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Insight

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Old Maryland Idea

I appreciated your article, "The Old Maryland Idea" (March-April, 1972). You could have included a reference to the treatment afforded Lutherans when they landed in Florida in 1562. Catholics murdered them all. [Minister, Hawaii]

Refreshing; . . . but you omitted one important fact. The withdrawal of toleration from Roman Catholics in Maryland went hand in hand with the Calverts' conversion to the Church of England. [Priest, New York]

Effective; . . . but you might have shown that Calvert introduced the Toleration Act in the first place because he feared that the Puritans, rising to power in England under Cromwell, would deprive him of his proprietorship. He bent over backwards to appear properly tolerant. [Schoolteacher, Maryland]

Interesting; . . . but much more could be said about how the Puritans of New England forced Quakers to flee their "toleration" and find refuge in the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam. [Attorney, Wisconsin]

In 1658 the Portuguese "Jew Doctor" Jacob Lumbrozo was jailed for blasphemy in Maryland because he denied the divinity of Jesus. He had been cross-examined by two Quakers. [Rabbi, Massachusetts]

Saturday-Night Mass

I could not help smiling as I read in your May-June column about Catholics going to mass on Saturday. You said the new Saturday-night mass is not a Sabbath mass but an extra-early Sunday mass. You are evidently

quite right. Not long ago a wonderful friend of mine told me how thrilled she was when her parish first scheduled a mass on a Saturday night. Though she is a devout Catholic, she believes in the Sabbath and hoped that the new move would prove that the renewed Catholic church keeps the Bible Sabbath. As she sat in church waiting for the service to begin and watching the sun sinking in the west, she kept praying, "O dear God, please don't let the sun set till we have mass." But, she told me ruefully, the sun did set before the ceremonies began; and, just as you explained, the priest followed the office of a Sunday mass. [Homemaker, Pennsylvania]

Solitary Confinement (Once and Again)

LETTER I

A number of my fellow inmates in this county jail have been protesting the conditions of confinement. We have a petition pending in court for such basic things as the right to purchase envelopes and writing paper, to receive proper visits from relatives and friends, and to get adequate medical care. Each weekend we ask members of your church who visit here to help us, but they refuse. Why do they do this yet pass out LIBERTY?

LETTER II

I have already forgotten what I wrote you two weeks ago, because lately I have been making considerable changes in my thinking.

This county jail has strict solitary-confinement conditions for some inmates. We are locked in a cell all day every day. Not even newspapers are allowed, for example. I have a long criminal record but have

never been in solitary this long before.

At first I started fighting this stricture with court petitions for changes in the conditions of the jail. In writing previous articles on crime and punishment, I opposed solitary confinement. Now I am changing my mind. There was only one place in here for me to go, and that was to the Bible—to find the greatest victory in my life.

I was convicted of breaking into a jewelry store, and I am waiting to be sentenced. However, no evidence was shown to the jury that anyone had entered the building, and the police officers definitely lied during a great amount of their testimony. If I filed an appeal, I could easily win a new trial. (I have twelve years of legal experience.) But there will be no appeal. That jury and those police officers will someday have to face God just as I will for the sins in my life.

I have heard the words a million times, "The police officers lied to send me to prison." It is one of the factors against rehabilitation in our penal system today. Our democratic way of life will keep dissolving until we can re-establish truthfulness in government.

When I return to prison after sentencing I want to write, for I have ability, knowledge, and education to do so. I have not yet made a decision as to which religion I will follow and do not expect to do so until I have studied the Bible for at least a year. But I have firmly decided to live by the Bible. I know that I must forgive the police for lying against me, just as I expect the Lord to forgive me for committing my sins.

I enjoy LIBERTY. Would you please send me other Seventh-day Adventist literature as well? [Prison Inmate, Michigan]

TWENTY
SEVEN