

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN.

Jan. 10, 1925.

Are There Others?

"Dear Bulletin: I went to a party New Year's night. It was a mixed party, I mean both Catholics and non-Catholics. It was given for the College crowd home for the holidays. A lunch was served around midnight, sandwiches, coffee, etc. Some of the Catholic fellows and girls ate the chicken or ham, others left it on their plates covered with lettuce leaves and ate only the bread. Afterwards one of the fellows who ate the meat said we were excused from abstaining by "social obligation" so as not to embarrass our hostess. My mother thought different. Who was right?"

Doubtful.

"Dear Father: I had a rotten time New Years. I went on a sleighing party which I thought would be good fun. Boy I'll tell the world no one caught cold on that trip. I used to kind of think that the Bulletin razzed the moonshine parties too much, especially about the Janes drinking it. I guess I had something to learn. The thing that struck me most was the kind of impression made upon non-Catholic girls who had Catholic fellows for escorts and who kept their flasks going till they were gone."

Disgusted.

Have You Forgotten Something?

Both "Doubtful" and "Disgusted" seem to have omitted an important item about their New Year's parties. The Prefect of Religion is wondering how they forgot that the next day was the First Friday. He is also wondering what their pastor must have thought of their Notre Dame training when he missed them from the altar rail. But perhaps they are too modest to say they made the sacrifice.

"Social Obligation" Catholics.

These two letters can be answered in the same way. The indulgers in meat on Friday or in moonshine on a sleighing party offered the same excuse, "social obligation." But here are the words of Christ: "It is impossible that scandals should not come; but woe to him through whom they come. It were better for him that a millstone were hanging about his neck, and he cast into the sea."

Working for Christ or Satan.

The two incidents bring up one of the festering evils of the day. The bad example of Catholics in the company of non-Catholics. These latter are generally very much alive to certain practices of the Catholic Church. Purely as a matter of principle it is a distinct shock to them when they meet Catholics who fail to live up to these practices. Who can tell how many souls are kept out of the fold of Christ by negative Catholics?

Obligations to America.

"Doubtful" and "Disgusted" as well as many others will find much to instruct and edify them in a series of articles under the above caption now running in "The Commonweal". They suggest an excellent course of reading for the dull mouths.

Feast of the Holy Family.

Tomorrow (Sunday) the Church celebrates the feast of the Holy Family, the model of all Christian families. Make it a big Communion Sunday in reparation for the graces you neglected during the holidays and to implore the blessing of God upon your own families.

John F. O'Hara, C.S.C.,
Prefect of Religion.