Cant No. 3. There are atrocities on both sides.

The Insurgents have admittedly executed many of the Reds taken in battle. We all know what happens in the Southern States when the crowd make up their minds that a white woman has been violated by a negro, and we all deplore lynching law. But need we be surprised that the Insurgents should sometimes see "red" when they enter a town where nuns have not only been murdered but outraged and, in many cases, tortured? No "atrocities" have been brought home to the Insurgents, whereas even the Reds in this country are beginning to feel that it is hopeless to deny Red atrocities.

I select from a big collection of newspaper clippings describing atrocities, (1) an account of an eye witness which appeared in The Tablet of and (2) an account by an American eye witness in the New York Times. Tomorrow I shall add (3) an exposure of the Badajoz Massacre myth, quoted from Time (which is not a Catholic weekly, far from it) in the Michigan Catholic.

(1) By Raymond Lagoste writing in The Tablet of Oct. 3, 1936. "...On the way we visited Arahal, one of the numerous places where Reds committed the most awful crimes. There, twenty-three people were burned alive. On July 23rd I visited the basement room where these unfortunate people were first drenched methodically with petrol, then burned. I saw, myself, the blood and greasy traces left on the pavement. I had a talk with the brother-in-law of one of the victims, Dona Teresa Arias de Reina, killed with all her children. He himself, the Alcald of the village, was able to escape through the terraced roofs. With us was another inhabitant, Senor Gamacio, dressed in black, still looking haggard and terrified. His two brothers—one of them president of the local Catholic club of the Accion Popular—were burned alive too. For the sceptic I will give the names of some of these martyrs: Teresa Arias de Reina, Javier, Jose, Antonio, Daniel, Alberto Arias de Reina, Jose Sanchez Brones, Francisco Humane Vega, Juan Valverde Garcia, Juan Dano Ravo, Fernando Soriano Crespo, Jose and Manuel Camacho Garcia, etc., etc. The priest, Don Gaetano Parodi Mena, who escaped as by a miracle, showed us his destroyed church: wonderful statues savagely cut in two with axes; old master's pictures burned. It was a heartbreaking spectacle. Everywhere on the road it was the same horrible tale: at Antequera and Lara del Rio a hundred people were killed. They were not shot straight out, but wounded at first in the legs or body, in order to procure them a nice, long agony. At Baena, seventy young ladies of aristocratic or patriotic families were obliged to serve, naked, at a big banquet in Santa Maria Church, after which they were raped on the alters and killed savagely with dynamite cartridges."

(2) By Joseph Lee Mason writing in the New York Times of Sept. 13, 1936. "As we passed the parish church (at El Saucejo) we saw the body of the priest, Father Jose de la Cora, crucified, head down on the main door. The body was clad in ceremonial vestments. The body of his brother, Ramon de la Cora, was lying in front of the church door. He had been shot dead by the Communists. While accompanying a patrol searching houses in Almorgan, we found three nuns of the Carmelite order in a house that had been ransacked by the Communists. Two of the nuns were dead. The third, Madre Rosa, was alive, but her face had been slashed with knives. At Almorgan we also found an insurgent soldier who had been held a prisoner by the Communists. Both of his eyes had been gouged out, his face was slashed and his fingers had been cut off."