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Independent School of Political Economy

"MONKS AND MONASTERIES."

The Independent acknowledges with thanks the receipt of a short history of "Monks and Monasteries," by Alfred Wesley Wishart, sometime fellow in church history in the University of Chicago. The publisher is Albert Brandt, Trenton, N. J., who advises The Independent that "Monks and Monasteries" is for sale in Lincoln by H. W. Brown Drug & Book Co., 127 So. 11th st.

"Monks and Monasteries," a duodecimo volume of 462 pages, is a genuine treat for the lover of correct printing. The type is large and clear, printed on laid antique, dull-surfaced, all rag paper; hand sewed; fully indexed; bound in cloth. Price, \$1.50 net; postage, 12 cents additional.

An exhaustive note on the Philippine friars has been added to the appendix in this (the second) edition, adding materially to its value and bringing the subject down to the present. The author has told his story in an unbiased manner, as be seems a true student of history, and The Independent agrees with him that the "attentive reader of this volume will have little difficulty in understanding the essential features of the Philippine friar problem. There is really nothing new in the conflict between the Filipinos and the Spanish monks, except the parties to the strife. It is the same old play with new actors and different scenery."

The author, commenting upon the fact that there has never been absolute unanimity of opinion respecting the character and utility of the monks, calls attention to the fact that "corruption, more or less grievous and widespread, has stained the annals of every monastic order known to history," but that "indiscriminate abuse and wholesale condemnation of the monks has never been warranted in any era of monastic history," because of the immense amount of good they have accomplished. In the Philippines "what progress has been made is due almost wholly to the labors of the friars." Arriving at the islands in the sixteenth century, the monks found some of the people wholly savage; others semi-barbarous; all of them pagans, idolaters, sunk in the densest darkness of superstition, slavery, and vice. "Today," says Mr. Wishart, "barbarism has practically disappeared and slavery has been abolished, except in Mindanao, Basilan, Sulu, Palawan and the smaller islands adjacent to them, all of which are inhabited chiefly by Mohammedans and heathen tribes." Six and a half million adherents of the Catholic church attest the monks' good work.

But the Catholic Filipinos themselves object to the return of the land-holding friars (who fled when the rebellion against Spain began). The reasons for this are neatly summed up by the author in his closing paragraph: As was said at the beginning of this note, it is the same old story of the mournful circle. The piety and sacrifice of the early monks gave them a strong grip upon the affections of the people. Then came lavish gifts for the benefit of the "givers' soul," and to be used in the prosecution of the monks' noble work. But with wealth and power came vice and tyranny. Human nature is much the same the world over, and always has been. The friars could not stand where so many of their brethren in other lands have fallen. Prosperity corrupted their morals and political power transformed them into agencies of oppression.

INTRINSIC VALUE.

Editor Independent: Once more I'll trouble you, called out by your marked copy. In your reply you failed to answer my question, "What did Captain Ashby demollish?" You were frank enough to admit my definition. My object was and is to get people to think right. Give them a correct idea of the meaning of "intrinsic value" which will be in use when you and your modern economists have ceased or failed to demollish Webster, who says, "Intrinsic value" is the same as utility. I feel in good company with so eminent authority!

Now, as to that load of potatoes which had no "value," had they any utility? Now, it is up to your "utility." Will you sustain your contention in concise terms? ISAAC HIGH.

Janesville, Ia.

(What with Henry George and Karl Marx Editions, the Denver conference, "Old Guard" Edition, and a state campaign upon us, the editors of The Independent have had a busy summer, and in many instances have been unable to gather up the loose ends of every controversy which has arisen over economic terms. Hr. High's letter was written long ago, but his queries are as pertinent now as ever.

If "intrinsic value" is really the same as "utility," then good rhetoric demands that the shorter term be used. Utility is capability of being used. If no one desires to take advantage of that capability, that does not change the fact that it exists. Capability for quantities within the thing itself, coupled with accessibility. But those qualities are not "value," neither does value depend upon them. "Value" is simply human estimation, appraisal, or "valuation" of the quantity of the force of demand acting upon a given commodity at a given time and place. The force of demand arises through the competitive struggle among men to secure by exchange the possession of services or commodities which may be utilized by the possessor for his own enjoyment or benefit; but it has nothing whatever to do with the amount of human energy expended in overcoming the adverse conditions of nature—this results in the production of things possessing utility (to a greater or less degree).

We all bow to Webster as an "authority" on the meaning of words generally—but has all progress ceased since the death of this noted man?—Associate Editor.)

How to Prosper

Editor Independent: Those of your readers who are continually complaining of hard times should take a lesson from Patrick Mahaney of Derby, Conn. By the exercise of thrift and frugality Mr. Mahaney has saved enough to enable him to live without working. His method is so simple and easily followed that no one has any excuse for complaining of hard times. Mr. Mahaney has worked as a farm hand for thirty-two years. He has always received board from his employers, and clothed himself in their cast-off garments. His expenditures for the thirty-two years amounted to \$44.90, an average of less than 12 cents a month, which we are reliably informed was spent "principally for newspapers." The result of his strict attention to the virtues of saving which are inculcated by our leading newspapers is seen in the \$5,200 with which Mr. Mahaney joins the ranks of the Morgans, Rockefellers and others whose thrift and industry also enables them to live without working—unless they choose to continue to work other people as a pastime. A. C. PLEYDELL, 52 Williams st., New York.

Philadelphia, which is far more corrupt than New York ever was, with perhaps the exception of the Tweed regime, is never held up before the public as a terrible example. The police are just as corrupt, they levy just as much blackmail, the red light district is of the same character and run in the same way that the "tenderloin" is in New York. Besides that there is ten times as much corruption at the ballot box, and hell is never declared only six weeks away when the Quay machine seats a mayor and city council. Grafting of all sorts goes on unmolested in Nebraska. The whole outfit from United States senators down are at it every day in the year. The great dailies never make any outcry about the political corruption in any place where it subserves their interests. If it threatens the overthrow of the republican party that is another matter. Then it is awful.

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doctor but his medicine did no good so we changed to another who called it spinal disease. By this time the child's body was drawn out of shape; his backbone was curved to one side and his hands and feet out of shape. His sufferings were terrible, and he was having from two to six fits a day. I was taking Dr. Miles' Restorative Nervine for nervous trouble and saw it was recommended for fits, so I thought I would see if it would help him. All three doctors had given him up. One-half bottle stopped the fits and his limbs straightened, and another bottle cured him. He is now a strong, healthy boy going to school. I have waited to see if the old trouble returned, before writing you, but it never has. I cannot praise Dr. Miles' Nervine enough, as I know it saved my boy's life."—MRS. URIAH NELSON, Lansing, Iowa.

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