

FASHIONS

OUR YOUNG FOLKS

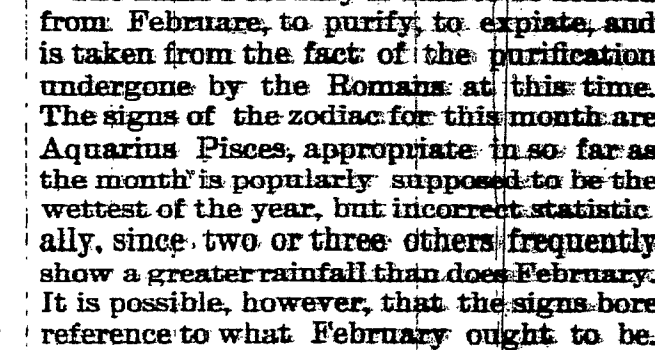
Catholic Prayer Book

FEBRUARY:

February, like January, claims Numa Pompilius for father, since the month was called into being by that monarch to complete the twelve he designed the year to hold.

To February he gave only twenty-nine days, excepting in leap year, when it was to have thirty; but the Emperor Augustus, unwilling that his own month, August, should not have as many days as any other (it then possessed only thirty), took one away from already short February and stuck it on to August, leaving February with only twenty-eight. "Every four years, then," the time February's days are twenty-nine."

The name February is said to be derived



says one, "curse a fair February,"²⁷ And another mentions that snow is more welcome than rain.

February fill the dyke
Either with the black or white;
If it be white, it's the better to like.

Thus writes Spenser about the month:

Then came old February, sitting
In an old wagon, for he could not ride.
Drove at two fishes, for the season fitting
Candlemas Day, Feb. 2, otherwise known
as the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, has climatic traditions associated with it. Thus says an old Scotch rhyme:

If Candlemas Day be dry and fair,

The half o' winter's to come and mair;
If Candlemass Day be wet and foul,
The half o' winter's gane at Yule.

This is the time to take down Christmas decorations, receiving a lot of the yule log to light the fire, and to hang and to preserve the house from ill luck during the year. If the decorations be kept up a day longer they will prove a source of disaster to the family, as Herrick remarks:

For look, how many leaves there be
Neglected their maids: trust to me,
So many cobwebs you shall see.

Largest Libraries in the World.

In Thomas Greenwood's book on public libraries occurs the following: "The Imperial library in the world is that at Paris, which contains upward of 2,000,000 printed books and 160,000 manuscripts. Between the Imperial library at St. Petersburg and the British museum there is not much differ-

ence. In the British Museum there are 100,000 volumes. The Royal library at Munich has now something like 200,000, but this includes many pamphlets; the Royal library at Berlin contains 800,000 volumes; the library at Copenhagen, 510,000; the library at Dresden, 500,000; the University library at Göttingen, Germany, 500,000; the Royal library at Vienna has 400,000 volumes, and the University library at the same place 300,000; the University library at Buda-Pesth the University library has 300,000 books, the corresponding library at Cracow nearly the same number, and at Prague 205,000."

The First Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race.

In 1829 the Cambridge University Boat Club challenged the club of Oxford to a race on the Thames. This was the first contest of the kind between the rival universities and created great excitement. The course from Hammersmith to London was 20 miles long, and the race was rowed on the 10th of June. Every one

knows that the colors now worn are light blue for Cambridge and dark blue for Oxford, but in 1829 the former were distinguished by pink, the latter by blue. Although the Cambridge boys were the favorites, the Oxford crew came in winners by several boat lengths.

Literary Women Who Died Last Year.

In the list of literary women deceased during the past year will be found the names of Mme. Bodichon (better known in

literature as Bessie Rayner Parkes, one of the founders of Girton college; Jessie Fothergill, author of "The First Violin," and Mrs. Anne Moasley, editor of the "Correspondence of Cardinal Newman." The death of the widow of Canon Kingsley, the well known author, is fresh in the memory of our readers. In the vast amount of work which Canon Kingsley did he was greatly assisted by the deceased lady.

John Ruskin's Early Achievements. At the age of seven years John Ruskin wrote in blank verse a singular essay on "Time." The next year he wrote an invocation to the sun to shine on his garden, which is an amusing, almost pathetic, mixture of poetry and pathos. At the age of twenty he gained the Newdigate prize for poetry, and soon after abandoned the muse because, as he said, he could not express his ideas in verse.

The "Marcellaise."

The centennial of the "Marcellaise" will be celebrated on April 23 in the little French town of Chateaufort, the home of the poet, who was born there in 1802, for twenty years of Rognet de Lisle, the author of the hymn. On the monument

that marks his grave is the inscription. "While the French Revolution in 1792 was fighting kings, he gave her, that she might triumph, the Marseillaise hymn."

years, 60,000,000 people in each year, making a total of 91,501 each day, 3,770 each hour, 62 each minute, and about 1 each second.

I Remember, I Remember:
It was Thomas Hood who wrote:
I remember, I remember,
The fir trees dark and high;
I used to think their slender tops
Were close against the sky;

It was a child's ignorance.
But now 'tis little joy
To know I'm farther off from heaven
Than when I was a boy.

Groose says if the nose bleeds one drop
only it forebodes sickness; if three drops,
the owner is still worse. But Malher says
"If a man's nose bleeds one drop at the
nostril it is the sign of good luck, and if

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