

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, S. J.

WRITTEN FOR THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL.

St. Francis Xavier, whose feast is celebrated on Tuesday next, was born in Spain in 1506, at Xavier Castle, not many miles from his great contemporary and friend, St. Ignatius of Loyola. He always had a great love for books and, in his eighteenth year, was sent to the University of Paris, where he soon won an enviable reputation, and was appointed teacher of philosophy. St. Ignatius entered the University about the same time and the two soon became great friends. In fact, it was from St. Ignatius that St. Francis drew his first inspiration to be a missionary. In 1537 St. Francis and St. Ignatius were ordained priests in Venice. In 1540, the Society of Jesus was approved by the Holy See. Shortly after the King of Portugal requested that some missionaries be sent to the Portuguese colonies in the East. Simon F. Rodriguez and Bobadilla were selected, but the latter fell sick, and Francis was appointed in his stead, and also received the Pope's blessing and appointment as the Papal Nuncio. Rodriguez, his associate, was not permitted to leave Lisbon, so Francis set sail alone in 1541 for India. He ministered to all on board the vessel and lived in the utmost poverty, even going so far as to wash his own linen on the deck and cook his own food. On arriving at Goa, Francis at once proceeded to convert the Portuguese of that place, who were Christians in little more than name. After having brought them to a sense of their duties toward God, Francis turned his attention toward the natives. The Paravas, a people living on the pearl coast from Cape Comorin to the island of Manar, had received baptism, but were at heart pagans, having no one to teach them the truths of Christianity or administer the Sacraments. Francis was at first received coldly, but his gentle persistence won their hearts, and many were converted; he performed many miracles among the people, curing all maladies and raising four people to life during his four months' labors. Next Francis entered the kingdom of Travancor, where God first communicated to him the "gift of tongues." While preaching there on one occasion he saw his words were falling on stony ground. Thereupon he ordered a grave near by, of a relative of one of the audience, to be opened. They did so, and the dead was raised to life. The people were so convinced by this miracle of the truth of Xavier's preaching that he baptized ten thousand in one month. Leaving missionaries procured from Goa, in Travancor, Francis went to Cochim and the famous seaport of Malacca, where he converted thousands. He preached to the rude and intractable people in the Moluccas and brought great numbers to the true faith. He converted all the inhabitants of the island of Del Mora and most of those in Amboina. In Ceylon he converted thousand, among them two kings. On August 15th, Xavier entered Japan and did a great work there. Next he tried to enter China, an undertaking fraught with great danger, as strangers were forbidden, under pain of death, to enter the kingdom. Every arrangement was made, but the Portuguese, fearing the Chinese would wreak their vengeance upon them, thwarted the plan. Shortly after Xavier fell sick, and, on Friday, December 2d, 1552, he expired in the 46th year of his life, having spent ten years and a half in the Indies, during which time he accomplished the work of a thousand. The body of the saint was taken to Malacca and thence to Goa, and by a perpetual miracle has remained undecayed to the present day. Such as it was in life it appears now, with no symptoms of corruption, but presenting the appearance of one resting in sweet repose. He was canonized by Gregory XV, in 1622, at the same time with St. Ignatius of Loyola, to whom he owed so much, and whom he so faithfully imitated.

OUR BOYS' AND GIRLS' CORNER.

THE LITTLE GARDENER.

I know a gardener bright and spry!
But for a certain reason
His crops tho' blest with culture high
Are far behind the season.
More faith is what the fiddle needs,
For he is always doubting,
And every day digs up the seeds
To see if they are sprouting.

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS:
Since the opening of our column, a few letters have been received, but I suppose the boys and girls, thinking what a long time it was until Dec. 10, have delayed sending them in right away.

You see that the work of examining your letters must be very carefully done, and therefore you must not wait until the very last moment and then send them in with a rush. So take my advice and write them at once.

Sincerely yours,
AUNT RUTH.

Outdone by a Boy.

A lad in Boston, rather small for his years, worked in an office as an errand boy for four gentlemen who do business there. One day the gentlemen were chaffing him a little about being so small, and said to him: "You never can do much business; you are too small."

The little fellow looked at them. "Well," said he, "as small as I am, I can do something which none of you four men can do."

"Ah! what is that?" said they. "I don't know as I ought to be telling you," he replied. But they were anxious to know, and told him to speak out and say what he could do that none of them were able to do.

"I can keep from swearing," said the boy.

There was some blushing on four manly faces, and there seemed to be very little anxiety for further information on the point.

When the CATHOLIC JOURNAL makes a pledge it always lives up to it. As a proof of this, we publish another letter from a boy who secured fifteen subscribers for the JOURNAL and received one of our handsome gold rings.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Nov. 12, 1889.
Mr. E. J. RYAN,

Dear Sir.—I am very much pleased with the gold ring, which I received for getting 15 subscribers. I think it is a very handsome ring. Hoping you will have success, I remain,
Yours truly,
WILLIE LEMBERT,
St. Mary's School.

Catholic Society Notes.

The first reception of St. Michael's Branch, Penn Yan, was held on Wednesday evening. There was a large attendance, and all present enjoyed themselves. Music was furnished by Coggswell's orchestra and supper was served at the Central House.

The last meetings of the C. M. B. A. in this month were important ones. Officers for the ensuing year were nominated by all the branches and the elections will take place at the first meeting in December. Excellent nominations have been made by all the city branches. The JOURNAL will endeavor to give full lists of all officers elected when the elections occur.

On Tuesday evening last the Young Men's Catholic Association held a meeting at its rooms in Cathedral hall. After the regular business meeting a debate was had on the question, "Whether prohibition or high license is the best preventive of intemperance."

The CATHOLIC JOURNAL will give a handsome gold C. M. B. A. badge to any member of that organization securing fifteen subscribers to the JOURNAL at \$1.00 per year. Here is a chance for each and every brother to secure a handsome badge free of charge.

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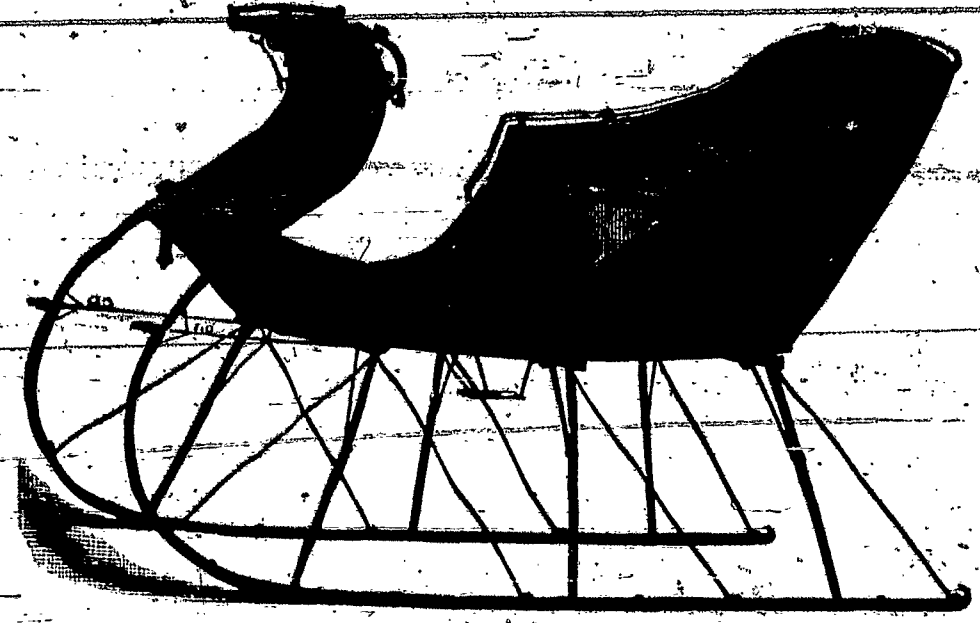
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Short Hand

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To each one bringing in 15, a Handsome Gold Ring. Put in Your Spare Time and get One of these Valuable Prizes.