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CHRISTMAS

Once again the swiftly passing days have brought to us the feast of Christmas, the day on which we commemorate the most wonderful self-sacrifice that could be made, when God, the Son, forsook His starry throne on high and became as one of us that we might escape the penalty justly due our first parents' fall. He laid aside His kingly robes and assumed the shape of sinful man, not because of any benefit that might accrue to Him, but to fulfill the promise made to our first mother, and also that the predictions of the prophet might prove true that there might arise a Savior.

He that was mightier than any earthly potentate did not come into this world attended by angelic hosts. Neither was He born in a palace. He did not come to save the rich and the mighty. He came to save all mankind. He was conceived without sin, it is true, but His earthly mother was the wife of an humble carpenter and His earthly associates were poor people. He grew up amid the haunts of poverty, and when the time arrived that He should go forth to fulfill His divine mission His chosen apostles were those from humble walks in life. His successor, His representative on earth, was but an humble fisherman. We, too, should strive to emulate Christ's example of humility. We should not allow ourselves to be encompassed by pride. We should always remember, too, His command to love our neighbor as ourself, and we must always bear in mind that our poorer fellows are included in the command, just as well as those in our own station or those who are above us.

When, therefore, the bells peal out on next Friday morning, telling us that the Christmastide is at hand again, we should assist at mass with hearts filled with joy that Christ came into the world to save us and to make it possible for us to enter Heaven and to see His face there. We should renew our baptismal vows and resolve to live so that we may be worthy to receive Christ into our hearts.

The JOURNAL wishes to each and all of its readers a Merry Christmas, and hopes that God's choicest blessings will be showered upon them, not only this Christmas, but many succeeding ones.

The editor of the Cincinnati "Telegraph" had best buy a Catholic Directory, or if he has one, look at it occasionally. Then he would not perpetrate the following: "Father Zuercher of Buffalo, New York, whom the late Bishop McQuaid ordered not to rush into print any more, has again made himself ridiculous by the publication of a pamphlet entitled 'Foreign Ideas in the Catholic Church in America.' Bishop McQuaid was never bishop of Buffalo. He is not dead, either. On the contrary, he is very much alive, and only last Sunday he confirmed a large class at the Church of the Immaculate Conception."

The legislature of 1897 should go with change in the Raines bill,

SHOULD BE SQUELCHED.

The proposition to introduce the Bible into the public schools of Rochester should be sternly frowned down. It is fathered by persons who are either fanatics or bigots. They are certainly sectarian in their tendencies. The proposition originated in a sectarian church, for it is not necessary that a project be fathered by Catholics before it can be classed as sectarian.

To compel the child of a Jew or a free thinker to read the Bible is as much sectarianism as to compel the child of a Methodist to read the Douay version of the Scriptures. If Rev. Dr. Pattison or Horace McGuire or Rev. Dr. Stebbins wished to confess the utter inadequacy of their sectarian Sunday schools—whose chief object is the study of the Bible from the Protestant standpoint of private interpretation—to arouse and hold the interest of their children in the Scriptures, they could not have chosen a better method than inaugurating this move to have a "Bible Reader" introduced into the public schools. The place to read and expound the Scriptures in accordance with the Protestant idea that any one may interpret Holy Writ as his own penny will dictates is at home or in the Sunday school. To be sure Catholics know full well that there is not sufficient time to impart knowledge of religion at home or in Sunday school, and we must own up to some satisfaction that our non-Catholic friends confess they have reached the same conclusion. Still mere reading the Bible will not make Christian men and women of our boys and girls. A man may read the Bible all day long and still be the vilest sinner on earth. To impart religious instruction there must be religious influences exerted by the teacher. He or she must be a Christian to exert any influence for good over the pupils. Does Mr. McGuire seriously contend that all the teachers in Rochester's public schools are the sort of persons he would choose to train his children in religion? Or is his proposition offered with a view to compelling a better knowledge of the Bible among the public school teachers?

The JOURNAL would respectfully ask whether Mr. McGuire's "Bible Reader" would be compiled from the King James, Douay or the "Revised Version?" We suppose, of course, that the answer will be returned that the Protestant version will be used. In that event no Catholic can afford to be connected with the movement in any way, either by giving it his approval or serving on the committee appointed to "edit" the "reader." It may be asked why should Catholics be consulted in this matter? They do not patronize the public schools, but send their children to parochial schools. Ah, yes, but the Catholics pay as much if not more than the non-Catholics toward the support of the public schools. So long as the non-Catholics are conscienceless enough to accept Catholic charity to assist in giving non-Catholic children an education, they might just as well understand first as last that we have a right to our say as to how the public schools shall be run. We are disinterested parties and can, therefore, see the faults in the public school system far easier than those whose idol it is. It sometimes happens that it is absolutely necessary for a Catholic child to attend a public school, and we do not propose that our money shall be used for proselytizing in the interests of Protestantism. It may seem to some that Catholics are inconsistent, but we reply that so long as the whole public furnishes the funds for the support of the public school system, that system must be absolutely non-sectarian. Catholics did not create the public school system; we are not responsible for its faults; we do not trouble the public schools with our children. If other denominations wish their children to be taught religion let them establish and maintain at their own expense denominational schools the same as the Catholics.

Before dismissing this subject let us consider for a moment the personnel of the committee that has been named to improve on the Bible and on the Almighty's laws in general. Horace McGuire is chairman. He is not the regularly ordained clergyman of any denomination, so far as known; he has never studied theology in any recognized theological seminary. He is a lawyer, politician of the mugwump variety and a clever business man. He has for years conducted a "Bible class" in one of the city churches, and hence thinks what he does not know about the Bible is not worth knowing. G. Fort Slocum is a lawyer and a politician who has a fair reputation for log rolling and wire pulling with boards of aldermen and other political bodies, but no one ever suspected he was an incipient "D. D." Robert Matthews is a respected man and a writer on sociological topics. John A. Stewart is prominent in Baptist circles, but he is only a layman. Alderman James Johnston is a well-meaning gentleman, but he is too busy nosing into the workings of the various municipal departments to be of much assistance in selecting scriptural passages of the proper oratorical ring to suit the advanced ideas of Mr. McGuire. On the whole, though, we are glad that Alderman Johnston is on the committee. When its report is presented—if the alderman can be brought to agree with his colleagues—it will surely find approval. That's the usual course of Johnston's reports.

How they do drag out criminal trials in New York city.

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BISHOP QUIGLEY

According to the press dispatches, Rev. Dr. James E. Quigley has been appointed bishop of the diocese of Buffalo to succeed the late Rt. Rev. Stephen A. Ryan. THE JOURNAL sincerely hopes the report is true. Dr. Quigley is fully equipped in every way to be the head of this large and important see. He has been cradled, so to speak, in the diocese; and he understands its needs as well, and perhaps better, than any one outside its limits. He is in the prime of manhood, and should enjoy his episcopal honors many years.

To the new bishop's aged father and mother and other relatives in Rochester the JOURNAL extends most hearty congratulations on the high honor bestowed on their talented son and brother. He is worthy, indeed, to wear the purple.

If the row over whether Bruiser Fitzsimmons really fouled Bruiser Sharkey shall result in prize fighting being suppressed in San Francisco, it may be said that a foul blot will be removed from that city's fair escutcheon.

If the Baptists and Presbyterians insist that selections from the Protestant Bible be read in the public schools, the Mohammedans will have a right to insist that selections from the Koran be also read, the infidels that choice bits from Colonel Ingersoll's lectures be incorporated in the readers and so on ad infinitum.

While making Christmas purchases do not forget those who are in want and who have not wherewith to buy necessities of life, let alone holiday gifts, and put aside a share of your pocket money for charity.

Dr. Conaty has been officially notified that he has been chosen as rector of the Catholic University at Washington.

It is as much your duty to support your church as it is to support your home. Most Catholics do not appear to view the matter in this light, though.

Charles R. Skinner is not so long headed as he would have people think, else he would not have fallen into the A. P. A. trap.

It is somewhat amusing to read in a secular contemporary lines on the birth of Christ penned by a Unitarian clergyman.

THE JOURNAL hopes that Senator Raines is satisfied now that his liquor tax bill is generally disliked in Rochester.

Every Catholic should belong to some of one of the Catholic fraternal beneficiary organizations.

Will Greater New York be an accomplished fact by this time in 1897?

THE GOSPELS

GOSPEL: St. Luke, iii. 1-6.—At that time: "In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and Philip, his brother, being tetrarch of Iturea and the country of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilina, under the high priests Annas and Caiaphas: the word of the Lord was made unto John, the son of Zachary, in the desert. And he came into all the country about the Jordan, preaching the baptism of penance for the remission of sins, as it is written in the words of Isaiah the prophet: A voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord: make straight His paths. Every valley shall be filled: and every mountain and hill shall be brought low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways plain. And all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

We are to learn from all this that we should be strengthened in our holy faith by considering that everything regarding had been prepared, foretold, and completed by the wisdom, power, and goodness of God. We should also learn from the words of St. John that the only means of partaking in the graces of the nativity of our Lord is to do sincere penance for sins committed, reform our ways, and return to God with all the affections of our heart.

Weekly Church Calendar

Sunday Dec 20—Fourth Sunday in Advent.
 Epist. 1 Cor. iv. 1-5 Gosp. Luke iii. 1-6.
 Monday, 21—St. Thomas, Apostle
 Tuesday, 22—Feria
 Wednesday, 23—Feria
 Thursday, 24—Vigil of Christmas, Fast.
 Friday, 25—Christmas, Holiday of Obligation. No abstinence. First mass.
 Epist. 1 Cor. ii. 1-5 Gosp. Luke i. 1-14.
 Second mass. Epist. Tit. iii. 4-7 Gosp. Luke ii. 1-20. Third mass. Epist. Heb. i. 1-3 Gosp. John i. 1-14.
 Saturday, 26—St. Stephen, First Martyr

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Our \$1.25 and \$1.50 ladies' shoes are right up to date. And 96c will buy 1 1/2, 1, 2, 2 1/2, 3 and 3 1/2 in good serviceable shoes, a little out of style, but worth from \$2 to \$4, good Rochester makes.

J. W. MAHER,

196 East Main street.

Short of Umbrellas Already.

And yet we thought we had enough for the entire season. All gaps will be filled to-day, however. Our offerings at \$2, \$2.50 and \$3, especially, seem to be irresistible. Likly's, 155 East Main and 96 State.

To the Reverend Clergy

I have received a large supply of Ordos for 1897, and will be pleased to receive your order.
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Six year old Claret per Gallon	1 00
Six year old Riesling per gallon	1 00
Absolutely pure Sweet Catawba per gallon	1 00
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Canandaigua Ale per dozen bottles	1 25
Standard Ale per dozen bottles	1 25
Arnold's Ale per dozen bottles	1 25
Smith's Brown Stout per dozen bottles	1 25
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Celebrated Monarch Rye Whiskey per gallon	2 00
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