

University of Notre Dame
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The Scandal of the Pharisees.

From "A Recent convert and very much interested" comes a request for some crushing remarks about some advertising matter received through the mail. The folders advertised a cheap edition of a cheap book written for suckers, and entitled, "The Bible Unmasked." Its title is as much a fake as the claims the book makes: you can't unmask something that isn't masked. It tells nothing new, nothing that is not known to all lovers of the Bible, nothing not understood by any of them who have taken the trouble to look up the explanations.

The horror the author sets down is what is called pharisaical scandal. A man who believes in successive polygamy by divorce and remarriage can hardly object to simultaneous polygamy, especially since the first often implies birth control and the second had for its usual purpose in Scripture the propagation of the human race. Similarly, when sin is mentioned and its penance or punishment described, only a man who would cheat at solitaire could call this approval of the sin. And so with the rest.

Such books sell well in remote communities where sinners have a hard time living down local disapproval of their sins. In cities, where both sinner and saint can find much company, there is less clamor for this type of self-justification. Present-day atheism is militant, and the issue of catch-penny literature is endless.

A Shot In The Dark.

The writer of the following communication protests that he is not a lay cardinal, although his letter is unsigned. We suspect that he is Irish - probably a shauneen.

"Dear Father: This is not written by a lay cardinal but by one justly offended by your writings outside the realm of faith and morals. The name, "Fighting Irish" given by the newspapers was tacked on the football team. This year's first squad had five Germans to one Irisher. You yourself once said, "The Germans do all the work around here. It is the German race that does all the fighting for Notre Dame while so many Irish show their natural reclining spirit.

"You are very unjust to find out how many students have Irish mothers. What about the Irishmen with German mothers? You have offended a majority of the students for a fool-hearty name. Be Christ-like; i.e., Be humble - Be just. A Fighting Dutchman."

Name And Address On Application.

"Dear Father Cavanaugh: For some time a small clique of Catholic University students in New Zealand, of which I am one, have been interested in Notre Dame, its football team, and its coach, the late Knute Rockne. We are very badly served in our libraries with American papers and the result is that we rely for information re Notre Dame on the testimony of travelers. I might say that quite a number of us are interested solely in Notre Dame's football team - but there are others who are intensely interested in the life and thought of an American university. Both parties are avid for more information and it is for this purpose that I have been instructed to write to you. We would like to become subscribers to your university paper or periodical if such a publication exists, and also to correspond with any of the members of the debating or literary circles.

"I am sure that a great good would result from this contact with American Catholic students for us, as so much of the information we receive here in New Zealand is inaccurate and biased."