

The Hope of Hell.

A lady, a rather distinguished lady, tells this as an example of clever repartee: "Down town the other day I met a handsome young man who used to be a member of my Sunday School class. I asked him why he had deserted the class, and he replied: 'Madam, you destroyed my hope of hell.' Wasn't that just too clever?"

It was certainly too clever for the good lady's comprehension - but one would expect a low ceiling and poor visibility in the mental range of a matron who would destroy a young man's belief in hell. The young man's conscience, however, knew what it had done to him.

An Episcopal minister is quoted as saying: "In my church are communicants who would make good Catholics or good Protestants, there are prohibitionists and anti-prohibitionists, worldly people and extremely religiously devoted people. We all live happily under the same roof and get along well together."

We grant that such a condition is a good sales argument for a club, but hardly for a church. Elks used to claim that the B.P.O.E. was the link between the Masons and the Knights of Columbus. We expect something more of a church. In the Church we recognize the teaching voice of Christ, Who sent His Apostles to teach all nations 'whatsoever I have commanded,' and Who also said: "If he will not hear the Church, let him be to thee as the heathen and the publican." A church without anathemas is not the church of Christ; a church without a hell can claim no part with Him Who died to save us from hell. Dogma does make a difference. "He that is not with Me is against Me; he that gathereth not with Me, scattereth."

A man back east willed half a million dollars to the woman who would, before a certain date, bring into the world the largest number of children. The bequest was claimed by the mother of twenty-six children. The judge who has handled the case so far has decided that the man who left such a provision in his will is of unsound mind.

A spinster out west has willed \$100,000 to one or other of two birth control organizations, with a proviso that if neither of these can accept the gift it is to go to Margaret Sanger, the most notorious of the advocates of birth control. Mrs. Sanger needs the money. On our desk is a circular signed by her advising the recipient to 'write to his congressmen today' for legislation removing the federal restrictions on the dissemination of birth control information. Below a list of Indiana senators and representatives it has a footnote advising the recipient to save his time and his stamps if any of the congressmen are Catholics, because Catholics are held down by Church dogmas. It will be interesting to see what the judge will do with this will.

In Chicago, the Rogers Park Congregational church is facing the secession of one hundred young men because the church leaders have asked the resignation of a Sunday School teacher whose well-intentioned social meetings on the church premises left behind them (according to the janitor) a trail of cigarette butts and one whiskey bottle. One eighteen-year-old boy, when asked to remain with the church as a church, replied: "Parlor games don't interest me. I'd rather go to a taxi dance."

One day's front-page news contains the following stories: 1. 1000 peasants slain fleeing Russia; 2. Missionary, wife and son end lives; 3. Capitalist kills self over depression; 4. One slain, two shot in mystery fray in home; 5. Forty-five arrested as sellers of poison headache pills; 6. Giant negro bandit killed; 7. Burglars shoot woman; 8. Dean pledges Lindbergh baby's return; 9. Husband of opera star joins Alimony Row in jail; 10. Bandit takes \$215 from hospital; 11 and 12. Two tax items.

Can't some kind lady revive the hope of hell?