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OUR HOLIDAY NUMBER

The pressure on the advertising columns of THE JOURNAL is so heavy this week that we are forced to enlarge our paper in order to give our readers their full amount of reading matter. It has always been our custom, no matter how great the amount of our advertising, never to decrease the amount of reading matter. While we firmly believe the average newspaper reader is as much interested in the advertising pages as in any other—provided the advertisements are judiciously distributed and do not crowd out the reading matter—still we know full well that our subscribers take THE JOURNAL in order to know the Catholic "news" of city and diocese, and we have not and do not intend to fall into the habit of some newspapers of curtailing the amount of reading matter to make room for unusual advertising pressure. We choose the other alternative and enlarge the size of the paper.

Still it is gratifying to the publishers of this paper that their efforts and publication are so well thought of by the advertising public as to make it necessary to add extra pages to this issue. Business men place their advertising where it is read and where it will bring results. They realize full well that the religious weekly is read through, not tossed aside after a casual glance. They know that each member of the family into which it goes cons its pages, and hence their advertisement is not overlooked. The daily paper lives for a day; the weekly for a week.

A word to our readers: This is an age of co-operation. The merchants who advertise in THE JOURNAL cooperate with its publishers in making it possible to send out a good Catholic paper, fit to be read by all, young and old, man, woman and child, without any danger of contamination to faith or morals. Therefore we hope that our readers in making their purchases will keep up this plan of co operation and patronize those merchants whose advertisements appear in THE JOURNAL. They are of the best firms in the city.

The inaugural ceremonies of the Catholic Winter School of America, embrace a solemn Pontifical Mass, celebrated with all the grand effects consonant with the service. This will take place on February 12th, of the coming year; and, if the new and high duties imposed upon him permit, His Grace Archbishop Chapelle, intends to give additional interest to the occasion by receiving the pallium at that occasion. There will be, therefore, a grand gathering of the prelates of the country to assist, by their presence and addresses, in giving increased eclat to the sessions of the Winter School and its otherwise attractive programme.

Subscribe for THE JOURNAL.

A DEFICIT AGAIN.

What it means to be on a war footing is revealed by the report of the secretary of the treasury, says Leslie's Weekly. It means that we must face a national deficit again, or provide a method to avert it. The estimate of appropriations required for the coming fiscal year is only $7.000,000 less than $600,000,000 as compared with $462,000,000 during the present year. The increase of $138.000,000 is due mainly to the demands of the army and navy. The proposed increase of the regular army from about 20,000 in time of peace, to 100,000 men means an additional expenditure for our military establishment of about $120,000,000 per year. The navy will require $10,000,000 in addition, and the interest on our public debt will absorb over $10,000.000 more.

It will be seen that for years to come this country must continue to bear a heavy additional burden because of the Spanish war. Some compensation, no doubt, will be received from the possession or control of the new colonies, and in the end it is hoped that the accounts will balance in our favor. The receipts of the government during the past fiscal year were not sufficient to cover its expenditures, and, on the basis of existing revenue laws, the receipts during the ensuing year will fall $112,000,000 short of public requirements. It is possible that a new form of taxation will have to be devised, and it will not be surprising if this should result in a renewed demand for the imposition of an income tax, unfortunate as such a demand would be. The decision of the United States Supreme court will stand as a barrier to such a proposition, unless the opinion should be reversed or materially changed.

The Merchants' Association of New York has undertaken to relieve the merchants, manufacturers and shippers of the state of New York from the exhorbitant express charges that are now exacted to pay a monstrous profit to an unrestrained monopoly. The claim is made that the users of express service are compelled to pay charges which are from three hundred to over twenty thousand per cent. of corresponding freight charges, and on many classes of goods the average is from 5 to 15 per cent. of the value of the merchandise thus transported. The express companies are now uncontrolled by law, and the Merchants' Association propose to introduce a "Bill to Regulate Express Companies" at the next session of the legislature.

A recent portrait of the Pontiff, showing him in all the glory of his old age, is the timely art premium which is now being issued by The Cathplic Standard and Times, of Philadelphia. It is a fine photogravure reproduction of the painting of the Pope recently executed by Ugolini, the eminent Italian artist, which was presented to Archbishop Ryan only a few months ago. The painting, besides being an artisric masterpiece, has the additional advantage of being one of the most recent portraits of the venerable Pontiff for which he has given a sitting.

Young women have been substited for men as ushers at a Baptist church in Syracuse. Besides performing the work of ushers they also pass the contribution plates. The orchestra that furnishes the church music is also composed of women.

These up-to date attractions are the idea of the minister, who says that the plan has many advantages, chief of which is that the young women draw more young men to the church, also coins of larger denominations than usual from their pockets when they pass the plates.

Some churches need these kind of innovations.

THE CATHOLIC PRIEST.

Editor of CATHOLIC JOURNAL:

It may seem presumptuous, on the part of the writer, to describe within the limits of an ordinary article, the honor, worth and dignity of so lofty and sacred a subject as the Catholic priesthood. Such a holy office and God-given commission are worthy of description of the most eloquent tongue and inspired pen of the best Catholic genius. Forsooth, it may be, the sacred depth of the wisdom of so God-like position is worthy of detail solely of the ministers of God himself. Yet, the personal interest and happy delight I have in the subject, stimulated by the scene of many ordinations and a few consecrations of bishops, are my apology for the feeble attempt at the description of so worthy and world-famed subject. For any imperfections in the endeavor. I beg the kind indulgence of the JOURNAL's readers, and humbly exclaim to him of the ordination - "pater pecavi."

Individuals who have had never the opportunity of forming the proper idea of the priestly character are very much amazed at the profound respect that is manifested by a people for their reverend pastor — the "Soggarth Aroon." The amazement is principally evoked in Protestants, and in those so-called Catholics who enter the church about mission time, or may be once in every five years. Hence, it is, this veneration of the simple, "ordinary-going man," the Catholic priest remains a mystery to those classes of people, and will remain unsolved until they become practical Catholics, and study the character of him who represents Him by whom the church was founded.

To the Catholic who has had the privilege and the happiness to witness the ordination of the priest, and the consecration of the bishop, the scene makes a lasting impression. And why not, when in the ordination the transformations is that from the worldly man into that of the real ministers of Christ Himself, thereafter, to drink from the Eternal Father and serve Him with a keen and ecstatic love. The change puts his position far superior to that of the angels of Heaven. And truly does the Cure of Ars exclaim: "If I were to meet a priest and an angel, I would salute the priest before the angel; for the angel is the friend of God, but the priest holds His place." That is sweet and wholesome language from a good and holy man, who had the happiness of admistering in the office of the priesthood while on this earth and who no doubt, in the near future, will meet with beatification for his life was that of a real saint.

Also in the ordination of a priest is it not a source of delight to the Catholic individual to know that our ministers are not ground out by the grist mills of cold formality for such formality lacks the Apostolic succession in the God-given power. Our belief is firm on that point, notwithstanding the belief of Protestants to the contrary. Hence, it is, the Apostolic succession gives that supernatural grace and dignity to the priest and creates in him the man of God. To him only, belongs the right divine to preach, forgive sins, and, above all to offer up the adorable sacrifice of the mass, a privilege and a power never allotted outside of Christ himself to other individuals. Therefore, knowing this characteristic in our priests, we should ever show them that will convince them that we appreciate their office and personality attributes that that can never be equalled by all the potentates, rulers and powers of this world. What a compact of graces are centered in the personality of the priest of God—and yet how few there are who fully ponder in their hearts on the awful and sublime subject of the Catholic priesthood.

The vocation of such a life is not born in man in a day, nor in years. He takes it in, as it were, at his Catholic mother's breast and then he nourishes the idea until the coming day of his ordination. And what must be that indescribable delight of that father and mother who have given a son in the person of the Man of God! Language will ever remain inadequate to describe fully the happiness of both parents and son on that notable and holy occasion.

So Christ-like is the standing of the priesthood that we should ever give that love, honor and respect to its members for in their hands lie those keys to admit to the Kingdom of Heaven the soul of poor mortal man for whom the priest has sacrificed home, friends and all earthly considerations.

What annihilation of self! Yet, some "weak-kneed Catholics" will talk of priestly selfishness. If they but knew the charity of the humble pastor—who never lets the left hand "see" what the right hand gives, they would soon change their opinion. It is in Catholic countries the presence and labors of the pastor is the better appreciated. In Canada, for example, when the priest is on a sick call or journey in the outskirts of a city or village and is met by a Catholic, the latter as a rule genuflects in case the Blessed Sacrament may be on the person of the priest. When the latter is met on the avenues or streets he is always welcomed with an open, broad, and good hearted "How do you do father!" There is no American faintness about the form of salutation. It is real. In fact, there is a good ringing sound in the welcome that would convince a witness the Catholic is proud of his priest. That our salutation is not yet of the proper or high order, cannot yet be accounted for by the writer if it cannot be attributed to the indifferentism of our people and of those Catholics who may look upon the priesthood and it's religion with the spectacles of "romance." If they would but dip themselves into the faith of their holy religion with that holy fear and reverence the reality of the Man of God would be a source of pride and comfort to them, and then would come the clear vision and exalted worth of him who alone can comfort us when we are about to close our eyes in death. Thanks and honor to the priesthood for them is due all we have of the true arts and sciences, civilization and Christianity. The full and true history of the holy priesthood from the dawn of Christianity can never be written by mortal man. That task alone is accomplished by the Recording Angel.

WATKINS, N. Y., Dec. 12, '98.

H. O'C.

THE GOSPELS

GOSPEL: St. Luke, iii. 1-6.—At that time: "In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Cæsar, 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 Lysanius tetrarch of Abilina, under the high-priests Annas and Caiphas: 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 book of the words of Isaias the prophet: A voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare 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 it had been prepared, foretold, and completed by the wisdom, power and goodness of God.

Weekly Church Calendar.

Sunday, December 18—Fourth Sunday in Advent. Epist. 1 Cor. iv 1-5. Gosp Luke iii. 1-6.
Monday, 19—Expectation of the B. V. M. (Dec. 18).
Tuesday, 20—Feria.
Wednesday, 21—St. Thomas, apostle
Thursday, 22—Feria.
Frday, 23—Feria.
Saturday, 24—Vigil of Christmas. Fast.

A SISTER'S ANNIVERSARY.

On Friday, Dec. 9, at Nazareth convent, was quietly observed the 25th anniversary of Sister M. Beatrice's reception of the holy habit. During that time she has been engaged in teaching at St. Bridget's, Immaculate Conception schools and Nazareth academy, where she is at present and where she herself was a pupil. She has also taught at Lima, Dansville and Ithaca. Of Sr. Beatrice it can truly be said: "To know her was to love her:" May she be spared for many years to continue laboring in the good cause.