

University of Notre Dame

Religious Bulletin

May 7, 1932.

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Free Advice.

To the Anglican Bishop of Birmingham, Dr. Ernest Barnes, who told the heads of Cambridge University that the reduction of the death rate brings a new menace of overpopulation unless the birth rate is limited, and said that countries like Italy, South Ireland and Japan are a menace to the peace of the world, adding: "It is the duty of the Christian church to use all its influence to prevent a dangerous growth of population likely to lead to war, and to encourage an increase in the best stocks of every community":

We are just about tired of your filthy blasphemy. Invoke Herod the Great or Caligula, if you like, in support of the base licentiousness you call "birth control," but don't call it Christian. And why not advocate Herod's system for regulating population instead of Margaret Sanger's? Herod took a look at his children before he killed them off.

To Henry Fairfield Osborn, President of the American Museum of Natural History, who told the reporters after a visit to Tahiti, Samoa, Fiji, New Guinea and points west, that the world is suffering from "overpopulation and overproduction," and that the only cure for unemployment is the restriction of births:

Stick to your skulls and your anthropoid apes. As an economist you aren't half so good as the little pickanniny who wanted more bread for his molasses and then more molasses for his bread and so on ad infinitum.

To the editorial council of the Protestant religious press, which voted last week to go into action in the political campaign of 1932, on the grounds, 1. "That the denominations are descendants of Luther, Knox, Wesley, Huss, William Penn, and other militant reformers back to John the Baptist, and, in Matthew 25, to Christ Himself;" and 2. That the creed on which the denominational politicians stand is not the Athanasian Creed but the Declaration of Independence:

1. Choose a better chapter next time: in the one you cite Christ appeals to heaven and hell (the hell you no longer preach) not to ballots, as the sanction for the law He lays down; 2. If your creed is the Declaration of Independence instead of the Athanasian Creed, pay taxes as a political club and don't ask exemptions as a Christian Church.

To the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which has had among its agenda proposals to drop from the marriage ritual the words, "with all my worldly goods I thee endow," to admit women to the general conference, and to substitute in the burial service for the words, "from ashes to ashes," something "more appropriate and less cruel":

You have forsaken St. Paul, your old standby, for some sort of a Declaration of Independence, but you're going to have a hard time convincing the judge that Nos. 1, 2, and 3 are not entitled to alimony; you are going to complicate "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" if you let the dear ladies into the general conference; and no matter how hard you struggle with formulas, you are not going to make death anything "more appropriate and less cruel." Change words all you like, but you can't alter the nature of things in God's institutions.

To all Catholics who are interested in curing the evils which afflict our nation:

Give your knees sound exercise during the Novena for Pentecost. Good example by Catholics, plus prayer, can turn America back to God; and if our hope is in heaven instead of earth, justice will prevail and evils will right themselves. This is the century of the Holy Ghost: "let your light shine before men" that they may find Him.