breeds unbridled cruelty to women. By the ideal of chastity, inculcated through devotion to her who was both Virgin and Mother, the Church raised woman to the dignity she has held in Christian civilization. He would dethrone her again, in the name of humanitarianism -- which is reasonable enough in itself, for man, as man, and without God as the common Father, is an ugly, selfish brute.

When pundits go so far astray from the truth, every Catholic should thank God for the infallible Church which gives him a safe guide.

For Bengal.

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PRAYERS: A sister-in-law of Prof. Greene died Friday. The Bulletin reported erroneously the death of Chas. Nash's mother; in making the correction we are glad to state that her health is now much better than it was before the holidays. Frank Shopper and Frank Oberketter ask prayer for relatives who died during the holidays. Joe Robinson's father is ill. Peter McIligott, of New York, a prominent alumnus, is very ill. A deceased friend of a student. Ten special intentions.