

University of Notre Dame
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"Churches Burn; Nuns Flee."

The Chicago Tribune's revolt against absolutism in Spain has now reached the climax of satisfaction, to judge by the headlines in that newspaper. The nuns are in flight, their convents are in flames.

Chalk up another victory for the newspaper (confessedly the world's greatest) which claims credit for running Thompson out of Chicago.

Chalk up another victory over Christian womanhood for the newspaper which some months ago praised the "scientific" recrudescence of the pagan practice that would make woman the plaything of man's lust instead of man's co-creator of God's little ones.

The Tribune may deplore the mobbing of nuns, but it can hardly express surprise at it, for the Tribune is fond of quoting history, and the files of the Tribune for the last twelve-month, not to go further back, show the experience of Spanish countries with representative government -- little reproductions of the French revolution.

There is one misleading headline in the group from which we take the ones quoted above. It reads, "Vatican Expresses Alarm." The Vatican may express regret, it will always express concern, but it will not express alarm.

The Catholic Church is used to persecution, and it knows why it needs must come.

It is used to persecution and to the flight of nuns, for from the days of Nero down to 1931 it has seen holy virgins burned at the stake and thrown to the lions and sent to the Tres Marias Islands.

It knows why it needs must come, for its Founder said: "If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you..... they will put you out of the synagogues: yea, the hour cometh, that whosoever killeth you, will think that he doth a service to God." -- St. John, 15:20, 16:2.

It knows also that persecution is a special mark of divine favor, for its Founder said: "Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit, He will take away: and every one that beareth fruit, He will purgo it, that it may bring forth more fruit." -- St. John, 15:2.

We hold no brief for any particular form of government. So-called "representative" government is rarely representative in the full sense; the Tribune is fond of calling our attention to the power of an organized minority: it takes pride in its campaigns against the Anti-Saloon League and against the soviet regime in Russia. A study of France would show that ninety-five per cent of the people of that republic have little, if any, voice in the government; even a superficial glance at the Latin-American republics will convince an impartial man that the benign despotism gives them the most favorable rule.

If Mussolini ruled Chicago, the Tribune would not have to publish poison-pen editorials on the foreign periodicals that print news of Chicago's permanent crime wave. If Primo de Rivera ruled in Springfield, the Tribune would not have to refer to the Illinois legislators as "nullificationists." "Representative" government also has its drawbacks. And in the meantime, if a Spaniard wants to bow the knee before an Alfonso, or an Englishman before a George, it's the Spaniard's business and the Englishman's, not the Tribune's.
PRAYERS: Gerald Conway's father is ill. A sister of Charles Podlaski is to undergo an operation this week. Con Hayes asks prayers for his mother, who is recovering from an operation. A cousin of J.C. Simons died a few days ago. A deceased friend of a student. Six special intentions.