

The Catholic Journal

The Only Catholic Newspaper Published in the Diocese.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY AT 343 1/2 East Main Street, Rochester, N. Y. BY THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL PUBLISHING COMPANY

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Per Year, in Advance.....\$1.00
Entered as second class mail matter.
SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1899.
TELEPHONE 3771.



City News Agents.

The CATHOLIC JOURNAL is sold by the following newsdealers, and can be obtained of them Saturday mornings:
L. Merk, 334 East Main Street.
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PRACTICAL RELIGION.

We want a religion that goes into the family, and keeps the husband from being spiteful when the dinner is late, and keeps the dinner from being late, keeps the wife from frowning when the husband tracks the newly-washed floor with his boots, and makes the husband mindful of the scraper and the door-mat; keeps the mother patient when the baby is cross; amuses the children as well as instructs them; wins as well as governs; projects the honeymoon into the harvest-moon, and makes every hour like the eastern fig-tree, bearing in its bosom at once the beauty of the tender blossom and the glory of the ripened fruit. We want a religion that bears not only on "the sinfulness of sin," but on rascality of lying and stealing. The religion that is to sanctify the world, pays its debts. It does not consider that forty cents returned for one hundred cents given, is according to gospel, though it may be according to law. It looks on a man who has failed in trade, and who continues to live in luxury as a thief. It looks upon a man who promises to pay fifty dollars on demand with interest, and who neglects to pay it on demand, with or without interest, as a liar.—Exchange.

The death is announced of Rev. Richard Vaughan, S. J., at the Jesuit house, Salisbury street, Liverpool. Father Vaughan was born seventy-two years ago at Courtfield, Hereford, the home of the Vaughan family. He was the brother of the present bishop of Plymouth and of Rev. Edmund Vaughan, C. S. R., of the Redemptorists, and uncle of His Eminence Cardinal Vaughan, Archbishop of Westminster; uncle also of the late Dr. Vaughan, Archbishop of Sydney; of Rev. Bernard Vaughan, Manchester, and of Right Rev. Monsignor John Vaughan. The deceased was educated at Stonyhurst and was ordained priest some forty years ago. He served in various parts of England before he went to Liverpool, where he had been for the past quarter of a century. Father Vaughan devoted himself entirely to teaching, for which he was, by reason of his learning and scientific attainments, specially qualified. He had studied architecture in early life, and in the course of his career he found knowledge thus acquired of great practical utility. For the past sixteen years he had been professor of chemistry at St. Francis Xavier's College.

The house in which Joseph Haydn, the famous Catholic composer, was born and spent his childhood, at Rohau, Austria, was burned on March 3. It was a cottage thatched with reeds and contained memorials and relics of the composer. It was of this house that Beethoven said: "How wonderful that so great a man should have been born in a peasant's cottage!" It is proposed in Austrian musical circles to have the house rebuilt and restored as near as possible to its original condition. "Creation," Haydn's famous oratorio, was first performed March 18, 1792. On this centennial anniversary of that event, March 19, 1899, the German Emperor, of New York, gave "Creation" in Carnegie Music Hall.

the most unique figures in the history of the Catholic Church of the United States. As a master mind he rises above the most of his contemporaries, and in his grasp of Catholic truth, as well as in his masterly way of defending the teachings of the Church, he has had few equals and no superiors. As may be supposed of one who treats of the highest theological questions without having a thorough grounding in scholastic theology, he wavered at times in his flights, but as soon as he recognized the magnet of authority he steadied himself and yielded to its influence. The Catholic World Magazine for April gives a very vivid account of his conversion and what it was that led him to the Catholic Church.

To those who have not already complied with the sacred law of the Church regarding the reception of the Sacraments during the Easter time it would be well to remind them that only a few more weeks remain to attend to this very serious obligation. The compliance with the Easter duty is a grave matter, that deeply concerns every one who claims the name of Catholic.

Childhood is like a mirror, catching and reflecting images from all around it. Remember that an impious or profane sentence uttered by a parent's lips, may operate on the young heart like a careless spray of water thrown on polished steel, staining it with rust which no after scouring can efface.

Boston had an average of 83,000 pupils in her public schools the past year, at an average expense of \$81.70 per pupil.

CATHOLIC NOTES.

The membership of the L. C. B. A. is 46,000. Amount paid to heirs of deceased members, \$375,000.

Father McShane, O. S. A., of St. Nicholas' church, Atlantic City, called a meeting of the members of the congregation and announced his intention of erecting a handsome new church on the site of the present one. The estimated cost of the building was placed at about \$125,000.

The Benedictines of St. Vincent's arch abbey, Beatty, Pa., have wisely decided to quit manufacturing beer for sale, consequently have not taken out a brewers' license this year. This ends a controversy of long standing, and eventually, it is thought, will be for the benefit of the Church throughout the country.

The State of Maryland has appropriated \$25,000 for a statue of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, last surviving signer of the declaration of independence, which will be placed in Statuary Hall, formerly the Senate Chamber, at the Capitol, Washington, D. C. Charles Carroll was a descendant of the O'Carrolls, kings of Munster and princes of Ely.

Cardinal Vaughan, of Westminster, has invited Cardinal Gibbons to preach the dedicatory sermon at the opening of the new Catholic cathedral of London, now in course of erection. Cardinal Gibbons will accept. The dedication of this great edifice will be an event of great interest to the entire Church and to the English-speaking world.

The Catholic News, of Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, announces the death at the Cuocoric Convent of one of the Dominican nuns in charge of the Leger Asylum. The deceased nun, Sister Marie Ange (in the world Miss Anderley), was of Swiss nationality and a niece of the former general of the Jesuit Order, Father Anderley, who died about six years ago. She arrived in the colony in November, 1897.

The project of a Catholic high school in Minneapolis, which was launched so auspiciously a year ago, is being agitated with renewed interest by the Catholics of Minneapolis. No definite plans can be made toward the establishment of the school, however, until the return of Archbishop Ireland from Europe. The Christian Brothers will conduct the school. They have for many years conducted a flourishing school at St. Paul, and its alumni includes some of the foremost men of the Northwest.

Madame Loubet, wife of the President of France, persists in following in the footsteps of Madame Faure, Madame Carnot and Madame La Marckale de MacMahon, who were noted for their practices of the eminently Christian virtue of charity. Madame Loubet, soon after she settled in the Elysee, went to visit the nuns known as the "Dames du Calvaire," who, like the Sisters of Charity written of by Gerald Griffin, were once "ladies of honor and wealth," and have actually taken upon themselves to look after the most hideous cases of disease. Madame Loubet saw all the patients in the "Calvary," and left a substantial sum of money for the institution.

A Qu on Washes Beggars Feet.

On Holy Thursday the queen regent of Spain, in accordance with the yearly custom, washed the feet of twelve beggars. This ceremony takes place in presence of the court, and has been adhered to by all the monarchs of Castile and Aragon. The release of three prisoners also took place on this day. The king received hundreds of petitions to free Cuban spies captured during the late insurrection.

IMITATING ENGLISH PEOPLE.

Editor of CATHOLIC JOURNAL.

Evidently "we" are becoming day by day, more English than the English people themselves. To give a definite reason for the "change" in drifting from the old time honored custom of our true Americanism, would be to say the least—"we are addicted too much to the 'fad business' that seems to have its importation from London. Anything, whether the bottom be knocked out of it or not, if it is English, why the thing is adopted immediately. As slang of the day has it "the thing goes." It has its characterization in imitation of every thing English. In this respect, "we" Americans display a weakness that can not be discovered among the English for they cling to all old time custom by looking out for themselves and adopt no mannerisms, except in the small order when courting for favors from outside territory. When England gives evidence of such, we can rest assured she has an ax to grind. That "some Americans" are overly anxious to do the grinding is patent to any one who pays attention to the doings of certain individuals who take more pride in the title of "Anglo-Saxon" than the title of an American in the true national sense of the word! In our current news, from Washington, the capital of the nation, come the items that preparations are being made in that city for the celebration on the 24th of this month in honor of the birthday of Queen Victoria! That certainly is news—and a new thing at that. What true American would have dreamed of such, twenty years ago? Who would have predicted that within that stated time our capital would become angloized? In fact, the arrangements that are now being made in that historic city to show loyalty to "Her Royal Highness" on the 24th of May will, I dare say, be far superior in "magnificent display" to any similar celebration I have ever seen in Ottawa, the capital of Canada. While a student in that city in the '70's, I would have declared that individual an imbecile who would have dared to make the prophecy that ours—the capital of these United States, would in the near future play overtures to royalty—especially our old time enemy the British government. If our nation at head quarters have ample time and plenty of money to lavish for celebrations, why not do so in honor of the birth of the president of France; the president of Mexico; or any other president that presides over a free form of government. Furthermore, why not make a similar gorgeous display in honor of the birthday of George Washington, the "Father of our Country." Like faithless sons to a good and generous father, are "we" to let the memory of General George Washington go into the blank past? Or is his memory a thorn in the side of John Bull? That's a paramount question for our young Americans to ponder over—we are to have our choice for the future in John Bull or Uncle Sam. As long as we have the noble trio of the Germans, the Irish and the French, the backbone of the nation is safe notwithstanding the "bubble" of the "white man's burden!"

There are persons who profess to believe that Richard Harding Davis is more entertaining and more capable as a writer of fiction than as a war correspondent; that he is more interesting when he imagines things and writes about them than when he describes with his pen actual occurrences in camps and on battle-fields when two great countries are at war with each other. There can be no doubt that Mr. Davis is a most entertaining and brilliant writer of fiction, but that this fact or faculty, does not prevent him from being a war-correspondent of rare ability. Keen observation and remarkable personal bravery, must be obvious to all those who have followed his career during the late war and have read his book on the "Cuban and Porto Rican Campaigns" made up of his descriptive articles on the war published during the fall of '98 in Scribner's magazine. That Mr. Davis possessed a keen eye for the picturesque in character, in situation and an ability to describe what he saw in such a way that his readers obtained an impression of it both vivid and delightful was acknowledged by all those who learned things about the west "from a car window" and who went "about Paris" with this very observing and thoughtful young man. It remained, however, for the war of '98 to discover for us the cool courage, moral and physical, the remarkable endurance, the engaging personality and last but not least what might be called the opportunity seizing ability of this New Yorker. If the war with Spain had been especially designed to show to an appreciative public just what Mr. Davis was capable of and to bring out the best that was in him, it could not have made his name better

WATKINS, N. Y. H. O'C. RICHARD HARDING DAVIS

or more widely known and esteemed. And this speaks well for the people. One cannot finish a perusal of any one of Richard Harding Davis' war-articles without experiencing a feeling of enthusiasm, of pride in one's country and the brave men who fight for it of the despicableness of cowardice and selfishness and the nobility of true courage and manhood. Surely when a war correspondent makes his readers feel all this, it is hard to imagine how his work could be better done.

Perhaps the most alluring thing about Mr. Davis' war-correspondence is the candor, the confiding frankness with which he addresses his reader. When he sees a soldier whose bravery or devotion to duty arouses his admiration he does not, as some writers would, attempt to manufacture an incident in order to drag his man into prominence nor does he try to push him before the reader at the head of a story but says simply and straight forwardly: "I wish to speak of one whom I knew but slightly but whom I admired more as a soldier, than almost any other man in the regiment."

In spite of the critics, it seems to me that the writing of Richard Harding Davis in the late war shows him at his very best. In this war book of his we have those short terse sentences which in a few words stamp a picture on the mind as when he speaks of the war ships "straining and tugging at their anchors like dogs struggling in their chains," and again in the fight he says, "Great clouds of hot smoke swept across the decks and hung for a moment, hiding every thing in a curtain of choking fog that tasted salt and rasped your throat and nostrils and burned your eyes," and we have bits of realistic dialogue taken out of the mouths of privates and officers and put where it is most effective and striking and picturesque; and we have bits of sarcasm and stories of irresistible humor followed by passages full of feeling and gentle sympathetic appreciation. We are for the time being transported to Cuban soil in the midst of the rough riders, or with the regulars, or in the trenches and we feel with the soldier, the heat, the awful excitement and overwhelming fatigue of battles, the homesick loneliness of twilight when the sun has set behind great unfamiliar palm-trees and with the enemy in sight, the band plays the national anthem and our eyes grow dim with mingled joy and pride and grief.

There are writers who make war seem cruel and brutal and others who make it seem glorious; but it is more than that, it is inspiring when described by Richard Harding Davis.

WALTER M. EGGINTON.
Corning, N. Y.

BOOK NOTES.
If the faithful understood better the full meaning of the holy sacrifice of the mass, the ornamentation of the altar, the vestments worn by the priests, the different parts of the mass, their faith in the holy mysteries would be strengthened, and an intelligent and strong faith would develop into an active faith. If all Catholics possessed this intelligent and active faith, it would be unnecessary for the church to command attendance at mass for the faithful would consider it a great privilege to assist at mass, not merely on Sundays and holidays, but at all times. The book in question, "Explanation of the Prayers and Ceremonies of the Holy Mass," deals with these important topics, and clearly explains the meaning of the altar, of its ornaments, the vestments, and the ceremonies performed by the celebrant and his ministers. The book is embellished—really embellished—with twenty-two full page illustrations, printed in a rich tint, showing the priests at the several parts of the mass. These pictures have the advantage of representing the proper position of the ministrant, something which no similar pictures, so far as we know, have ever represented. Each of them has been submitted to the critical scrutiny of an experienced "master-of-ceremonies," and are absolutely correct. The book is handsomely printed on fine paper and is substantially and tastefully bound. 12 mo. cloth, \$1.25. Benziger Brothers.

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