
Salvador - of Vera Cruz.

A story going the rounds of the papers of late is to the effect that Dr. Salvador Mendoza, one of the drafters of the new civil code of Vera Cruz, Mexico, has announced a system of birth control to be established by that state. The law, he says, would require parents wishing to have children to appear before the board. An inquiry would be made as to the size of the family, ability to provide and educate, and condition of health of the parents. The measure would prohibit children to extremely poor, incompetent, or defective parents. The purpose of the law, he explains, is "to benefit the proletariat and better the race."

"Salvador" means "Saviour." "Vera Cruz" means "True Cross." "Come down from the Cross" they said on Good Friday to the Saviour Who had said: "Suffer the little children to come unto Me." This new Salvador would better the race by forbidding the little children to come to parents whose only wealth, whose only hope in life, is their children. Abraham Lincoln could never have been born under the regime of this Salvador.

"There was no room for them at the inn!" There is no room for them in the State of the True Cross. They drove out His anointed representatives last year, when they allowed only one priest to each 100,000 inhabitants. And now they close the door to His representatives, the children of the poor; and He has said, "Whatsoever you do unto these the least of My brethren you do unto Me."

Oh Mexico! Before you heed the words of a Salvador who closes the door to Christ's poor, remember that Christ has dug the grave of many a nation before now. No nation has ever mocked God successfully.

The Move To Abolish Pain.

In line with the proposal to deny children to the poor is the proposal attributed last week to Dr. Guild, of Chicago, that "by acts of omission a doctor might prevent the bringing into the world of more deformed persons." He suggested that in lieu of the Spartan custom of exposing such infants to die on a mountain, "society should sanction the withholding of those efforts at stimulation that often are used at birth." "Why," he asked, "go out of the way to perpetuate such misery? May there not be cases when the officiating obstetrician may legally and honorably turn his back and minimize his efforts to bring life into such misshapen products?"

No, doctor there are no such cases. It isn't what society sanctions that is right or wrong; God, not society, not popular vote, determines the moral law. A life is a life, whether it be in the torso of an Apollo or the twisted limbs of a paralytic. Were there no poverty there would be no alms-giving; were there no pain there would be no sympathy; were there no evil there would be no mercy, no forgiveness. Man is a selfish enough brute as he is; don't make him worse by taking away redeeming traits.

And what cheerfulness can be more beautiful than the light-heartedness of a cripple who takes up his cross to lighten the Cross of Christ. How much beauty has been added to the world, how much of the world's sordidness has been covered up, by the strength of character one finds in the less favored of God's little ones who has become a Simon of Cyrene. The world would be a wretched place without them.

The physician who lessens sorrow, who alleviates pain, who abates misery - but always with professional pride in saving life - has a priesthood of his own, occupies an enviable shrine in the hearts of his fellow-men. Let no man smirch his glory by proposing that he turn to Sparta instead of Christ for his morals, that he foster negative in lieu of positive murder. God alone is the Author of life; He alone can take it. Let it be the physician's proudest boast that he is God's ally in saving life.