

# St. Dunstan's Red and White

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## Editorial

### Easter:

Easter is the movable center of the whole liturgical order and the greatest solemnity of the ecclesiastical year. It commemorates the resurrection of our Saviour—that sublime truth upon which foundation rests all Catholic dogma. It is a festival of the infinite love of God; and comes each year to strengthen our belief in His doctrine, to fill us anew with the hope of the glorious resurrection He has promised to His faithful followers, and to awaken in our hearts at least some return for the great love He has shown for us. What a joy it must have been to those humble followers of the Saviour to see Him rise gloriously over death on that first Easter morn, to see their Master who three days before submitted Himself to the cruel executioners to be crucified, proclaiming His divinity and

showing them the way to glory! This same joy has been experienced by faithful Christians ever since, and the Church at Easter casts off her robes of mourning, ceases her lamentations, and chants hymns of joy and exultation to her divine Founder.

Easter brings to us a feeling of peace and quietude for it commemorates our transition from a life of darkness and sin to one of light and grace; we realize that just as our Leader passed through His period of suffering and humiliation and triumphed gloriously in the end, so will we, if we obey His commands, triumph over the trials and afflictions of this world and dwell with Him in His eternal home.

### Cardinal Mercier:

A great man passed to his eternal reward in the person of Cardinal Mercier. One of the greatest men of modern times completed his work when the famous Cardinal Archbishop of Malines departed this life amid the sorrow and grief of the entire civilized world. He was great and, moreover, the whole world acknowledged his greatness and loved him for his sincerity and humility.

In our own country we have prominent and esteemed men in every walk of life—men who might well be looked upon as models. These are to be found in every land, and their names are praised far and wide among their countrymen; but few go farther. Cardinal Mercier's name, however, is on every lip, his praises are sung in every clime, the light of his noble character was too brilliant to be confined to his native land, but must diffuse itself far beyond. He laboured not for the betterment of Belgium and the Belgian people alone, but for the betterment of humanity, and thus it is that, although they may claim him in a special way as their own, all mankind unite in love and respect for their common benefactor.



It was especially during the Great War that Cardinal Mercier became famous, and he is hailed "the spiritual hero of the greatest of wars." It has been truly said of him, "Out of the greatest of struggles of all history, out of that carnage in which all the higher hopes and better aspirations of mankind seemed doomed to extinction, there emerged one man, who, through the lowering clouds of darkness and despair remained the living and inspiring embodiment of these aspirations."

Inestimable is the debt that the world owes the Belgians for their services during the Great War. They were willing to endure, to suffer and to die rather than to be dishonoured, and it was Cardinal Mercier, that great herald of justice, that ever inspired them to duty. The spiritual strength he inculcated in his people was superior to the physical forces brought to bear against them, and his pen was mightier than the arms of the enemy.

He will ever live, too, as a scholar, as an ardent follower and brilliant writer of Scholastic Philosophy, and we have but to read his clear and forceful arguments on delicate matters to realize his profundity of thought and keenness of intellect.

In his death he leaves to the world the undying heritage of a noble character and a well spent life.

### **Primary Education:**

Of the three forms of education, university, secondary and primary, the last named is the most difficult to adapt to requirements and to extend to all who should receive it. This is the education of the masses, and more so than ever before is it necessary that all should avail themselves of its advantages. This is an age of democracy, when each and every one has a voice in the social and political development of his country and the best results from this privilege cannot be realized if the common people fail to widen their mental views by a good sound

school education. This lack of training is doubtless the cause of some of the evil extant at the present time, for false leaders and teachers find it easy to create dissention and to propagate falsehood; they can dress their erroneous views and theories in eloquence to sway their audiences, and, preying on their lack of practical knowledge, obtain a large following.

If we glance through the French Revolution, that greatest uprising in the history of the world, we can trace the cause of no small share of its bloodshed and destruction to the uneducated mob, who, having no minds of their own, willingly carried into execution the destructive and radical proposals of such self-seekers as Robespierre and Danton; they readily believed the notorious falsehoods and unjust accusations brought against the ruling classes by the revolutionary publications scatter throughout the land, and, directed by impulse rather than reason, rushed into a despotism more absolute than that from which they had freed themselves.

Of course we do not mean to say that there is danger of the re-occurrence of a "French Revolution," or that education is so neglected now as it was then; on the contrary, the attention it has received from that time serves to prevent such a calamity.

There is room for improvement, however, for the objective should be that each boy and girl, before leaving school, complete the public school course, and few do this at the present time excepting those who are preparing for college. Some of the remainder leave school too young, while others, during the ordinary time, cannot do more than half the work. Wherein does the trouble lie? The educational system may be faulty or it may be perfect. This will influence to a certain extent. But, introduce an ideal system; engage world famous teachers; build the best possible school houses, and equip them with all modern conveniences, and, if the children do not attend



these schools regularly and give the best that is in them to their work, little will be accomplished.

If we are to make any progress the pupil must be made to realize the importance of his school days, how much his future depends upon them, and that his education is a duty he owes to himself and to society. For, when he himself becomes interested in his work, half the attendance problem will be solved and a great many more young people will go into the world better prepared to cope with conditions.



Thy heart is big; get thee apart and weep;  
Passion, I see, is catching; for mine eyes,  
Seeing those beads of sorrow stand in thine,  
Begin to water.

—*Shakespeare.*

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Friends, if we be honest with ourselves,  
We shall be honest with each other.

—*George McDonald.*

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A thousand years scarce serve to form a state,  
An hour may lay it in the dust.

—*Biron.*

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Order is Heaven's law; and this confest,  
Some are, and must be, greater than the rest.

—*Pope.*

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Pleasures are like poppies spread,  
A moment green, their bloom is shed;  
Or like the snowfall on the river,  
A moment seen, then lost forever.