
Current Cant About Spain.
By Arnold Lunn.

Cant No. 5: That the Church in Spain was responsible for the alleged illiteracy of the Spanish people.

On the contrary, the Church supplemented the education given by the State. Mr. H. F. Friend writes as follows in The Tablet for October 10, 1936:

"I do not refer to the enterprises organised and held by the Clergy or Religious Orders. Thousands of schools for poor children were kept up by Religious Communities, schools which were far better than those which the Government maintained. Many Catholic Guilds had night classes for workmen. The Salesian and Jesuit Fathers, as well as the Brothers of Christian Doctrine, had very good technical institutions, where young workmen could be trained free in electricity, mechanics, etc. We may name in Madrid the schools of Atocha, Areneros and Maravillas. As to charitable institutions we could say a great deal, but perhaps we could mention the 'Patronato de Enfermos' (Patronage for the Sick), run by women under religious vows, who keep a medical staff for the sick poor, and are obliged by their regulations to carry immediate assistance to anyone in need of medicine, food, etc. Besides this, they maintain poor children, feed hundreds of the poor, and devote themselves entirely to apostolic work among all who are in need.

"Amongst the higher classes the Church worked too. She taught at her public schools, held by Religious Orders, but contrary to what is believed, private teaching is so controlled by the State that its programmes have to be followed exactly and the examination had to be made before the State Officials, so that the teaching was submitted to the very bad State curriculum. If the Church was so 'powerful' would she not have changed that? It would have done a great deal of good for the education of Spanish youth, as a better curriculum would have been established. We have very good examples of how the Orders, when not controlled by the State, gave excellent teaching. The Jesuits had in Madrid the 'I.C.A.I.', standing for Catholic Institute of Arts and Industry, where electrical and mechanical engineers were trained. They followed their own programmes, and so the State did not officially recognise them. Their engineers (I hold the official title of Civil Engineer from the State and am responsible for what I say) were trained magnificently and were much sought after by private firms. The Deusto University at Bilbao for Commercial and Economic training, and the Chemistry Institute at Barcelona, were equally admirable."

Three Special Requests.

(1) Father James McManus, C.S.C., professor-rector of another day at Notre Dame was buried from the main church last Tuesday morning. He merits many remembrances in your Masses and Holy Communions.

(2) Zealous and saintly Father Drought (who has had more to do with the founding and growth of Maryknoll than any other living man) lies paralyzed in a New York hospital. He and nine companions fell some weeks ago in an airplane disaster in the Far East. All nine companions were killed. Father Drought (particular friend of Notre Dame) was brought back by boat to New York. He deserves spiritual help that, having been saved miraculously from death, he may regain his strength to carry on for Maryknoll.

(3) Dick Swisher (Howard) is again suffering considerable pain. A month ago, you remember, he had both legs broken in an accident on the Miles Road. He will be glad to know that you have him in your Holy Communions every morning.

PRAYERS: (deceased) George B. Kelley '10; Sister Mary Hyacinthis. Ill, father of Rev. Charles Corcoran, C.S.C.; father of Joe Thesing (Brownson); John Ward (How).
MASS SATURDAY of St. Sabbas, p.688.