

(Ill) Norb Smith, formerly University of Notre Dame (deceased) aunt of Charles
of Alumni, at home; aunt Religious Bulletin Hellmuth (Dil); John
of Roy Deeb (Z). February 19, 1948 Colerick, '29. 2 Spec. I.

Shameful Attendance.

Where were your folks last night, and your older brother and sister, at 7:30 P.M.? Most of your relatives were at the Wednesday Lenten Devotions in their parish church. And your father was there after a day of hard work, and the same can be said for your mother and the other Catholic breadwinners. They had to dress up for the occasion. They had to inconvenience themselves by travelling a number of miles, perhaps in bad weather by bus or street car. But they went to church, because there was a special blessing there for them.

Only 1200 of the 3000 students living on the campus assisted in the campus Lenten Devotions last night. What excuse have the others?

They did not have to change clothes, nor travel, nor spend money for gasoline, or for a fare on the bus or street car. Forgetfulness? The church bell rang, the hall bell sounded, and fellow-students leaving the building were all reminders.

Spurning opportunities of grace is a matter of conscience? Better examine yours, if you were absent last night without good reason.

Newman On Reading

"There are many young people who certainly have a taste for reading, but in whom it is little more than the result of mental restlessness and curiosity.

"Such minds cannot fix their gaze on one object for two seconds together; the very impulse which leads them to read at all, leads them to read on, and never to stay or hang over any one idea. The pleasurable excitement of reading what is new is their motive principle; and the imagination that they are doing something, and the boyish vanity which accompanies it, are their reward.

"Such youths often profess to like poetry, or to like history or biography; they are fond of lectures on certain of the physical sciences; or they may possibly have a real and true taste for natural history or other cognate subjects; and so far they may be regarded with satisfaction; but on the other hand they profess that they do not like logic, they do not like algebra, they have no taste for mathematics; which only means that they do not like application, they do not like attention, they shrink from the effort and labour of thinking, and the process of true intellectual gymnastics.

"The consequence will be that, when they grow up, they may, if it so happen, be agreeable in conversation, they may be well informed in this or that department of knowledge, they may be what is called literary; but they will have no consistency, steadiness, or perseverance; they will not be able to make a telling speech, or to write a good letter, or to fling in debate a smart antagonist, unless so far as, now and then, mother-wit supplies a sudden capacity, which cannot be ordinarily counted on. They cannot state an argument or a question, or take a clear survey of a whole transaction, or give sensible and appropriate advice under difficulties, or do any of those things which inspire confidence and gain influence, which raise a man in life, and make him useful to his religion or his country."