

THE  
THIRD WARD CATECHISM

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THE  
THIRD WARD CATECHISM

TO WHICH IS APPENDED

AN ORDER OF SERVICE

DESIGNED FOR USE IN  
THE SCHOOL AND THE HOME.

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*A Text Book  
for the Unversed.*

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CHARLES MULFORD ROBINSON, Compiler.

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## THE THIRD WARD CATECHISM

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*What is the chief and highest end of a Third Warder?*

His chief and highest end is to glorify The Ward and fully to enjoy it forever.

*Are there no other wards in Rochester?*

Politically, yes; socially, no.

*Can the Third Ward be definitely bounded in a social sense?*

It can not.

*Why can it not?*

Can the sunset be bounded?

*How may Third Warders be known ?*

They are called by their first names or pet names ; their blood is blue and their shirts are said to be ruffled.

*How do you account for Third Warders ?*

Heredity and environment.

*How can one become a Third Warder ?*

By birth or marriage or immemorial usage.

*Is there no other way ?*

None.

*Have not other ways been tried ?*

Many.

*Are their ancestors discussed by Third Warders ?*

No.

*Do they assert that they have ancestors ?*

No.

*How is it known that they have ancestors?*

One feels it.

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*In the Third Ward are social sets formed according to age?*

They are not.

*Why is that?*

Because Third Warders are never young and never grow old.

*Do not Third Warders sometimes sow wild oats?*

Yes; but not in The Ward.

*What may be said to be the most popular Third Ward beverage?*

The milk of human kindness.

*Do men of the Third Ward live, then, quiet and peaceful lives?*

No. They go to the post-office on Sundays.



*Why do Third Warders, in contrast to the orderly line at the East Side window, engage in a pushing, struggling scrimmage when getting their Sunday mail?*

Because Third Warders have never learned to give precedence.

*Would a separate Third Ward window lessen the trouble?*

Unquestionably.

*Can such a window be expected?*

The present postmaster is a Third Warder.



*What is the rarest animal in the Third Ward?*

An unattached young man.

*What does a Third Warder do when it is seen?*

She watches it.

*What is the most familiar animal in the Third Ward?*

An unattached woman.

*Why is this ?*

Because there is observed the fifth commandment with Third Ward loyalty.

*If a couple of whom one is a Third Warder walks out West Avenue, what is to be inferred ?*

That they are engaged.

*Has their engagement been announced ?*

No.

*Do Third Warders gossip ?*

No. They show "neighborly interest."

*What, in this connection, is the Third Warder's commonest resource ?*

The telephone.

*What must be thought if a light burns late on the first floor of a Third Ward house ?*

Wooing is in progress.

*Is this a common sight ?*

It is not.

*May curiosity be said to be a failing in the  
Third Ward?*

No ; but there is a thirst for knowledge.

*Is the thirst gratified ?*

Abundantly.

*What does it embrace ?*

All mankind.

*Can secrets be kept in the Third Ward ?*

There are no secrets.

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*Have evil characters never stolen into the  
Ward by night ?*

Yes, but instantly fire descended, and in the chill hours of early morn awakened Warders saw them slink away.

*What was the attitude of the Third Ward in  
the recent competition between the East Side and  
the West ?*

It was not aware that there was an effort to upbuild the East Side.

*Is property likely to decrease in value in the Ward?*

Those to the manor born care for the past, not for the future. The true Warder, far from crossing bridges before he gets to them, does not cross one when he does get to it. He crosses the street instead.

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*Where do Third Warders go to church?*  
To St. Luke's and the First.

*The First what?*  
The Old First.

*Is there rivalry between these churches?*  
There is not.

*Do Third Warders proselyte?*  
Never.

*By what is the Old First best known?*  
Its saints and its suppers.

*What is a main attraction of the suppers?*  
Chicken pie.

*What is the best loved feature of St. Luke's ?*  
The rector.

*Do Third Warders stay at home in bad weather ?*

No. At such times they show their loyalty by unanimously attending meetings and functions.

*Are Third Ward functions staid and dull ?*

Oh, no. Everything talks—but money.

*Why are Third Warders said to live the precept, " Cast thy bread, " etc. ?*

Because they take their dainties to their neighbors.

*How can a Third Ward carriage be identified ?*

There will be at least one layer of the Warders on every seat.

*Do not the carriages have arms on the doors ?*

Arms, heads and feet fill the windows.

*Are there any automobiles in the Third Ward?*

Very many.

*How does the Ward endure their speed and their odor?*

They are not speedy in the Third Ward, and the odor of gasoline is familiar.

*What has made it familiar?*

The Third Ward Cleaner, to whom matrons and maids troop through the streets, their arms laden with garments.

*Does this procession take place under cover of night?*

The very garments are uncovered; much more the procession.

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*Where do the Third Warders spend their summers?*

On their own and their neighbors' piazzas.

*Is the air of the Third Ward particularly clear?*

It is the air of respectability.

*How do Third Warders regard the proposed abandonment of the canal?*

They do not anticipate ; they look back.

*Is this why they esteem themselves the salt of the earth?*

Probably it is.

*Is the population of the Ward increasing?*

Salt is not counted ; it is weighed.

*Do Third Warders complain at having to wait at the lift bridges.*

No ; it is as if they were "dummy" at bridge, and they have learned patience.

*Are cards a popular diversion in the Third Ward?*

They are a diversion, and there are those in the Ward who excel at them.

*Why are Third Warders so long lived ?*

They are reluctant to die, being loth to exchange the certain for the uncertain.

*On what rests their hope of heaven ?*

That they are Third Warders.

*Why should they desire to go to heaven when they die ?*

Because it is represented as a city, presumably with wards.



**ORDER OF SERVICE**

ORDER OF SERVICE  
FOR  
ORTHODOX THIRD WARDERS

MORNING

*Plymouth Clock.*

One-two-three-four-five-six-seven !

*Third Warders.*

Turn over for a final nap.

*Ancestral hall clocks.*

One !

*Third Warders, ( rising ),*

Dress.

*Plymouth Clock.*

One-two-three-four-five-six-seven-eight !

*Third Warders, ( seated ),*

Eat breakfast, after which the men leave the Ward  
to seek money in the world.

*Plymouth Clock.*

One-two-three-four-five-six-seven-eight-nine !

*Third Ward Women (part song):*

Half a pound, quarter pound, two pints and three,  
Two pounds and extra cut, send up to me—  
Who is sick, who dead, who will married be?—  
Send it soon. Don't forget. Please charge to me.

The women return to their abodes and here endeth the first lesson.

## AFTERNOON

*Plymouth Clock.*

One !

*Third Warders (seated—the men having all returned  
from the world, save on "Twig" days)*

Have luncheon.

*Plymouth clock.*

One-two !

*Third Ward men (recessional):*

Farewell, wife and several daughters,  
We have from you to part,  
To cross canal, Four Corners seek,  
And mingle in the mart.

After this recessional the order of afternoon service varies with the calendar; but there is some movement in the streets. At candle light the men return, pennies jingling in their pockets.

*Third Ward men (Chorus: Tune, "We March,  
We March to Victory"):*

We come, we come from the world of sin  
To our homes so safe and shielded.  
We are ready to hear,  
Wife and daughters dear,  
The "bits" that the day has yielded.

*Plymouth Clock.*

One-two-three-four-five-six-seven-eight-nine-ten !  
Lights on the lower floors go out and front doors are locked.

*Ancestral Hall Clocks.*

One !

Here endeth the Long Day.

