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# The Catholic Journal.

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**Rostand Working on a New Play.**  
Edmond Rostand, the famous young French dramatist of only 30 years who

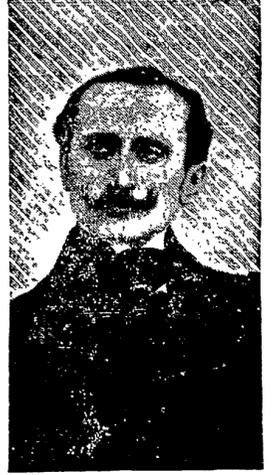


Photo by Boyer, Paris.  
EDMOND ROSTAND.  
He is the author of "Cyrano de Bergerac" and "L'Aiglon" ("The Eaglet"), is at work on a new play for Sarah Bernhardt. It will describe theater life.

## FEARLESS O'CONNELL

NEVER AFRAID TO VOICE HIS LOVE FOR IRELAND.

English Soldiers Failed to Overawe Him on the Occasion of His First Public Speech—Always Steadfast For Freedom.

The name of Daniel O'Connell is familiar to all our readers, says The Irish World. His undying patriotism to old Ireland made him beloved by all the people, while his sufferings and persecutions claimed for him universal pity. Foremost among the Catholic people in opposition to the union was O'Connell. He manifested this opposition in the midst of danger. Our readers know how the public meetings were dispersed by the militia, and they know what it meant to resist.

In spite of the danger the citizens of Dublin held a meeting on Jan. 13, 1800, to petition against this measure. At the meeting O'Connell, then but 24 years of age, attended and delivered what may be called his public maiden speech. The following are a few passages taken from it:

"Sir, it is my settled sentiment, and I am satisfied it is the sentiment not only of every man who now hears me, but of the Catholic people of Ireland, that if our opposition to this injurious, insulting, ruinous and hated measure were to draw upon us the revival of the whole penal code in its most satanic form we could boldly, cheerfully and unanimously endure it sooner than withhold that opposition and sooner throw ourselves once more on the kindness of our Protestant brethren than give our assent for one moment to the political murder of our country. Yes, I know, although exclusive advantages may be and are held out to the Irish Catholic to seduce him from the duty of saving his country, that the Catholics of Ireland still remember they live a country and that they will never accept of any advantage as a sect which would debase them and their Protestant countrymen as a people."

This speech was received with the approbation. While he was speaking Major Sirr, with a file of military, entered the meeting, grounded their arms with a mighty crash, but did not intimidate the bravery of that heart which never yet knew fear. The major demanded to see the resolutions, which, being acceded to, he did not think proper to interfere. O'Connell may well be proud of having put those sentiments on record when he was just emerging from boyhood, and that, too, in the presence of a military force paraded around the meeting hall for the purpose of intimidation. Ireland may well be proud also of this greatest son



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behalf of her Catholic millions. It rescues their character from the ignominy of having for the sake of some sectarian privilege surrendered the glorious independence of their native land.

This noble stand, thus early taken by O'Connell, marked him to the people as a young man of great promise. The gloom of Emmet's unsuccessful effort hung for a few years round the prostrate people of Ireland. Emmet's execution took place in the fall of 1803, and from that time until the accession of the Whigs to office in 1806 Ireland was ruled by martial law. The habeas corpus act and trial by jury were suspended, and the jails and transport ships were crowded with the victims of military caprice or ministerial vengeance. No man durst utter his thoughts during this reign of terror. O'Connell, during all this period of gloom, betook himself to intense study. He seemed to have a sort of presentiment that the time would yet come, as it did, when those professional acquisitions which he sought would be of signal service to himself and to his country.

**Young Kruger's Heroic Act.**  
The Rev. William Stokes, M. A., rector of Derralloy, Glendalough, gives the following interesting narrative of a heroic feat performed at Seven Churches before the war by Eloff Kruger, a grandnephew of the president of the Transvaal. He was staying at Glendalough with two friends, and while boating on the upper lake, under Camaderry mountain, noticed a sheep on a ledge 1,000 feet up the sheer cliff. The animal had been there for days. The people had resolved to shoot it and end its misery. Young Kruger took a piece of tarred twine round the sides of his boots and climbed up the face of the precipice, much to the anxiety of his friends. It took him two hours, during which the slightest unsteadiness would have cost him his life. Half-way up he slipped down, but he could not move farther. With a final effort, however, he worked his way up, reached the animal and lacerated it cautiously until he regained the boat.

**A Very Able Diplomat.**  
In Count Cassini Russia has at Washington a diplomat of rare ability



Photo by Clinedinst, Washington.  
COUNT CASSINI, EMBASSADOR FROM RUSSIA, and long experience, whose services for his country and ruler have covered his breast with medals and orders.

The new parochial school at Elkton, South Dakota, which is conducted by the Presentation nuns, has 90 scholars on the roll. Three Sisters conduct a boarding school also.

Mother Joseph and Sister Scholastica have left Independence, Iowa, and opened a school at Monti, South Dakota, where Father Hanley is parish priest.

Rev. D. F. O'Reilly, of Norwich, Connecticut, who was lately ordained in the Grand seminary, Montreal, has entered on his duties as assistant pastor in Chateaugay, Diocese of Ogdensburg, N. Y.

Rev. Thomas J. Kena, Hartford's diocesan director of the Association for the Propagation of the Faith, reports that the collections for that association in the Hartford diocese last year amounted to \$748.89.

Rev. Joseph G. W. Kernion, the oldest graduate of St. Louis university, St. Louis, Mo., died at that institution December 29, 1900, aged 80. He had been connected with the university since 1843 as professor of French and mathematics.

Mr. Charles Brookfield, the English actor-playwright, has for some time refused all managers' offers of engagements. After a long illness from which he has happily recovered he joined the Catholic Church a few months ago.

Archbishop Keane dedicated a \$15,000 church at Webster, Iowa, January 6th.

Monsignor Stephan, of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, writes from Germany that his health has been benefited by his trip abroad and that he expects to return to his post in the early spring. Rev. Father Ketcham has been appointed his assistant and is now in Washington.

## REAL IGNORANCE.

WELL EDUCATED PEOPLE WHO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE CHURCH.

Several Remarkable Instances Quoted by Missionary Fathers Regarding This Sad Fact: The Apostolate of Preaching to Non-Catholics Fills a Long Felt Need.

It is often a puzzle to many good Catholics how it is that non-Catholics can be in good faith in this country where the opportunities of learning about the doctrines of the Catholic Church are so many.

There is now scarcely a town that has not a well-appointed church. There are 11,000 priests actively at work ministering to the people about them. There is an abundant supply of literature to be had for the asking and in many instances forced into the hands of non-Catholics. Yet we come across in our missionary work innumerable instances of well-educated people as ignorant of the teachings of the Church as they are of the number of birds in the air or of the fishes in the sea. How much these people are responsible it is not for us to judge but the fact remains they know nothing about the Church and seemingly do not feel in their own consciences any responsibility for the ignorance.

The time has come for the Catholic layman to ask himself how much of blame is to be attached to his own attitude in this matter.

A priest may talk till his breath falls him and oftener than not it is of no avail with non-Catholics. His efforts are discounted by them. They say of him "It is his business to so talk," etc. But the layman has many opportunities which are denied the priest. He is closer to his brother-layman. He is in business with him or he meets him in the daily walks of life or is shoulder to shoulder with him in political or public life.

How well is the Catholic layman equipped for the apostolate.

The average layman knows that there are missionaries somewhere in the country, who are carrying the truth to his non-Catholic brethren, but first because he does not think he fails to appreciate the great need of such work and the cordial response which it meets from Protestants. One or two instances will serve to illustrate our meaning.

A non-Catholic mission was recently given at a small village in Alabama. It was a little place, but still it possessed a Catholic church and two or three Protestant places of worship. It was the sort of place where all the inhabitants know each other by name and are conversant with one another's affairs. During the mission a certain well-known business man was noticed attending all the meetings and carefully listening to all that was said. One of the missionaries sought him out and spoke to him. The man said that he was a Protestant; that he had lived in the village for 23 years and that yet this was the first occasion that he had ever set foot within the Catholic church and he supposed that if it had not been for the mission being held he never would have done so.

Such a fact seems incredible in a little place such as this and yet it is true. The man for the first time in his life heard the truths of the faith although he had been dwelling among Catholics for years. An instance like this shows how the Church is brought to persons who are really in a condition of inconceivable ignorance—brought to them as it never could be in any other way.

Another instance illustrates the same point. At a recently-given mission in the South, it was noticed that many of the Protestant ministers attended and paid heed to the words spoken and asked many intelligent and respectful questions. One of them was interviewed on the subject and asked his opinion of the mission. "Why," he replied, "it is a most wonderful thing. All my life I have been hearing about Catholics and reading books condemnatory of their teachings but I never have talked to a Catholic priest before; I have never had a chance to do so."

The minister was then asked what he thought about the teaching he had heard and what was his opinion of the Church. "I understand the belief of Catholics now," he replied, "before it was simply incomprehensible to me how any intelligent being could accept the doctrines which I understood were attributed to them. I see now that if a person really lives up to the teaching of the Catholic Church he must be a very good man, indeed."

Here the point is touched exactly; these men do not know and they do not know because they never have any available opportunity to learn. "How shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

In another town the Protestant ministers after coming to hear the addresses to non-Catholics exhorted their own people to attend, telling them that the Catholic doctrines would reach them first-hand and they would be able to form an intelligent and unbiased opinion as to what Catholics really did believe. Moreover one of them said that "it was only by Christians coming together in this way and making clear their several religious convictions—it was only thus that there could be brought about a reunion of Christendom and a catholicity together

into one of all who believe in Christ."

It is the awakening of such a spirit as that which gives a real encouragement to the Catholic missionary for he knows that the truth is so mighty that it must prevail if it is known and the real re-union of Christendom is bringing of all men into the fold of Christ by allegiance to the Apostolic See.

A report has recently been made public of the work of the missionaries associated with the house of missions of the Paulist Fathers in Tennessee. From the 15th of June to the 31st of

December, they gave thirteen retreats, six Catholic and two non-Catholic missions in which fifty-five converts were received and 186 left under instruction.

### THE PURIFICATION.

The Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary which is celebrated next Saturday, February 2, presents to us two mysteries in accordance with two distinct laws of the Jewish code, viz.: the Purification itself and the Presentation of our Divine Lord in the Temple.

The first has reference to a mother and the law is explicitly stated in the twelfth chapter of the book Leviticus. With this law Mary complied to the letter. Too poor to offer a lamb, she took advantage of the clause that permitted the substitution of a pair of turtles or two young pigeons, and like any other poor woman she presented herself at the door of the Temple, where the Priest received her little offerings from her hands, presented them, and then prayed over her, thus completing the ceremony of her Purification.

The law regarding our Divine Lord's Presentation was agreeable to the general law of first fruits. The Blessed Virgin takes the infant Saviour to the Temple, places Him in the hands of the priest, who presents Him with due formality to the Lord.

It would seem that neither of these ceremonies was absolutely obligatory upon the person they concerned. Still Mary complied with them to show respect for the law, and especially is her example a great lesson to all Christians to observe the commandments of God and of His Church and to avoid every action or omission that might cause disedification or scandal to others.

The Feast is otherwise called Candlemas because on that day candles are solemnly blessed and carried in procession to commemorate "how the holy man Simeon met our Lord, took Him in his arms, and declared Him the light of the Gentiles and the glory of Israel." This and the "redemption" of our Lord, as the first-born, are more especially brought out in the mass of the day than the Blessed Virgin's Purification. In fact the Greeks class it among the festivals of our Lord and draw in adulate attention to the meeting of Christ with Simeon and the venerable Anna.

Our first acquaintance with the festival comes from the east. It is not mentioned during the first five centuries, but Fleury mentions it as having commenced on Feb. 2nd, 543, at Constantinople. It is very doubtful when the Western church adopted it, but it was clearly known to the Venerable Bede, who died in the year 735. Mentioned in the time of St. Gregory and Charlemagne, it would appear afterwards to have been generally recognized. The carrying of candles in procession is mentioned by Bede. But no ritual for the blessing of them can be traced probably before the eleventh century.—New World.

### AN INCIDENT.

I was traveling in the backwoods regions of the Upper Ottawa about 16 years ago, when I found myself at night in a small "stopping place." It happened that the old mother was dying, and as we were two days' journey from the nearest church, and, except the missionaries who periodically went that way in winter, no priest was to be expected I found myself selected to console the old lady. She kept constantly asking for a priest; at last, I told her it was absolutely impossible for us to get her a priest. I suggested an act of contrition explaining, as well as I could the merits of such an act. As she did not seem to understand me, I said: "Don't you know an Act of Contrition in English?" I will never forget the half-astonished, half-puzzled, wholly indignant look that lit up that dying face, as she said: "Is it English, you mean? Shure, what did the English ever know about contrition?" And she proceeded to express her sorrow for her shortcomings in the beautiful, melodious, Munster tongue, that she had learned by the picturesque shores of Bantry, a half-century before.

### WHAT IT INDICATES.

If you do not take a Catholic paper, does it mean:  
1. That you have not been asked to do so?  
2. That you have little, if any, interest in Catholic affairs?  
3. That you prefer not to be bothered with religious reading?  
4. That it is merely neglect? You haven't thought of it?  
5. That you "take so many papers" you must economize by cutting out the best and most necessary of them?  
6. That you will let the other fellow defend your religion?  
7. That you differed once with the editor and can't forgive him, although

you agreed with him in ninety-nine other instances?

8. That such money as you pay for papers, you give to dailies which occasionally insult your religion, refer to your church as "the Romish church" and bring yellow immortality and scandal into your family?

Now, reader, if you are not a subscriber to a Catholic paper and belong to the first, fourth, fifth, seventh or eighth class, you will subscribe at once. But if you belong to the second, third or sixth, nothing can be done with you.—Pittsburg Observer.

### ST. BLAISE.

The feast day of this great saint falls on Sunday, February 3. Those who have throat troubles have them blessed on that day; others, also, have their throats blessed as a protection against colds and kindred diseases, thousands can bear testimony to the effectiveness of this blessing. Any priest will impart the blessing when asked to, and at any time and place. St. Blaise saved a boy in whose throat a fish bone had lodged from choking to death, and if you ask his help in your own cause he will as readily give it as he did long years ago.

While engaged in teaching in the parochial school in Tarentum, Pa., the other day, the rector, Rev. E. Schmitz, C. S. S. F., suddenly lost the sight of both eyes. A day or so later he partially regained the sight of one eye. Physicians fear he will be totally blind. It is believed that a slight apopleptic stroke he sustained lately broke or paralyzed most of his optic nerves. Father Schmitz's home has many paintings—his own work.

A project is on foot to erect a monument in St. Peter's, Rome, to Nicholas Breakspere, Adrian IV., the only Englishman who has been pope. The only other Englishmen who have a monument in the Vatican basilica are the last two Stewart pretenders, who were commemorated in marble by the great Canova. The scheme has been started through the enterprise of Mr. Griselle of Oxford who hopes to raise sufficient funds among English Catholics.

The Cardinal Secretary of the Propaganda has written to Archbishop Duhamel, of Ottawa, deploring the growing number of mixed marriages which are taking place in that diocese. He says: "We have learned with a great deal of regret that marriages between Catholics and non-Catholics are becoming more frequent in your diocese. Your Grace and your clergy will understand that these marriages, allowed only with the regret of the Catholic Church tend to weaken her discipline, and constitute a relaxation of that lively faith which should everywhere prevail."

Rev. Thomas J. Campbell, S. J., in The Messenger of the Sacred Heart, states that Protestantism in France is dying rapidly. At the present rate of decline there will no be a shred of Protestantism left in France in another decade. One century ago they numbered 2,000,000. They should have increased to 3,000,000. To-day they do not amount to 650,000; M. Merle d'Aubigne claims only 500,000.

A Paris communication says that the Council d'Etat on January 28 rendered its decision in the case of the Bishop of Annecy, who had sustained the action of a curate of his diocese in refusing to assist at a funeral where Freemasons appeared with their insignia. The bishop issued a notice to all the curates of the diocese that they, at their discretion might decline to officiate at ceremonies where flags or purely secular banners were displayed. This was considered offensive to the Government, and the bishop's stipend was suspended. The decision of the Council d'Etat warns the bishop that his course was not warranted, but it allows his stipend to continue. The result is unquestionably unsatisfactory to the Government.

Ten different works were printed in Roman characters by the Jesuits at their college in Japan previous to the year 1599. Think of this nearly a century before a book was printed in Philadelphia. It has also been decided that in the year 1610 the Dominicans in Luzon published a Tagalog grammar, and in the year 1630 there was a Japanese-Spanish dictionary, the work of Portuguese Jesuits.

According to Bartholomew, the population of the world at present is about 1,440,550,000. Of this population 231,000,000 are Catholics, 92,000,000 belong to the Greek Church, 3,000,000 to the Church of Abyssinia, 2,000,000 to the Armenian Church, 145,000,000 to the various Protestant sects and 370,000 to Nestorian, Coptic and Jacobite sects of the East. In Europe whose population is 357,379,000 there are, according to M. Fournier de Flaix the latest competent authority, 160,165,000 Catholics, 49,196,000 Greeks and 40,812,000 Protestants.

During the 19th century there were six popes. Pius VII. was pope from 1800 to 1823; Leo XII. from 1823 to 1829; Pius VIII. from 1829 to 1830; Gregory XVI. from 1831 to 1846; Pius IX. from 1846 to 1878 (the longest papal reign on record); Leo XIII. still gloriously reigning in the 68th year of his age, was elected pope on June 10, 1878, succeeding Pius IX. who died on June 7, 1878.

## ST. BRIGID'S, ARDAGH.

Fail is the name of the town where the beautiful ruins of the old church were seen about the new church which Rev. Canon O'Farrell has undertaken to complete he wrote as follows: "It is now 22 years since the foundation stone was laid, and although during these years great progress has been made with the erection and furnishing of the church, the work remains unfinished. Just a year ago at a public meeting the parishioners at which Right



ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, ARDAGH.

Dr. Hoare, Bishop of Ardagh and Cashmore, presided it was unanimously resolved to make a supreme effort to complete the work. Since then the tract has been entered into, and the work is making steady progress. Contractors are looking out for the stone masons due to them. During the past year a considerable sum has been collected in the parish, but this is inadequate to meet the large expenditure. The work of completing the church will cost \$10,000, and of this about \$3,000 has been collected.

The resources of a rural parish are as this and two and twenty years incessant struggle against ever increasing debts are quite unable to bear the strain. In order to meet this it was resolved at a public meeting of the parishioners to hold a bazaar on fancy fair early next June. Our father Pope Leo XIII has blessed the undertaking to complete St. Brigid's and has promised a medal as his gift for the bazaar. St. Brigid, the patroness of the new church, is intimately connected with Ardagh, for according to most eminent ecclesiastical writers she received the religious veil from St. Mal, the first bishop of Ardagh, at Ardagh.

"The venerable ruins of this ancient cathedral, in which St. Brigid reared her religious profession, are within stone's throw of the new church, dedicated to and under her name and patronage. St. Brigid's name is known and venerated wherever any of Irish are found.

"It is hoped that the citizens of Ardagh at home and abroad will be helping hand to complete the work at Ardagh. It would be a great pleasure to allow this church to remain any longer unfinished. A receipt dated May 29, 1878, from Pope Leo XIII grants the title benediction to all who contribute toward its completion. The bazaar or subscription will be fully received and most gratefully acknowledged by James O'Connell, P. S. Y. F. M. Burke, C. S. S. F., (St. Brigid's) Ardagh County Leitrim.

Remember that falls are not by the grosser sins which the takes count of, but by spiritual subtle and secret, which lead us upon the outward life.

Next Chief Secretary of the Government, George Wyndham, the secretary of Ireland, is a year