For Protestant Reformed Youth

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5th Annual P-R-Y-P-S Convention
Aug. 29-30

BEACON LIGHTS

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Business Manager...............................................Miss Alice Reitsma

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Young People's Convention

FIFTH ANNUAL P. R. Y. P. CONVENTION
August 29, 30
SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS

Theme: "STEADFASTNESS"

Proposed Special Features:—
Inspirational Mass Meeting — Bus Excursion — Banquet

Special Announcement: — Due to government regulations conventions are limited to fifty delegates. The Host Committee, therefore, assumes responsibility for housing delegates. However, every effort will be expended to procure lodging for other visitors.

We assure you of two inspiring convention days
Good Speakers . . . . Christian Fellowship

Plan Now To Attend!
Once before an article with the same title appeared in Beacon Lights, which maintained that our doctrine, our confession, should not be a mere intellectual formula, but a living, vital, all-possessing factor, in every phase of our life. It was further pointed out that the home and even the church itself, in a measure, was responsible for the deplorable conditions present in the church generally, and among our own church group. Nor have conditions, in our opinion, changed.

We have existed as an organized church group some twenty years. During that time we have enjoyed sound doctrinal preaching. We have made doctrinal advances. We have been able to train our own ministry. New congregations have been added. We have our own publications and papers. Many books have appeared and even radio has been used rather extensively to acquaint people with our point of view. We have advanced in a Protestant Reformed way on many fronts.

But there are some fronts on which we neglect or refuse to advance in that same Protestant Reformed direction. There are some departments of life which we do not make Protestant Reformed. There are some things of another way of life that we would rather keep. Membership in worldly associations and unions, and defending such affiliations, lack of interest in kingdom causes, low spirituality in certain instances, refusing to maintain a sharp antithesis between the church and the world, participation in worldly pleasures and amusements, and more particularly, for this article, neglecting to fulfill our covenant obligation to our children by sending them to schools based on Protestant Reformed truth, is not strange among us.

I realize I am writing in a young people's magazine but with good reason do I broach this subject here. This is a matter which mostly concerns us, for some day we too will be faced with the question,
"Will I, before God and the congregation, be able to answer "yes" to the question, 'Do you promise and intend to see these children instructed and brought up in the aforesaid doctrine, or help or cause them to be instructed therein, to the utmost of your power?'" And we, we young people, being awake to our privileges and responsibilities can begin "to help and cause them" even now by supporting an effort to obtain our own schools. And notice that I wrote "schools". This plea is not only directed to the congregation to which I belong, or even only to the congregations of the Grand Rapids area, but to all our congregations, to all our people, to all our young people, wherever possible, to make an attempt to establish Protestant Reformed schools.

The Roman church works out its doctrine as a way of life, not neglecting any phase, including the education of their children. What about us? Isn't our doctrine as much as, and more, emphatically more, than Catholicism, a way of life? Why do we then neglect so vital a phase of that way of life as the consistent education of our children in that way of life.

The home, the church, the school, must be an integrated triangle, which for the most part it is not now, the school being out of line. They must become for us a mighty means in making our doctrine truly a way of life. It must become evident in business, in industry, in casual meeting, in our home life, in our pleasure, in the way we educate our children, in the manifestation of ourselves in daily life, as well as in our church life, that God in His grace, has given us a beautiful and all-embracing revelation of the truth. Let us re-dedicate our homes, consecrate our church, and establish our own schools, that we may truly be prepared to wage the good fight.

An illustration I shall never forget is the one of the circles. Looking at Christianity in general, over against the world, it will make a large circle. When one, however, begins to look for elements of orthodoxy, that circle begins to get smaller; and the more orthodox a church becomes, the smaller circle it forms. We are a very small circle. And who knows, maybe even we are too large. But the point to the illustration is this: the smaller the circle, the closer to the center it is, which is the truth. How close to the center of that circle are we willing to stand with its privileges and responsibilities? How willing are we to make our doctrine a real WAY OF LIFE?

Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
Beri-Beri — Bad Business

MR. GEO. TEN ELSHOF — Grand Rapids, Michigan

Beri-Beri is a word which has become more or less common to us. It is derived from the Singhalese word beri which means weakness. We use it to denote the disease which is caused by an improper diet. Persons who do not eat the proper foods and persistently lack certain vitamins are liable to this disease. Among its symptoms are a swelling of the feet and ankles, nervous disturbance and general debility.

We are reminded of the missionary, who, in telling his experiences, told of a certain patient suffering from this disease but who insisted that he did not have “beriberi” — he had just “beri” since only one foot and ankle were swollen!

It is not unusual that we should hear so much about this disease and related ones caused by malnutrition and starvation diets. The ravages of war take their toll in more than one way. Not only are its victims to be found among the armed forces with their loss of life and limb and twisted bodies and minds. The scourge of war has had far-reaching results and famine and disease are one of its inevitable consequences.

No doubt but that we have all seen pictures of emaciated bodies — thighs shriveled to the size of wrist bones — sunken faces — expressionless eyes staring from hollow sockets . . . It is almost inconceivable that humans can gaze with stolid indifference upon such scenes or that man could sink so low that he would be responsible for such an outrage upon his fellow humans. Certain nations have been accused of deliberately starving their conquered foes in order that they would not even have the physical strength to rebel and in order that also the coming generation will be so weakened that they may be the more easily kept in subjection.

Beri-Beri? Bad business? Yes, indeed! A loathsome thought. Bad enough when unavoidable. But when it is systematically and methodically and purposely induced it is indeed an outrage which is hard to conceive.

Hear the pitiful cry of the suckling child — the low sobbing of the
mother who is no longer able to give it nourishment — the anguish in the eyes of the father who in desperation cannot even find food to steal and thereby feed his family. Hope has vanished from their eyes and is replaced by a look of terror at the fate which is in store for them. Their children die and they find not even the strength to dig a grave. The stench of death is daily in their nostrils. True it is that they go the way of all flesh but must it be this way?

Not a pleasant picture is it? No, for beriberi is bad business. It is not the sudden destruction which cometh at noonday but it is a long and tortuous process, a monster taking devilish delight in the agonizing cries of its helpless victims.

Note, too, as you read your newspapers and even religious publications, that it is not at all difficult to arouse the feelings of the masses against the perpetrators of such inhuman practices. Lurid details are included and emphasized with the net result that the low muttering of the mob rises to a mighty crescendo and an animalistic roar which cries for revenge, persecution and vengeance. A multitude of hearts and hands are both ready and willing to seek vengeance and repay in kind to the instigators of such atrocities. For it is the flesh of man which has been outraged and we are easily stirred to pity and tears of sympathy for these helpless victims of man's brutality.

And do we suffer from beriberi? A silly question? An amateurish attempt to be sensational? Oh yes, we admit that our food is rationed, meat and potatoes are scarce and it's a problem to conserve enough points for butter. But we haven't really suffered so much. We've just been inconvenienced and aggravated a bit. But malnutrition? No!

My friend, you do not understand. I mean, are we suffering from beriberi in the church and in our own personal spiritual life? Is it not true that much that is called church is feeding her children on a steady diet of polished rice? Is it not true that nominal Christianity will have nothing of vitamins—rich spiritual food and even as a naughty child she pushes that plate from her and screams an impudent “No! No!” She wants the delicacies of Egypt which are pleasing to the palate but which do not feed the soul. In her blindness she will castigate and depose those who would show her the proper diet. She despises those who would draw the line sharply and clearly and she becomes the inventor of cunning devices which she passes off as dogmas and truths of Scripture.

And if some of her children are wiser than mother and push this plate from them, she asininely and hysterically screams, “Naughty,
Naughty, Mama spank!” And she promptly removes those children from her table and hopes that by such dictorial means of castigation they will repent and beg forgiveness. Or else, so she hopes, they will starve and die in their isolation and will thus trouble her no more!

And then, she will “blah, blah” to the neighbors and complain bitterly that they were stubborn, stiff-necked and rebellious children! For, you see, the neighbors heard that racket and they wondered what the trouble was.

But, mother forgot that the children took the best food with them, the food which she had stored in an unused corner of the cupboard and which she seldom, if ever, used. And these children did not starve! And, instead of tombstones in a lonely corner of the graveyard, there have arisen church spires!

But, it is imperative that these children be on constant guard. For these children have become adult and begotten children of their own. And even as the world, when it beholds the atrocities, shouts “It must never happen again!” and formulates charters and pacts to prevent such a ghastly occurrence, so also the church, and even the purest manifestation, must constantly be on her guard. Let her not rest on her laurels. Let her not with a loud voice shout: “We have the truth!”, and do nothing more. Let her not, as proof of that fact, possess only in material form the Scriptures and the doctrinal interpretations thereof. Let her feed her children and gently and simply and carefully instruct also the babes in Christ. Let it not be beneath the dignity of her shepherds to suckle the lambs and gently carry them in their arms. We do not deem it strange or unbecoming if the adult father plays on the floor with his children. May it never be that our spiritual fathers become so busily engaged in the preparation of adult food and barking at the wolves who howl outside the camp (although I do not mean to minimize that task) that they lose sight of the fact that the children must be fed! And let that be done on the Sabbath day as well as in catechetical and Christian day school instruction. For these children need their vitamins too! And if they do not receive them we may be certain that a generation will arise which will not possess the vigor of manhood and will not be able to digest adult food. They will fall an easy prey to the enemy. They will be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine and will not be able to answer when asked concerning the hope that is within them. They will be suffering from beriberi and ours will be the responsibility!

Our sons are called to war and it is but natural that we are con-
cerned about their physical safety. As long as they are with their own forces we do not worry too much about their diet. People who have made special study of physical requirements have been employed to see to it that that part of their life is cared for. They know that the expression "an army fights on its stomach" is a good one. But these young men need more than that and we do appreciate their gratitude for our humble efforts to feed them with the written word. But the danger of beriberi should be recognized long before the age when they are eligible for military service. The weakness caused by beriberi tends to become aggravated and accelerated under the adverse conditions in which they find themselves and only a well-balanced diet which began from infancy will give them the strength and ability to persevere. We pray that both when they return from this conflict and when they finish the conflict of this life, they may be able to say with the Apostle: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

It is not enough to be always negative and look around you and find fault with every other organization which attempts to do something for its young people. I do not say they are to be defended. Not at all! But the question is: What are we doing? And, is what we are doing enough? Therefore, my friends, let us conclude that beriberi is bad business. Physically — bad and spiritually — terrible! And though the stench of death is in our nostrils, let us look to the Giver of Life and find strength to arise and eat and be fortified for the journey which lies ahead.

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**I LEARNED TO PRAY**

At mother's knee I learned to pray,
And she it was who taught me say —
"Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray Thee Lord my soul to keep."

And when I'm old and bent and gray
Let me at close of life, Lord, say —
"If I should die before I wake,
I pray Thee Lord my soul to take."
Hiroshima was a city on the island of Honshu, Japan. The atomic bomb wiped it off the map. For years the scientists the world over have been trying to find a way to split the atom. Scientists in the U. S. under the direction of the government now know how. The product is the atomic bomb. This is the answer of thousands of scientists who did research work for the last three to five years. The use of superlatives fail to describe its power and destructiveness. The most one can say is that it is the most terrible destructive force in the world! The atomic bomb contains more power than 20,000 tons of TNT whatever that may mean. It shocks human thinking. In this war age it is terrifying. But this is the answer to a two billion dollar research — and the U. S. has the secret formula.

For Japan it is to quit or to die. One day air activity with this destructive power would wipe out all the Japanese on all their islands. Japan must quit. We have given her a tablet of atomic power on Hiroshima. As this is written military strategist figure that in a few more weeks the most bloody and costly war will be terminated. Russian entry plus atomic power demonstration on Hiroshima leave no choice for Japan but to surrender.

The atomic bomb is the great news of the day. It was used on our foe for killing; it means destruction and nothing more. In the experiment on Hiroshima such terrific power was released and so complete was the devastation that the future holds “we live together or we die together”. The scientists have found a way to liberate energy from atoms; they can now release tremendous energy from atoms of an element called Uranium found in Colorado, Utah, and Canada. They can do it only in one form of Uranium, number 235. The splitting of atoms wiped out a city. Not long ago we wondered about the rocket guns, rocket planes, buzz bombs, but these are made insignificant by the atomic bomb. It is regarded as the great-
est invention and I think this is true. It is a fundamental discovery. We must not limit its use in the future only to war; this release of energy will be used for example in industry and transportation.

This invention of the release of energy will usher in the atomic Age. As the invention of steam brought on the Industrial Revolution, so this invention will bring on the Atomic way. It certainly will bring great changes. Speculation already finds this energy heating homes for less than two cents a day and factories needing little or no human effort. We will be ushered into a speed age which give a thousand or more miles an hour, and mankind using atomic energy will find himself in leisure and in abundance. You would almost say that the world could be run by its own energy.

But this Atomic invention also brings some important questions. What shall we do with this killing weapon? Right now the possessor of it is the victor. The possessor of it is the Master. But can the U. S. keep the secret alone? Has not the trend of big invention been to spread it over the whole world? Shall we allow the United Nations Organization to control its use? Will it make small countries with this atomic information equal to big nations in strength? Will large armies be needed for combat in the future? Is the day of soldiering over?

There is one thing in which the world is agreed and that is the invention of the Atomic bomb means world cooperation or world suicide. On that they agree.

Atomic release means power and world used superlatives to describe it, but did you notice not once did the world recognize that this is a tiny reflection of God’s power? No, the world never does this. Christians see in this invention another step that God is using in directing the world to the certain determined end.

Dead now is the issue of compulsory military training. For some time the plan for compulsory military training of youth between the ages of 17 and 21 for one year has been debated. The main argument was that we must be prepared because if World War III comes, it will be more terrible than this conflict. There will be a sudden attack by modern methods and weapons of war. This means that preparation is most necessary. Hence military training in peace time for all youth for one year. The Atomic bomb spells doom for this idea because the attack will be altogether too sudden. Probably the new trend will be the training of scientists by the government in the development of Atomic release. Science will fight the next war. Science will prepare.
From the Editor's Desk

Since our last issue of Beacon Lights, your editor has received another lengthy letter from the Netherlands plus three postal cards and a very satirical "Memoriam to Hitler"—a three by four inch card which was sold for twenty-five cents each. It's "flavor" would be lost by translation so I shall not attempt it but it does give evidence that the sense of humor has not died in Netherlands despite the severity of the occupation. We shall now proceed to give you the balance of the first letter only since we did not feel that there was much material in the second one which would be of general interest and would justify its placement.

Cigarette and tobacco shortage? Listen to this: cigarettes—one to one-and-a-half gulden each (not per package); cigars—six to ten gulden each; tobacco—one hundred and eighty gulden per pound! He writes that they smoke almost everything—he smokes cherry leaves! Recently someone offered to trade him a pound of tobacco for a pair of old trousers. This he was able to do and felt that he'd made a good bargain. Many articles are traded that way without the employment of money as a medium of exchange.

Upon hearing that all radio sets were to be confiscated by the Germans, he purchased an old set and turned it in and kept his new one hidden. Thus, during the entire period of occupation he listened to American and English stations until last January when both the electric power and gas were cut off.

Butter? This is difficult to understand but he writes that he has three pounds of it which he has kept since the day of mobilization and has been offered 200 gulden for it. I'd like mine a little fresher than that, wouldn't you?

Cows and horses sold for 7000 gulden; firewood, enough to last one month, and that for cooking purposes only—250 to 400 gulden! Trees are cut down and stolen every night.

He found the 8 o'clock curfew very annoying and they retired at 8:30 and stayed in bed until 8 A. M. in order to conserve heat and light.

Meat is practically non-existent and he longs for the day when they can get some fat again. He formerly weighed 185 lbs. and is now down to 147 and his wife 102 lbs. although he says that their hardships were of little consequence compared to that of others. Many people came from Amsterdam and Rotterdam with handcarts and bi-
cycles to try to purchase the necessities of life.

The 17th of April they were liberated (His letter was written the 9th of May). The day before the Canadian troops came the “Moffen” which is a name of contempt by which he always refers to the Germans in this letter, blew up the bridge across the river and broke down many porches and smashed windows. When the Canadians entered no “Moffen”, were to be seen. It was a day of great jubilation and at night a parade with a coffin labelled “Hitler”. The burgomeister, who had been imprisoned, was set free and he was going about on his wooden shoes and hauling water and scrubbing his place clean.

Girls! The girls who had made themselves guilty of fraternizing with the Germans were subjected to the embarrassment of having their hair cut off and were required to wear a white band across the breast if they went out of doors.

Many more interesting things concerning cousins and nephews who had joined the underground and others who joined the Germans are included in this letter but space would not permit a complete summary. Hope you've enjoyed at least the high lights.

Congratulations, young people, upon your determination and ability to hold another convention! We expect to publish some glimpses and “on the spot” reactions in our next issue. Maybe next year most of our service men can be with us. Let's not forget them in their spiritual solitude!

Your editor has accepted the request of the Federation Board to write for you again this coming season. Thank you, all of you, for your fine spirit. If you have any comment or criticism we would be glad to hear it — firsthand. It is your paper and it can only be what you want if you drop us a line once in a while.

We are also very happy to inform you that our business manager, who has served so faithfully for the past three years, has again accepted this position. Miss Reitsma has expended much time and effort in the performance of her work and her untiring labors are greatly appreciated by all of us.

Just as we go to press, the proclamation has come that the war is ended. And as Christians we find not our rejoicing as the world finds it. Rather it is a sober reflection on the events of the past and a knowledge that even now the world has not found peace. It is too late to write concerning this and we shall hold it for some future issue.

G. T. E.
Dear Boys:

As I am writing this letter to the boys in service, my mind brings me to the past history of my experience. When my boys left home, O what a time I had with myself thinking that life was not what it should be and my home life was broken. But when I came to myself and looked up unto God, I realized that He was testing my faith and that, after all, I was in His care. So you know, boys, how your father and mother feel about your leaving home.

Also my heart goes out to you wherever you are in all the different countries of the world in the service of our country. Also how you are surprised in all the things you have to go through in your army life and the things you are seeing that you never have seen before.

Remember, boys, your home training and my prayer is that Jesus may be your Savior and while you are dreaming of home and cherish these sweet memories, look up and say in your heart, “Teach me to know and to do Thy will O God!”

Let us approach Him in this light. Why? Because God is Almighty Who has given us His Word — the Bible, and wills to reveal Himself in Jesus Christ our Lord. The result: God's honor and glory!

When we prayerfully study God's Word, by His grace He reveals unto us how He works out His will in all things, also for our salvation. How He supplies all our spiritual needs, shows us ourselves, how we have sinned and have come short of the glory of God, how God looks us up, by His grace, and gives us everlasting life and the result is that we confess our sins and live in gratitude. How wonderful is this salvation which causes the angels to rejoice in God's work and what an honor for us poor sinners to make use of this knowledge we have of it.

We first of all apply its truths to ourselves and show in our daily life that we are different from others who know not the way. We also tell others what God has done for us — repentance, faith and a choice to do His will.

How beautiful is this Holy life for us! And God gives us grace to fight the sin that is in us and the evil powers all around us!

In closing, my wish is that God will give you His mercy and keep you all from sinning against His will.

Your brother in Christ
Peter Offringa
Dear Folks:

Yesterday was V-E day and it was an exciting day for me. I'll try to tell you a little about the victory celebration in Paris last night. After I wrote you, fourteen others and myself went to the Arch of Triumph and I never saw so many people in all my life. It was the most magnificent sight. The Arch was lit up by hidden searchlights and four huge Allied flags hung back of the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. There were thousands of people all around the Arch and I don't know where they all came from.

While I stood there, about forty French soldiers with silver helmets and long swords and uniforms, which only the French know how to display, rode around the Arch on beautiful white horses. I had the pleasure of riding in a jeep driven by a Red Cross nurse. It took about an hour to go one block.

French people, mostly women, would pull us off and kiss us on both cheeks. It made me feel as if I had won the war personally! I also saw the Opera building. I wish you could have seen it because I can't describe it — Notre Dame, the palace of Louis the 16th and the city hall of Paris — they are all magnificent.

The Victory Night in Paris is one that will never be forgotten!

With love,
Your son
Harold Van Overloop
(Hudsonville)

Your mother was kind enough to forward this picturesque letter to me, Harold, and we are sure you want your friends of Beacon Lights to share it. Editor.

My Dear Friend:

I want to thank you and my friends way back there in Michigan for sending me such a lovely booklet each month, called the Beacon Lights. I really don't know who gave you my name but I am very well known by Rev. Peter De Boer of the First Protestant Reformed Church in Redlands, Calif.

What I want to tell you is that I really do enjoy reading these books and want to thank each and every one of you people for your kindness. I also like the Standard Bearer — books like those mean so much to us boys who are over here fighting.

— 14 —
I know deep down in my heart that God has saved me many a time, yes, I have seen His light. I have prayed many a time in a fox hole and thought that I would be next to go, but, when He calls I am ready. I have always been a Christian. I am ready to go when the Lord Jesus Christ calls me. His guiding Hand means so much to me.

Well, I must close for now. Please write again soon.

Your friend and brother
Pfc Clifford E. Doney

Thank you Clifford for your words of appreciation. May you never be ashamed of your salvation. You have probably received, in answer to your request, my personal letter to you. Editor.

May 27
At Sea

Dear Friends,

I thought it about time again I wrote to express my appreciation for the Beacon Lights and to extend my compliments to the staff and all those who make it possible. The Beacon Lights to me is something I can't quite explain on paper, the joy and benefits one derives from a magazine which is sound and you can grasp on to the truth rather than the flimsy so called preaching we get down here (when it is possible to attend a religious service). I for one sure look forward to receiving my copy each month.

I'm doing much the same thing as the last time I wrote. At the present we are shuttling down here in the South Pacific, everywhere from Australia to the Philippines. At one place in the Philippines I spent much time wandering through the streets of a totally destroyed city. The people are very friendly to the Yanks even if they do try and rob you in selling souveniers.

Sincerely
Harold G. Knott
Fuller

Told by a Soldier:

While in Germany, Pvt. Peter Dykstra from Hull, Iowa received several letters, which from all appearances were meant for him. So, naturally enough, he opened one and began to read. He soon discovered that although the envelope was addressed to Pvt. Peter Dykstra, the letter was not his. Several months later, Pvt. Peter Dykstra from Fuller Church, Grand Rapids, fighting in that same area, received a number of letters with a note attached. The note was written by Pvt. Peter Dykstra from Hull in which he explained that he had re-
received these letters, that he had opened and read one of them, and that from it he had learned that although they were total strangers to each other, yet they both bore the same name and they were both members of the same denomination.

This incident was related by Pvt. Peter Dykstra from Grand Rapids who is at present enjoying a furlough with his family and friends. We hope that these two Peter Dykstra’s may meet each other some day, perhaps at some future Young People’s Convention.

July 27, ’45

Dear Friends:

For almost the past year I have spent out here in the great Pacific. I have been receiving the Beacon Lights and the Standard Bearer, for which I am very grateful. Being away from home and loved ones it is indeed very comforting to be able to read, enjoy and be nourished in the truth of God’s Word as we know it. Out here every day is the same, and often we lose track of time. Looking at all these things in an earthly point of view I wonder sometimes why they have to be. But in the light of God’s Holy Word I realize that they do not happen by chance. All things are under the guiding hand of our loving Father. In Him we have learned to put our trust for time and eternity. He will also give strength and patience to bear the burdens of this present time. His grace is sufficient for all our needs and this I can truly say that I experience every day. Keeping an eye of faith fixed upon Him our courage will not fail, for all things work together for good to those who love Him, who are called according to his divine purpose. Looking at all our experiences, wherever we are, in the light of His Word we strengthen our faith and love for Him looking with the full assurance in our hearts for that blessed reward which is in store for all those who put their trust in Him.

Little did I imagine just what was in store for me when I came out here last year. Many places before unheard of are now fixed in my mind like my home town. The first action I saw was in support of the occupation of Luzon in the Philippines. After that we launched assault strikes against Formosa, Camranh Bay, Cape St. Jacques, in French Indo China. Also Swatow, Hong Kong in China. Then we hit the Nan-nan-Shotos and on to the occupation of Iwo Jima and strikes against Tokyo. There are many others too numerous to mention and many of which have not been released by censorship regulations. On last July 10 we hit Tokyo again. You can readily
see we are always busy and go through many experiences we will not easily forget.

I've been in the Navy a year now and all but my boot training has been in sea duty. I'm a yeoman striker in the ship's Intelligence Office and find the work very interesting, as it deals mostly with the enemy.

My time for writing is quite limited. I do write lots of letters but never seem to accomplish what I'd like to in writing. Again I say, I really appreciate and am proud of Beacon Lights. I look forward to each publication. May God's blessing rest upon your efforts, is my prayer.

Bernard Theule S1/c.

Portland, Oregon
July 14, 1945

Dear Friends:

We enjoy Beacon Lights so much and read it from cover to cover. We are enclosing a donation to the Servicemen's Fund.

Sgt. & Mrs. Clarence Van Essen
Pella.

* * *

Thank you, fellows, for your letters. You realize, of course, that in order to maintain this department we must receive letters from you. Hope you can find the time to send us a few lines. Editor.

Gordon Van Overloop, S 2/c
Hudsonville, Mich.

SERVICEMEN'S FUND

Donations were received from:

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T/Sgt James Dykstra, (Fuller) ... 20.00
Mr. & Mrs. J. Sytsma (G.R.) .... 2.00

We thank all these people for helping us so liberally in carrying on this work. Mail all donations to Beacon Lights, 706 Franklin S. E., Grand Rapids, Michigan.
Among the many and varied interesting phenomena of nature, we find the galls. Are you familiar with them.

Have you ever observed the spherical enlargements on the stem of the goldenrod or the marble-like growth on the oak-leaf called "oak apples". Often they are also found on the poplar and willow trees. After observing them, one is confronted with several questions: What causes them? What do they contain? How are they constructed?

These unusual growths may appear on leaves, stem, fruit, bud, or root, and they are called galls — a term derived from the Latin "galla" meaning an excrescence or outgrowth. In most cases you will find it extremely difficult to remove the outer wall which is very hard and tough. However the inside is either soft and spongy or fitted with thin thread-like strands radiating from the center. The entire gall is the result of rapid cell multiplication by the plant to surround tiny spider-like mites, small worm-like nematodes, or insect eggs.

Early naturalists imagined that the insects laid their eggs in the soil and after hatching the larvae (worm-like stage of the insect) entered the root and were carried by the sap to the stem, leaves, and fruit where they made their home. Careful observations have disproved the former theory and have illustrated that the insect pierces the plant tissue and deposits its egg which stimulates the surrounding tissue to form a gall or cankerous growth.

A specific example of a gall is in the case of the common goldenrod. During the summer a small fly visits the succulent stem of this plant, and inserts an egg into the green tissue. After a week of incubation the tiny egg hatches and a minute footless larva appears which drills its way into the center of the stem. Here it feasts on the sap of this herb, which meanwhile is rapidly expanding into a spherical gall. After several weeks the mature larva awakens from its placid passive existence and exerts itself by gnawing a tunnel thru the thickened tissue to the thin outer wall of the gall. After having accomplished this feat it returns to the center.
of the enlarged growth, where the insects’s skin hardens into a brown shell (the pupa stage). This is soon followed by the fourth and last meta-morphosis in which it changes into an adult fly. Slowly it crawls thru the tunnel made previously by the larvae. Finally it arrives at the outer wall and releases itself by breaking the thin epidermal skin. The captive is free! Thanks to its host, the goldenrod, for furnishing home food and protection. Now it can begin another life cycle in a neighboring goldenrod. Don’t confuse the round goldenrod gall with the oval or elliptical form found on the same host for it contains a white caterpillar, instead of a legless maggot and is the forerunner of a diminutive moth. However, the life cycles are quite similar.

Have you ever noticed a “pine cone” on a willow tree? They are not difficult to find. Upon external examination it appears to be a typical scaly cone, cut it thru the center, you will not find the usual solid axis which exists in the genuine pine cone, but a circular canal which harbors a minute white larva. How did this cone develop? The egg was laid in the terminal bud of a willow twig which prevented it from further elongation. When, the terminal leaves appeared, their development was frustrated, and so they remained dwarfed and formed the crude wide scales of the cone while the larva was meanwhile enjoying an ample supply of sap. By carefully removing some of the outer scales of this “pine cone gall”, you will find small pink larvae, called guest larvae, which have been laid in the egg stage between the scales by another stage species of fly with a similar life history.

Another interesting example of a gall is found in the poplar tree, especially in the large-tooth poplar and the aspens. Where the base of the leaf is attached to the long slender stems, one frequently finds a small swelling which contains a tiny yellowish caterpillar. In the autumn when the leaves fall, the caterpillar bores thru the wall and burrows in the soil where it spins a small brown cocoon. With the return of warm spring weather a beautiful copper brown moth radiating a greenish iridescence in the bright sunlight emerges from this cocoon. Some of these small galls contain aphids and plant-lice.

Galls are of commercial value. For many centuries the galls found on the oak tree have been valuable for the tannic acid which is used in tanning leather. Extractions have also been used in the preparation of certain medicines.

Stabs in the back are not the peculiar possession of any one nationality.
CONVENTION — 1945 —

PROTESTANT REFORMED YOUNG PEOPLE'S FEDERATION
SOUTH HOLLAND, ILLINOIS
AUGUST 29 - 30

Theme: — STEADFASTNESS

Wednesday Morning — Registration and Assignment of Lodging
Noon — Luncheon
Afternoon — Business Meeting
Evening — Inspirational Mass Meeting
Speaker — Rev. H. Hoeksema
   Topic: "Steadfastness and Youth"
Special Music — Girl's Glee Club

Thursday Morning — Excursion Trip via Electric Train
Noon — Luncheon
Afternoon — Business Meeting
Speaker — Rev. M. Gritters
   Topic: "Steadfastness and the Truth"
Evening — Banquet
Speaker — Rev. L. Vermeer
   Topic: "Steadfastness in the World"
Special Music — Girls Club & Mixed Quartet

DON'T MISS . . .

Our Fifth Annual Convention. South Holland promises us two excellent days of fellowship, inspiration and pleasure. So, come by car, or board a train or a plane! Don't let anything keep you from attending this Convention!
Conventions In Review
ALICE REITSMA — Grand Rapids, Michigan

“August 2, 1939 — Evening Session:

“Art. I — The evening meeting, which was held in the Auditorium of the South Holland Protestant Reformed church, was begun with a fifteen minute song service and the reading of Ecclesiastes 11 & 12. . . . Rev. G. Lubbers addressed us on the subject ‘The days of our Youth’.

This is the way in which the secretary of that first convention of Protestant Ref. Young People began the minutes. That evening meeting in the auditorium of the South Holland Church marked the beginning of our Young People’s Federation. It was the first meeting of the first convention!

On the following morning, Rev. L. Vermeer, acting president, called the meeting to order. Delegates were present from Pella, Oak Lawn, Fuller Young Men, Talitha, Hudsonville, Holland, Hope and South Holland. The day was spent in appointing committees, passing resolutions, electing officers and discussing pertinent matters: in fact, laying the foundation for a permanent organization and paving the way for future conventions. In the evening, all delegates, ministers, society members and friends met to enjoy a banquet which brought to a close those two days of organization, fellowship, instruction and inspiration.

The next year, on August 21, the convention was held in Fuller Church. Our capable president, Homer Kuiper, presided. The convention theme “Attitudes” was introduced by Rev. Hosksema in his inspirational address at the opening meeting, and was further developed on the following day by Rev. De Wolf who spoke about our attitude toward politics.

The adoption of a constitution took up most of the time allotted to business. At the banquet in the evening Rev. Kok addressed an audience of approximately three hundred young people on the subject “Our Attitude toward Missions”. This brought to a close our second convention with an invitation to be the guests of the Oaklawn Society in 1941.

It was between this convention and that of 1941 that Beacon Lights, our Federation paper, had its birth. The Federation Board had given the Publication Committee of South Holland authority to work out “a suitable means of expression” and it was through the efforts of this committee that our magazine appeared in January, 1941 under the name “Beacon Lights”.

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Our third convention began at eleven o'clock in the morning, August 21. After roll was called and some business taken care of, lunch was served in the church auditorium. At the afternoon session of that first day of our third convention, "Beacon Lights" was officially adopted as the name of our Young People's magazine.

There was something unforgettable about that evening service in the Lutheran Church of Oaklawn. The dimly lighted auditorium, the soft strains of our theme song, President Kuiper introducing the speaker, and the voice and words of Rev. Hoeksema as he addressed his awe-inspired audience on this year's convention theme, "Thorougly Equipped" — all these things made it an unforgettable evening.

The following day was crowded with events — a sight seeing tour by bus in the morning (by which we not only became better acquainted with Chicago but also with the people riding in our bus, especially the ministers), more business and an address by Rev. De Jong in the afternoon, and the customary banquet in the evening. Two glorious days were ended and also our third annual convention.

After several "silent" years, 1944 brought with it our fourth convention, again at Fuller Church. The host committee chose Christian Liberty as the theme and again our beloved pastor, Rev. Hoeksema, was our speaker at the inspirational mass meeting.

The next day was started off with a pancake breakfast served in the church basement and was followed with games for those who could stay. In the afternoon, the business was handled under the leadership of our president, Wally Hofman (now Rev. Walter), and an address was delivered by Rev. Petter on the subject "The Liberty of the Christian as Citizen".

Again our two days of conventioning were brought to a fitting close with a banquet. Happy were we that we were able to spend these days together. From that night on we have been looking forward to attending the fifth convention at South Holland, Ill.

It was in South Holland that the Federation idea originated; it was in South Holland that our first convention was held in 1930; it was in South Holland that Beacon Lights was molded and shaped; and now South Holland is host to our fifth convention.

In just a few days we will again meet as a group of Protestant Reformed Young People. As a group of Protestant Reformed Young People — what a challenge! That means that we are Protestant Reformed in thought, word, and deed. That means that we should be Protestant Reformed in the doctrinal teachings of those two days, of
course, but it also means that our truth should be applied and practiced in all our relationships to one another. If we love our truth, our church and our name, we will love our fellow church members, and love "suffereth long, and is kind; envieth not; vaunteth not itself, seeketh not her own, thinketh no evil. Love never faileth".

Let us attend the convention! And meet the challenge! Together we will lift our voices in praise, together we will bow our heads and hearts. And we will have unity and peace.

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Reformation in Grand Haven

By GERTRUDE VANDER GUGTEN — Grand Haven, Mich.

According to precedent, the title of this article was selected after the name of the established church but I think "Reformation at Grand Haven" is a rather poor title since the actual reformation and missionary work which lighted the spark of enthusiasm that finally blazed forth into our Grand Haven Protestant Reformed Church did not begin at Grand Haven but at Muskegon, Michigan.

It was in April of 1935 that the Mission Committee opened a mission station in Muskegon hoping to find a fruitful field in which to labor among the families of sound reformed persuasion. Rev. H. Hoeksema delivered several mid-week lectures which were very well attended. But alas, in October of the same year, when faith was really put to the test since people then would have to leave other churches to attend and unite with our Protestant Reformed Church, very few people from the Muskegon district attended our Sunday gatherings.

On the other hand, quite a number of families from Spring Lake began to come to our meetings so the Mission Committee decided to relocate this station in the vicinity of Spring Lake. Mr. A. Peterson offered the use of his house for a meeting place until a more suitable location could be found. Our meetings were held in the basement of his home until late in November, when arrangements were made with the Seventh Day Adventists of Grand Haven to rent their building for Sunday services and for some evenings during the week, which we are still continuing to do. This means that our two faithful families from Muskegon must come twelve miles for services, and our three families from Spring Lake must come three miles.
In June of 1936, eight families consisting of twenty-six souls organized “The Protestant Reformed Church of Grand Haven”. At one time we numbered ten families but at present we have nine, although one is located in California for the duration of the war.

In the fall of the same year, Candidate M. Schipper was ordained into the ministry of the Word. He was our faithful pastor indoctrinating us in the Reformed truth of the Word of God until August 1939, when he left for a larger field, the Roosevelt Park Congregation, now known as the Second Protestant Ref. Church of Grand Rapids.

We were without a pastor for nearly three years. In May 1942 it pleased the Lord to send the glad word (and very pleasant it was after experiencing so many disappointing declines from other ministers) from Rev. A. Petter that he had accepted our call. He has been breaking the Bread of Life faithfully ever since.

From an outward, earthly point of view, it is very discouraging never to have others from other churches join us in the defense of such glorious truth, especially when we know that there are people in this vicinity who show some interest in our truth by listening to our radio broadcasts. It is our constant prayer that the Lord may open their hearts and minds to see His way as He has shown us in the past, knowing that no sacrifice is too great for the Kingdom of God. We look to the future, however, with faith and hope in Him, Who is the Lord and King of His church, for it is His cause and He will prosper us if it is pleasing to Him.

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BEACON LIGHTS EDITORIAL STAFF
1945 — 1946

Editor ...................... Mr. G. Ten Elshof
Christian Living ............ Rev. R. Veldman
Nature Study ................ Mr. C. De Boer
Biographies .................. Rev. C. Hanko
Current Events .............. Mr. J. Boelema
Letters to the Boys in Service ........
.............................. Rev. H. Hoeksema
Book Reviews .......... Miss Jeanette Wiersma
Early Church History ......... Rev. J. Heys
Bible Outlines ............... Rev. L. Doezema

The above represents our staff of regular contributors and their respective departments for the coming season. We believe that, without exception, these names are familiar to you—some more and some less—and it should not be necessary to add anything except, perhaps, that they would like to hear from you occasionally. You understand, of course, that their work is voluntary and a word of acknowledgement on your part should not be too much to ask.

May we both as readers and contributors have a pleasant and profitable year together and strive to mutually instruct each other.

G. T. E.
Your Reporter Reports

Good afternoon, folks! This is your roving sports reporter who will give you a brief summary of the activities of the Boosters Advocating Lots Of New Endeavors for Youth or better known as the BALONEY CLUB.

In this, the year 1960, we have just completed a highly successful season of sports activities. It's really amazing, as I look back over the fifteen year period of our existence, how we have grown.

It all started, so I'm told, with some agitation for what, I believe, they called a "Youth Center." At first the idea was ridiculed and some were rather violent in their protest against it. But I suppose it's like everything else that's new. I'll bet they used to scoff at the idea that practically all of us would own airplanes and now look! When our friends say, "Drop in on us some time," they mean exactly that!

And it seems rather strange, too, that at one time our denomination criticized other denominations who had been attempting the same thing. Oh, well, live and learn.

But I see I've gone off the track a bit although you don't mind my refreshing your memory a bit concerning the start of our movement, do you? Now to get back to the summary of our activities.

As I was saying, we completed a very successful season and our baseball, basketball, bowling and golfing and tennis teams succeeded in capturing many beautiful trophies as well as substantial cash prizes. It is not possible, at this time, to give you the name of our billiard champion since the finals will not be played until the second Tuesday of next month. However, it looks very much as if our denomination has a good chance of receiving this great honor and some of the young people have placed bets on our man although this practice is frowned upon by some of the older people in the church.

Of course, you realize that I am reporting only for the Eastern League and it would not be fair to our Western reporter to pass on reports which we heard concerning their activities.

Most of our churches have coined catchy slogans to arouse interest. In case you haven't heard them they are: "BE FIRST With First", (The slogan "Frankly Fulla Pep" is not the official one but was coined by a batter who was struck on the head by a pitched ball); "SECOND To NONE" belongs of course to 2nd Prot. Ref. Then there is "PRESS ON With CRESTON", "GO FORTH With FOURTH", "OVER The HILL With HUDSONVILLE", and "YOU'RE O.K.
WITH OAK LAWN”. Space would not permit me to list all of them and besides, you probably know them as well as I do.

Since 1957 we have made it a rule that only clergyman may act as umpires. There was altogether too much heckling from the bleeders and even instances of violence, of which I would rather not write, when we had laymen serving as umpires. You probably noticed, too, those neat signs which we have placed at regular spaces in our bleeders and which read, “PLEASE REFRAIN FROM AUDIBLE PROFANITY”. It seems to have helped, too, and we hope to have them placed at all the fields where we play. We mustn’t forget to let our light shine!

Some of the more serious minded (so they call themselves) are agitating against the Saturday nite ball games. Their whole argument rests upon the assumption that the umpire doesn’t get enough rest to preach a decent sermon on Sunday. Such nonsense!

You probably noticed in your church bulletin last Sunday, that we gave the Methodist Minstrels (that colored team from down South, who sing close harmony before playing) a sound thrashing. It was a bitterly fought contest and some of our people heckled them severely by shouting and reminding them of doctrinal errors. Let’s not let that happen again, folks.

You don’t go to the game to preach, you know!

We’re happy to report that Southpaw Sally, the best girl pitcher in our denomination is rapidly recovering from a strained ligament. Let me also inform you that there is positively no truth in the rumor that she fell down the church steps due to over-exertion in a Saturday night double-header.

As you probably know, forty percent of our gate receipts are donated to the denomination to be used for mission work. Back in the late 1940’s we shook the “dust of Jerusalem” off our feet and, instead of petty bickerings with other denominations, we have gone to foreign fields. We are proud that this work is largely supported by our athletic activities. The proceeds from our various canteens and peanut and popcorn vendors, will be used to purchase athletic equipment for these new congregations. In that way, they too will be able to attract and hold the interest of their young people!

And now, before I close, let me thank Beacon Lights for affording such a large space to our sports activities and also for the pictures of our players in action. The one, showing our ace hitter (we hear he is considering an offer from one of the major leagues) slapping out a home run with the bases loaded, was especially good. So long for now, folks, and thanks a million
for your splendid cooperation and backing without which we could not be successful.

—Reporter.

NOTE: — Lest anyone take offense at the above article by assuming that it is nothing more than a cheap sarcastic attack upon a very fine thought-provoking contribution which was presented in a former issue of Beacon Lights, a word of explanation would not be out of order.

We do not intend to make it our editorial policy to insert our proboscis into matters which should at least receive some comment from our readers. We are neither qualified nor inclined nor possessors of such conceit that we would feel that we must have the last word on any matter.

But, we want discussion and we must have discussion and we intend to coax, prod and cajole until we get it.

Do you young people want a “Youth Center” or don’t you? We had expected a veritable flood of contributions both for and against such a project. Is there absolutely no one else, either serviceman or civilian who has some thought regarding this matter? Your name will not be printed, if you prefer, and the author of an article will be known only to the editor if you want it that way.

And, for that reason we place the above contribution. Call it distorted, biased or whatever you like, but let’s have discussion and if this contribution serves to prod you into picking up your pen, we believe it has served its purpose.

G. T. E.

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**YOUNG PEOPLE!!!**

Be sure to attend the

**Fifth Annual Convention**

at South Holland, Illinois

August 29-30
This is the last of the pictures. We hope that all you Servicemen will soon be on your way home. In the meantime, however, we still look for news from all of you. So write us today. Mail your letters to the Editor: Mr. Geo. Ten Elshof, 642 Naylor St., S. W., Grand Rapids, Michigan.
An hour dedicated to the purpose of witnessing to the truth of the Reformation, to the Reformed point of view as we confess it. Titles such as God is God, The Wonder of Grace, Rejected by Men, Totality of Depravity, Saved by Grace, The Amazing Cross, testify as to the faithfulness of the program to that dedication.

And there are those, loving the truth, who respond. Sometimes the committee becomes discouraged because of the apparent lack of response to the program. And then it seems that God sends us a pro-it seems that God sends us a letter to reprimand us for our lack of vision. For men and women, in whom the truth again stirs to consciousness something they had heard and loved in the past, or hearing it for the first time, recognize its value, as the truth of God's Word, and confess it is that for which they have been yearning, write and tell us of their joy. And although we do not receive as much mail as we would like, the mail response this past year has been excellent, revealing that God is using the program in His own way. And we have been assured that we have a vast listening audience from which we get no response. But they hear the truth.

The summer months are quiet months, also in this field, although considering the fact that we have one less station, our mail has not been too discouraging. California has been coming in fine with mail. And it must be pointed out that this mail is from those outside our own circles.

We are looking forward to resuming a full schedule this fall. May we be fully aware of the responsibilities that are ours, also in the field of radio. —Reporter.

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**THE SEAFARER**

They who traffic on the sea
The wonders of the Lord behold;
They hear the angry billows roar,
They suffer heat and suffer cold!

They ride upon the angry waves,
And sail through storms which He has sent;
Enjoy the calmness which He gives,
When tempest's fury has been spent.

They're far removed from city's noise,
And dust of barren plain;
And many sights their eyes behold
Ere homeward bound again.

But friends and home and church they've left,
And oft their hearts must yearn;
And we with them and they with us
Do long for their return.

G. T. E.
The Works of Father Chiniquy

(A translation and condensation by G. T. E.)

Synopsis: Chiniquy, born and raised in Canada, has lost his father and is living with relatives who are enabling him to attend school with the intention that he shall later become a priest. He tells us now of some of the training which he received.

Father Chiniquy tells us of his Catechetical instruction and how they cunningly yet effectively propagate the lie. For example, with respect to the position of Mother Mary in heaven, the priest asked Chiniquy to arise and answer these questions: "My child, if you have done something wrong at home, who first punishes you, your father or your mother?" "My father," he answered. "You have answered correctly, my child. It is a fact that the father is almost always more impatient with his children and is quicker to punish them than is the mother. Now, my child, tell us who punishes you the more severely, your father or your mother?" "My father," he quickly replied. "Very true, my child. The unusual goodness of the mother is also to be observed in punishment. Her blows are not as severe as those of a father. But further, if you deserved punishment didn't there oftentimes someone come between that rod in your father's hand and take that rod from your father and strive to alter his stern intentions?" "Yes," he answered, "my mother frequently did that and oftentimes I escaped a severe punishment." "That is so, child and not only with you but with all your playmates. Now one more question, if your father wanted to strike you, haven't you often thrown yourselves into mother's arms to escape the punishment?" "Yes," answered all the children. "We have often done so and then mother would plead with father and ask forgiveness for us and in that way we escaped the punishment."

"You have answered well," said the priest. Addressing the children he applied this questionnaire in the following manner: "You see, dear children, you have a father and mother in heaven. Your father is Jesus and your mother is Mary. You sin against Jesus and He takes up the rod to punish you. He thunders down upon you and opens the gates of hell to cast you in, but see, your mother Mary comes between and pleads for you and asks forgiveness for you and obtains it. Cast yourselves into the arms of that loving mother, trust in the great influence which she has on Jesus and rest assured that through her you will be saved!"

The first communion is for the Catholic child, a momentous event of his life. Now for the first time is he to eat what is taught to be the actual body of Christ. Chiniquy tells us of the anxiety of that event; how he fought within himself striving to believe that this was not merely a symbol but actuality. He must triumph over his rational and intelligent...
Mind. He must make himself believe or else he is eternally lost!

A great show is made of this occasion. The children are dressed in their finest apparel. The church is filled with people, neighboring priests are invited, the building is filled with the scent of burning incense, gold and silver decorations are everywhere, a choir sings. . . Sometimes each child is given a flaming torch and he has to be very careful lest he set his own or his neighbor's clothing afire. In the midst of all this can the child know what he is doing? The poor child is overawed and mechanically he opens his mouth and the priest lays a wafer on his tongue. And, as he swallows it, he wonders how it is possible that the creator of heaven and earth, the ruler of all, the Savior of the world, could so easily slide down his throat! And does he believe it? Yes, he believes it as a Roman Catholic believes. He believes even as an idiot believes. That first communion has made him for his whole life a machine of the pope. It is the first but strongest link of the chain of slavery which the priest hangs about his neck. With that chain he turns him to the right or left even as one would direct a dumb animal.

In August 1829 Chiniquy completed his study of languages which he began at the college of Nicholet in 1822. He tells us that he could have completed it in three years instead of seven, but much time is wasted in stressing upon the scholars the absolute necessity of learning to depend entirely upon their superiors for guidance. They are taught that they must not reason things out for themselves but must blindly obey.

Chiniquy once fell into discussion with his instructor concerning this question, by asking if he were not himself responsible before God if his superiors ordered him or taught him to do things which were contrary to the ordinances of God? His instructor, of course, assured him that it was impossible for such a thing to occur, but, if it were even possible, then he would have to obey and God would not hold him accountable for his error, but the responsibility would rest entirely upon the head of his superiors. Chiniquy was not satisfied with this reply but that was their only answer.

They did not increase their knowledge at these colleges but rather, their minds were filled with all sorts of fanciful stories and myths. He further points out that if you trace in history, men who were Catholics and were intelligent and possessed keen minds, you will find that almost all were later excommunicated. For instance, Galileo was a Roman Catholic and he was one of her most learned sons. But wasn't he thrown into prison? Wasn't he chastized and served a papal bull? He was required to ask forgiveness from God and man simply because he differed with the pope in regard to the movement of the earth and the sun! And there are others e.g. Copernicus and Paschal of France. Catholicism wants no brilliant men who have minds of their own. She wants puppets and marionettes with the pope pulling the strings. They must move as he moves, think as he thinks and will as he wills.

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In respect to the vow of celebicy which every priest is required to take, Chiniquy gives us an account of a debate between himself and his instructor on this subject. I would like to relate this to you somewhat in detail since it gives us an inkling concerning the character of the author.

It happened one day that their instructor gave them a lecture which was devoted to this subject. He stressed as the main basis for the vow of celebicy, the text from Matt. 19:12: “For there are some eunuchs which were so born from their mother’s womb and there are some eunuchs which were made eunuchs of men and there be eunuchs which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven’s sake. He that is able to receive it let him receive it.” The instructor used all his talent and ability to persuade the class that the vow of celebicy was essential and Scriptural but they were not convinced from his line of reasoning. The next day there were no classes so the students gathered to discuss the lecture of the previous day. They were not satisfied and were unconvinced. After a lengthy discussion they decided to reason with their instructor. Chiniquy, as was often the case also in later years, was appointed as spokesman. The next day, when they again convened with their instructor, Chiniquy politely asked for the floor to present their opinions to their instructor. This was granted. Thus spoke Chiniquy: “When Jesus spoke these words recorded in Matthew, He did not at all mean what you, Father Leprohon, have concluded. Jesus meant with this text to warn His disciples of one of the greatest dangers to which man is subject. Jesus meant to warn that there would be men who would be so wicked and blind that they would teach that the best possible manner in which to go to heaven would be to make oneself a eunuch. Jesus here warns agains men who would strive to attain to themselves a crown in heaven by making eunuchs of themselves. If we must interpret the text as to mean that Jesus here advises men to become eunuchs then let us also take the text from John 10:2 “yea, the time cometh that who soever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.” Now, because our Savior said that there would be men who would think to be doing God service by killing His saints, must we conclude that Jesus here advises men so to do? Certainly not! If it is true that a eunuch is closer to heaven than others who live in accordance with the laws which God lay down in Paradise, how does it happen that already in Paradise when man was good and upright he was given a wife? Further, when the rich young ruler comes to Jesus and says, ‘Master, what good thing shall I do to inherit eternal life?’ does Jesus say that the best manner by which to attain that life is by the means which you told us two days ago, namely, by becoming a eunuch

(Continued in the next Issue)