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SATURDAY, NOV. 17 1900.

The notorious Margaret Shepherd, alleged escaped nun, has been lecturing in Schenectady, N. Y. Her record, which has been published many a time, prohibited self-respecting people from attending her lectures. Only those who wanted filth attended.

"Death loves a shining mark." In New York, on Tuesday, Rev. Father John E. Barry, vicar-general of the diocese of Manchester and Concord, N. H., and pastor of St. John's church, Concord, was instantly killed by a cablecar on Broadway.

William Jennings Bryan will not need to worry because he was not elected president. He has refused several very fair offers—one of \$10,000 from a Denver newspaper, and another from a theatrical troupe to act as advance man at a salary of \$20,000 a year. The Martin Engel association, the Tammany organization of the eighth assembly district, has formally voted to offer him a handsome fee to come to New York and take charge of the legal defense of the district captain of the eighth assembly district, indicted for alleged violations of the election laws.

HIGHER CRITICISM.

The Catholic World Magazine editorially makes this statement concerning the recent failure of the American Bible Society: "Another chapter in the history of Higher Criticism closes with the sale and demolition of the great Bible House, the home of the American Bible Society for fifty years. The American Bible Society is the direct outcome of the Protestant idea of Faith, that the world is to be converted by the reading of the Scriptures. It began its work with the beginning of the century. It has had an immense income, amounting in 1875 to \$677,669 a year. It has done a tremendous work. Since its foundation it has printed and disseminated 31,894,332 Bibles, enough probably to sow the world knee-deep with Bible leaves. "But the love for the Bible has been killed in the hearts of the people, and the reverence for its sacred pages has withered under the chilling blasts of Biblical criticism. The fountains of revenue have been dried up, and the American Bible Society is obliged to seek more economical quarters. "Of course, we know that there has been a ruinous competition in England between the Oxford and International societies, but when there is a big plan for the making of Bibles, and when there is no demand for the output, so that the society cannot actually give its Bibles away, there is only one alternative—to go out of business. There is no better evidence of the decay of Protestantism than the demolition of the old Bible House."

A very touching ceremony took place a few weeks ago in Madrid, the first mass of an ex-Spanish general, Father Raphael Lacaiz. It is scarcely five years since Don Lacaiz was one of the most brilliant young officers in the Spanish army attached to the Queen Regent's military household, and belonging to the general staff of the army. He was married to a beautiful wife and their union was blessed with two darling boys. Death snatched away the young wife and mother the very day he received his general's commission. Within a year diphtheria carried away his two children. He determined to become a priest, and was ordained in July last, and on the day following that month said his last mass in the little Church of St. ...

THE FIRST REFORMERS.

The three principal reformers were Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin. Zwingli was a priest in the diocese of Constance. He followed in the steps of Luther in Switzerland, though he was obliged to resign the care of souls on account of his open immorality. He began his preaching against the Church in 1519 and against indulgences and the Holy See.

In 1522 he demanded permission from the Bishop of Constance to marry. He married that year a widow without any permission. "You lordship," he candidly said, "knows very well how disgraceful my conduct heretofore has been, and how my crimes have been the ruin and scandal of many."

Helzer, one of his confederates, was subsequently beheaded for his numerous adulteries. Zwingli incited the Protestant cantons in Switzerland to rebellion, and he himself died at Cappel in 1531, having gone to the battle in complete armor as a soldier, and bearing in the fray the standard of the city.

John Calvin was another Reformer whose weird and fearful doctrines have had their effect not only on the age around him, but on succeeding ages. He was born at Noyon, in Picardy, in 1509. He studied for the Church, but gave up his studies early, on account of his infamous morals. He advocated the teachings of Luther at the Sorbonne, in Paris. He appeared at Basle, in 1534, where he wrote his "Institutes of the Christian Religion." He drew to him many followers at Geneva, where he set up his new worship in 1538. Expelled by the patriots he returned in 1541 and became almost a civil and ecclesiastical despot.

Baisee was banished for assailing his doctrine of predestination. Ameaux was cast into prison because he had spoken disrespectfully of him.

Genitils, who combated Calvin's views on the Trinity, was beheaded at Berne in 1566.

Servetus was seized and burned at the stake by his order in 1553.

His system was an absolute predestination, and taught that free will no longer had an existence, and that God was the author of man's sin. "Man falls into sin," said he, "the providence of God so ordering it."

He denied transubstantiation, though speaking equivocally of the effect of the sacrament.

W. W. Grout, of Vermont, has been retired to private life after a service of nearly eighteen years in Congress. He aspired to the Senate and was recently defeated by ex-Governor W. F. Dillingham. Grout was one of the leaders in the movement to abolish the Catholic schools erected in the Indian territories and reservations. He fought incessantly against the appropriations for these schools. Whenever an attempt was made to give to Catholic hospitals, asylums or houses of refuge in the District of Columbia their share of the public money, he was foremost in opposition. His hostility to Catholic interests and to the Catholic Church was bitter and unremitting. When the movement was started to permit Catholics to erect a chapel at West Point for the accommodation of Catholic officers, cadets and enlisted men, he was among the few who fought it.

The devotional hymn, "Ad Creatorem," by the Holy Father has been set to music by the celebrated Italian musician, Don Perosi. It will be sung at St. Peter's, Rome, on Christmas Eve.

The body of St. Catherine of Genoa was taken up eighteen months after her death and found without the least sign of putrefaction. From that time it was exposed aloft in a marble monument in the church of the hospital as the body of a saint, and was honored with the title of Blessed, which Pope Benedict XIV. changed into that of Saint, styling her in the martyrology St. Catherine Fieschi Adorno.

Who of mortal maidens was ever so highly honored as Mary, and yet so lowly? Never does she once obtrude herself on our notice, she lives all for God, and breaks her silence only for His glory. In perfect humility is perfect love, and in perfect love is every virtue.—Dr. Brownson.

Contrary to the previously published reports, the Catholic relatives of the late Hon. John Sherman will not be deprived of a share in the deceased statesman's estate, which amounts to \$3,000,000.

Eliot says: "You can't isolate yourself and say that the evil in you shall not spread. Men's lives are as thoroughly blended with each other as the air we breathe. Evil spreads as necessarily a disease. Every sin brings suffering to others besides those who commit it."

FIVE MINUTE SERMON.

SHORT INSTRUCTIONS ON THE GOSPEL BY A REVEREND FATHER.

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost.

In to-day's Gospel, my dear friends, Jesus spoke the parable of the mustard seed. Though the grain of mustard seed is capable of great development, before it is put into the ground it is among the smallest of seeds. So Jesus Christ, though He is to receive the adoration of the whole world on account of His glorious resurrection, yet He belittled, humiliated, annihilated Himself so as to appear weak, afflicted of God, a worm and not a man, the opprobrium of the Gentiles, and a stumbling-block to the multitude.

As the little seed, in its development, rises from the earth, grows large and strong, and affords shelter and refuge to the beasts and birds, so Jesus Christ, rising and going forth from the sepulchre, triumphed in the midst of human generations, and received under the shadow of His cross not only the ignorant and the lowly, but also the wise and the great; not only sinners who came to take refuge at His feet, but also the just, who, flying as the eagle on high, find in Him an asylum, strength and nourishment, in the difficult way of evangelical perfection.

The seed is regarded as a vigorous excitant, an agreeable condiment, and an efficacious medicine. In like manner, Jesus Christ by His doctrines aroused the people from the lethargy of their passions; by His example He made sweet and light all duties however painful or difficult, and by His grace He healed all our infirmities and preserved the health and life of our souls.

According to St. Augustine, the parable of the woman who hid the leaven in the three measures of meal until it was fermented, is a figure of the church; the leaven is the preaching of the apostles, and the fermentation is that change of mind, will, and affections which is produced in men by the preaching of the gospel.

Jesus Christ, speaking to the multitude in the parables, affords a singular proof of His divine mission. The Royal Prophet had said, in the seventy-seventh psalm, that the coming Christ would speak in parables, and by them reveal truths hidden from the eyes of the world; and therefore the Divine Teacher, even in this particular, gave a sign by which he could be recognized when He taught the multitude in parables.

In view of all this, we should understand that the triumphs of the gospel are not the work of chance or of men, but of God, who prepared for it and accomplished it. We should rejoice that we are now no longer instructed by shadows and figures not always easily understood, but in a manner clear and evident. In conclusion, we should see to it that the germs of faith should grow vigorously in our intellect, engraft themselves on our will, bloom in the affections of our heart, and bring forth the fruit of good works.

LITERARY NOTE.

It was in Father Finn's stories that the real American Catholic boy was first found, and this led to that prince of story-tellers being called—and most appropriately—the "discoverer" of this particular youth. And just as he was the first to paint his boy heroes in their true colors, and win for himself first place as their chronicler, so a story from his pen is the first illustrated Catholic juvenile to be published. This new story, which bears the title of "His First and Last Appearance" is destined, we thoroughly believe, to have an enormous sale, for the publishers, Benziger Brothers, have most liberally seconded Father Finn's efforts by bringing out the book in splendid style at the low price of one dollar. There are 29 full-page and text illustrations by Charles Svendsen, the book is handsomely printed on good paper, and the binding is a very handsome one. The price has been made so low in the expectation of an enormous sale. You can get it from your bookseller, or direct from the publishers.

HER TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

Sister M. Dorothea celebrated her 25th anniversary at Seneca Falls on Saturday. During that time she has spent nineteen years in that place, where for a part of the time she was Mother Superior. This year she was transferred to the Immaculate Conception parish, Rochester. A solemn high mass was celebrated at 9 a. m. in St. Patrick's church, Rev. Father Dwyer, being the celebrant, with Rev. Father Harrington of Waterloo as deacon and Rev. Father Keenan of Auburn as sub-deacon.

Weekly Church Calendar.
Sunday, November 18—Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost.—Gosp. St. Matt. xiii. 31-35. St. Hilda abbess.
Monday, 19—St. Elizabeth of Hungary, widow.
Tuesday, 20—St. Felix of Valois, confessor.
Wednesday, 21—Presentation of the B. V. M.
Thursday, 22—St. Cecilia, virgin and martyr.
Friday, 23—St. Clement, Pope and martyr.
Saturday, 24—St. John of the Cross, confessor.

ENTIRE CHRISTENDOM.

Interesting Statistics Comparing Catholic and Protestant Progress Throughout the World.

During the Australasian Catholic Congress this Fall one of the most important papers read was one specially contributed by the well-known statistician, M. G. Mulhall.

Of the 1,450,000,000 making up the population of the world, Mr. Mulhall, basing his figures on the returns of 1898, computes that only 501,600,000 are Christians, the proportion to each faith being as follows: Catholics, 240,000,000; Protestants, 163,300,000; Greeks, 98,300,000.

Under the head of Protestants are included more than 100 different sects who profess one or other form of Christianity. Assuming all classes of Protestants to form one religion, their total number in relation to that of Roman Catholics would be as two to three.

"It would be interesting," writes Mr. Mulhall, "to ascertain which phase of Christianity—Catholic or Protestant—increases numerically the faster. There can be no doubt that the principal Protestant nations, such as Great Britain, Germany and the United States are advancing with great strides, whereas such Catholic countries as France, Ireland, Spain and Portugal have little or no increase yearly. But when we come to make a survey of the whole of Christendom we find that the numbers are pretty equal.

According to official returns for five years ending December, 1898, the annual increase, if nobly changed from the religion of his parents, would be as follows: Catholics, 2,360,000; Protestants, 2,380,000. "It is, however, notorious," says Mr. Mulhall, "that numbers of Protestants in England and the United States pass over yearly to the Roman Catholic Church, whereas Protestantism gains few converts."

This fact is attributed to two causes: First, the life of self-denial and sacrifice led by Catholic missionaries, secondly, the attraction that Catholic worship offers by its ritual and ceremonies.

According to the returns of the American Statistical Society, in 1893 in the missionary countries (India, China, Siberia, Japan, Syria, Asia, Africa, Philippines, Java) Catholics were to Protestants almost five to one, the figures being: Catholics, 11,438,000; Protestants, 2,622,000. In America, between 1850 and 1890, the relative progress of the Catholic religion was about double that of other creeds, the churches having multiplied sevenfold, and Church property thirteenfold.

HE SHED TEARS.

A Scene That Moved One of the Survivors of Gettysburg.

The Waterbury, Conn., Democrat says: When Governor Dandonna was mortally wounded in the ditch at Greatbrook last week, Father Slocum, of the Immaculate Conception Church, and Father Karam, of the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, administered the latest rites of the Church to the dying man on the spot, surrounded by a great throng of people all of whom uncovered their heads and watched the performance of the ceremony with much interest.

When the excitement was over a rough looking fellow pushed his way onto the sidewalk, wiping his face with an old red handkerchief that had almost outlived its usefulness and almost motionless on the curbstone. He appeared very much moved at what he had witnessed and finally remarked to some one who had inquired what had happened to him, that it was the first time he had shed a tear since he saw Father Corby give absolution to the Union soldiers just before the second day's fighting at Gettysburg.

"Half the men," he said, "who fell on their knees to receive the priest's blessing that day were shot in the peach orchard a few hours later. I was one of those who came out alive and many a time I regretted that I did not fall with my comrades, for I was better prepared to go at that time than I ever have been since."

"That little incident that took place there a moment ago," pointing to the ditch, "brought back that scene to me with such vividness that for the time being I scarcely knew where I was standing."

APOSTLES FROM IRELAND.

The Irish Christian Brothers Called to Rome to Establish Schools.

The Irish Christian Brothers have been called to Rome to offset the work of the Protestants who are seeking to win over the poor by gifts. They will establish schools for day and night pupils, and will train their students for the professions. The Cardinal Vicar, representing His Holiness, extended to the Brothers a warm welcome.

At the inauguration of the work, Father Mandato, S. J., in an introductory address, explained the object which the Christian Brothers had in view in making a foundation in Rome. He spoke in eulogistic terms of the work which the Irish Christian Brothers had accomplished, not only in Ireland but all over the world. He made one notable statement, which was "that twenty-five years ago, when the Brothers went to Gibraltar, the entire town's Catholic population went to Protestant schools. Now they all go to the Christian Brothers' schools, and the Protestant schools have almost entirely disappeared."

The schools to be opened by the Brothers in the Eternal City will be dedicated to St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland. It is hoped that the Brothers succeed and that the example of their Christian zeal may fire the Italians themselves to do something more apostolic in the way of educating their poor.

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