

Mass Sun., p. 465. 2nd col. University of Notre Dame Nine-o'clock Mass Sunday, is
p. 804; 3rd, #2, p. 804. Religious Bulletin Pontifical High--Bishop Noll
Mass Mon. St. Monica, p. 808. May 2, 1936. to officiate--Bishop Walsh to
preach.

"On Frank A. Munsey--Reparation."

A "constant reader" of the Bulletin who has long been an admirer of the University, enters a friendly protest against the Bulletin of March 27, on the life philosophy of the late Frank A. Munsey. The reader states: "Mr. Munsey was my friend, my counsellor, and my benefactor. His memory I hold in high respect." He goes on to say:

"If you recall, the Bulletin quoted from an alleged biography of Mr. Munsey by one George Britt, who attempted to show that Mr. Munsey, having acquired an immense fortune, died without friends, without family and without religion. To prove his point, Britt used an alleged conversation between Mr. Munsey and a man with whom he had some business dealings.

"I believe that the editor of the Religious Bulletin was misled in accepting as authentic all the statements in Britt's book. By his own admission, Britt did not know Mr. Munsey and never even worked on any of his newspapers. In gathering material for his book he did not have access to any of Mr. Munsey's private papers and he did not have the advantage of conversation and contact with men who were closely associated with him. Britt gathered together all the rumors, insinuations and evil tales which were circulated about Mr. Munsey and put them in a book, which men who knew him well regard as a libel on his name. But is it not always so when one reaches that goal which men call success? Are there not always lurking little people who seem to achieve sadistic satisfaction by hacking away at the reputation of him whose eminence they can never hope to attain?

"It was my privilege to work directly under Mr. Munsey for many years and I believe I knew him well. At certain times I was directly in charge of the news department of the Sun when Mr. Munsey was its owner, and at such times I came into daily contact with him. One of such days still remains fresh in my memory. Mr. Munsey called me to his private office several floors above the news department of the Sun. I expected a discussion of the day's news or some instructions on the manner in which Mr. Munsey wished some story displayed. The matter on which I was summoned was disposed of quickly and I turned to go, but Mr. Munsey asked me to remain. And while work waited for me at my editorial desk, Mr. Munsey talked to me about my home, my family, the conditions under which I lived, my aspirations for my children, the duties I owed them. That day he searched my soul and the advice he gave to me has been a guide through my life.

"In many ways Mr. Munsey evidenced his friendship for me and my memory of such a character forbids me to accept the view that Mr. Munsey scoffed at marriage, the family and religion, as Britt would have us believe.

"At the risk of boring you I could cite instances of Munsey's belief in religion. His contribution of \$100,000 to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, his suggestion of a press bay in the Cathedral, the many christian works of charity which he performed for men who had been beaten down in the struggle for existence, attest to his belief in the principles of religion. I could tell you of his high regard for the Catholic Church and his expressed belief that 'if the Catholic Church ever fails, then will come chaos.' All these demonstrations of a religious feeling should be convincing to persons who did not know Mr. Munsey, but in addition I have the recollection of a man who came down from Maine almost penniless and who, by courage, industry and clean, hard struggling, won for himself a place that will endure. Mr. Munsey did not parade his virtues, and his benefactions he did not announce from the housetops, but we, of the Sun, who worked with him and for him, feel confident that his many kind deeds will balance the eternal scales in his favor.

"Better than the words of Britt, who did not know him, I believe the following passage from the editorial page of the Sun of December 28, 1925, sums up the life of Mr. Munsey: '.....a man who personified American ambition, struggle and achievement. He fought long and hard and in a clean way. He met life and death with unyielding courage. Men saw in him the conqueror of poverty, obscurity and failure. Some may have envied but more admired. That was why, when he went out a floodtide, the nation paid to Mr. Munsey a tribute scarcely less than that which it pays a President.'"

PRAYERS: Three special intentions.