BLAKE A DAREDEVIL.

BASHING IRISH-AMERICAN LEADER OF THE BOERS.

A Graduate of West Point, He Was Noted For His Skill In Horsemanship—Now Harmssing British In South Africa.

The Irish-American leader of the ed by cable to be harassing the British forces near Lourence Marques, is no other than John Y. Franklin Blake, fermerly of the United States army. Two years ago he commanded a regiment of Boer rough riders in the batties around Ladysmith. Army officers who graduated in the class of '80 remember Blake as a daredevil, and he was familiarly known in the United



States army as "Give a Damn" Blake, Although not more than 40 years old, Blake has had a romantic career, dating from his first night in New York, when he was nearly killed by gas; during his four years at West Point, where it is alleged that he participated in the mystery surrounding the clipping of a colored cadet's ears—Cadet Whittaker-down to his latest adventures in South Africa.

An old friend of Blake, in recalling some of the incidents of the latter's career in the service of the United States,

"I never knew a better specimen of shreical culture than Blake. He was e inch more than six feet tall and magnificently proportioned, not carrying an ounce of superfluous flesh, and a natural born athlete. His striking expearance, genial manners and ready wit made him most companionable among men. Besides, he was a great favorite with the ladies-not what you would vulgarly call a 'masher,' but a brave, gallant, polished gentleman, who had the happy faculty of saying and doing the right thing at an opportune moment with an unconscious and enaffected air that was irresistible.

"He could give and take a joke better than the ordinary man, and many of his best stories are told on himself. He amused a company of jovial assodates by relating his first experience in New York city when he came east to take his examination for admission to West Point. He received his designation from Kansas City, having been born in the rural districts of Missouri. He left home accompanied by admonitions to look out for bunko steerers and confidence men and was particularly cautioned not to blow out the gas.

"As he tells it, his first night in New York came very near being his last, He retired late. The following morning the clerk, becoming alarmed at his nonappearance, sent a servant to ascertain what had become of him. His door was found locked, and there was a strong smell of escaping gas. The door was forced open, and young Blake was found in an almost exhausted condition. His friends insisted that he blew out the gas,' and he let it go at

"He had no difficulty in passing the examination and entered West Point Sept. 1, 1876, Centennial year. He gradmated four years later and was assigned to duty with the Sixth cavalry in Arisona. While at the academy he was the ringleader in all the fun and frivolity indulged in by the cadets. He was probably the most popular member of his class.

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"It is said that he was the ringleader in the sensational incident attending the alleged clipping of Cadet Whittaker's ears. There has always been more or less mystery surrounding the affair of Cadet Whittaker. It is even mid that Blake actually performed the ear clipping, but this is not vouched

"His former classmates declare that he was the life of the academy during the four years he was there. He was full of resources for funmaking and Fouthful pranks, but he was by no manner of means vicious or offensive in his habits. His good natured, daredevil manner won for him the nickname 'Give a Damn' Blake, and it followed him into the army. He proved himself a marvelous horseman, and on that account he was assigned to the cavalry branch of the service after graduation.

"While with his regiment in Arizona he was a constant source of merriment for his associates, and he helped to eighten up camp life at that faraway kation to an extent well remembered or the essent of the Sixth. His feets,

the cowboys in the west, and 'Give a Damn' Blake is to this day often referred to as 'the best horseman that ever sat in a government saddle.'

"In October, 1887, he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant. Two years later he resigned his commission in the army and married one of the richest belles of Grand Rapids, Mich., whom he met at Fort Leavenworth.

"After leaving the service he took up his residence in Grand Rapids and en-Irish brigade, who was recently report- gaged in the railroad business. He was as popular in business circles and society in Grand Rapids as he was ifi the army. Prosperity in business and popularity in society were more easily attained by Blake than domestic tranquillity. A few years later his friends heard, to their dismay, that a shadow had fallen over the magnificent household of their once jolly companion and classmate. He separated from his wife and left Grand Rapids for parts unknown. "Possessed of an independent nature,

accompanied by a certain amount of pride which would naturally be found in a man of his nature, he decided to part from all associations in Grand Rapids. About six years ago some of Champion of the Reman Cathelie the friends of his youth heard from him in South Africa, whither he driftquite evident from the recent war the monastic orders in that country. news from the Transvaal that 'Give a Damn' Blake is in the saddle teaching leads a cavalry charge."

MISS MAUD GONNE.

Converted to Irish Nationalism by Witnessing Cruel Eviction.

Major John McBride, the organiser of the Irish brigade of the Transvaal army, appeared at the Academy of Music. New York, one recent Sunday evening under the patronage of the Clanna-Gael. A large and enthusiastic audience greeted them. The appearance of Miss Gonne and Major McBride upon the stage caused a prolonged demonstration.

Major McBride in the course of his lecture said that there had been no trouble in getting Irish recruits for the Boer army and that the boys had been told long before hostilities actually broke out to be getting ready for a contest with the Saxon. Many of the men, he said, had never previously ridden a horse or put finger to a trigger, but

they were soon ready for service. When Miss Gonne stepped forward, most of the audience rose and greeted her with loud applause. She said in

"The hour of Ireland's destiny seems near at hand. We have come to America to consult with you before the crisis comes. In Victoria's reign Ireland has become a dying nation. Ireland has spent 30 years in parliamentary agitation. She is dying of it. At the last election not more than half the voters means.



that the people may be given work.

and the landlords, but not a hat was mission. taken off by the working people." Miss Gonne is the daughter of an

Irish colonel of the British army, and M. Forsin, the most celebrated all her family connections are loyalists French caricaturist, who left the and of the landlord class. One uncle is church years ago, has returned to it. a general in the British army, a cousin like Brunetiere, Paul Bourget, Coppes is a captain, while her only sister is the and other eminent fellow countrymen wife of Colonel Pilcher, who is serving of his. against the Boers in South Africa.

Her conversion to Irish Nationalism was the result of witnessing a cruel eviction while on a visit to the house of a neighboring landlord.

Major John McBride, who lectures with Miss Gonne, was the organiser of the Tropeved Irish brigade, com-

County Mayo. The Jameson raid made him scent the coming struggle from afar, and he went to South Africa iromediately after the news of that crime, fully determined to take service with the Boers on the outbreak of hostilities. He held a good position in one of the Johannesburg mining companies at the time of President Kruger's ultimatum and immediately called a meeting of Irishmen to organise for the defense of the republic.

South Galway's New Member. William Duffy, the recently elected member of parliament for South Galway, is only 35 years old, but he has educated at St. Brendan's seminary. He is honorary secretary of the South Galway executive committee of the United Irish League and has been secretary of the County Galway Athletic association. He has been imprisoned on two occasions during the Land League war on the alien possessors of the lands of Ireland.

COUNT ALBERT DE MUN.

Clergy in the French Chamber. Count Albert de Mun openly charges ed soon after shaking the dust of Premier Waldeck-Rousseau with at-Grand Rapids from his feet. As to his tempting to strangle religious liberty career in that faroff country nothing in France and denounces in vigorous definite can be ascertained here. It is terms the government's bill to dissoive

The government's bill, which, it is argued, will drive religious associathe Boers how an American soldier tions from France, is couched in general terms, but the third section, if enforced, would be mortal to the monastic orders which flourish in the republic. It provides (1) that no association between Frenchmen and foreigners can be formed without a state charity; Two distinguished Irish lecturers in (2) that associations whose directors the persons of Miss Maud Gonne and are foreigners or live abroad and asso-



went to the polls. They have lost their ciations whose members live in comfaith in changes through parliamentary mon cannot exist without special acts of parliament permitting them. This "Why should we not succeed in our is the most important law proposed by fight for independence as you Ameri, the third republic and one of the most important developments of French political life since the great revolution. Nearly 30 years ago Count de Mun

organized the Circles of Catholic Workingmen, where laborers were taught that the salvation of France would be best achieved by a return to religious principles and the restoration of the legitimate king to the throne. In 1875 he ran for parliament as a Royalist and was supported by all the clergy. The pope himself sent him on the eve of election the cross of St. Gregory. He has been several times elected as Royalist representative, and he is the one uncompromising Royalist Roman Catholic statesman in the republic.

Received Into the Church. More than 40 converts have been received recently at St. Francis Xavier's church, in West Sixteenth street, New York, by the Rev. John F. X. O'Conor, S. J. They came from nearly every religious denomination. Among them are former Lutherans, Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, Anglicans, Episcopalians, Campbellites, Congregationalists and agnostics. They include almost every rank and profession of life, including an author, journalist, princess, daughter of an eminent chief justice, university graduate, merchant and artcans did and as the Boers will surely ist. Besides these, a large number of do? To check immigration is the first others have been instructed and hapnecessity and to encourage industry so tized by the Rev. Fathers Van Rensseiner, Francis McCarthy, Denny, Young, "Last year when Victoria came to McClusky, Campbell and the other Jes-Ireland she was received by the officers uit fathers at the church and in the

SHORT SERMONS.

Conscience and rattlesnakes warn and then strike. The punishment of falsehood is to suspect all truth. *Truth which is not charitable springs

POWER OF THE HOME

ITS INFLUENCE FOR GOOD OR EVIL UPON THE CHILDREN.

The Duty of Parents In to Make the Pleagures of Home to tweet That The Question Rown Muran of Great Ma-Their Offspring Will Prefer Them to the Evil Examples the Streets Offer After Dark.

It is the duty of every father and mother to make home attractive to their children. Home influence and than snow, and again that after the training are saving powers. Let them Lord forgives us our sine He will redone good work for the Irish national be quietly thrown around the boys and member them no more. Why then cause. He was born at Loughrea and girls, and they will soon learn to love should we undergo a purgatorial of tne place where they have spent so temporal punishment if our sins have already been forgiven us? According many happy hours.

Keep the children in the house after | we are forgives at all? dark. Make the pleasures of home so sweet that they will seek no other, the punishments thereof you will be Gather them round the table, talk to as white as snow and He will rememthem kindly, take an interest in their studies, answer their questions patient: the case if you have confessed your ly and provide them with plenty of sins and done sufficient panance for good Catholic books, magazines and them. But if you confessed your sins Dapers. .

What we need at this moment are more home amusements and home this. training. If fathers and mothers would only realize this, so many young people would not go astray, as they are now doing. It is a sad truth that thousands of boys and girls are mined more frequently by neglect at home than from satisfy God's justice in purgatory. any other cause.

home at night worn out and cross. He | the mercy of God. thinks he has not time to look after the habits of his children. He feeds and clothes them and sends them to or mass servers, and what do they sigchurch and school. Perhaps he occa- mily? sionally scolds them for making too much noise, and his wife also reproves tar in the services of the mass. They them, driving them out into the corrupting influences of the street.

After a time the boys find their amusements away from home, on the prayers. On account of the many lanstreet corners, in the poolrooms, at the theaters. So matters so on quietly until some day the community is startled by the announcement in the newspa- boys. pers of unexpected crime and terrible disgrace. The parents meant to do well he their child. But macon maloreste there effected his ruin.

cheerful, good natured father, who, though weary after the labor of the day, still forgets his cares and fills the house with joy and light! His face is a never failing source of gladness to you explain? those who love him, and when he this, I should say I am a Catholic becomes home there is a headlong race cause I believe that it is the only and scramble to see who shall kiss fament for all the tolks and vexations of the day.

Bouguet.

How a Counters Challenged God.

In the town of Hanover, in Germany, there is buried a German counteas who denied the existence of God and ridiculed the idea of the resurrection. To further show her contempt for Christianity she ordered that on her death her grave should be built up of solid masoury and covered by large stones bound together by iron clamps. On this tomb was engraved her defiant challenge that through eternity this tomb should never be disturbed. But one day the seed from some tree, either blown by the wind or carried by a bird, became lodged in a small crevice of the tomb, where it soon sprouted and began to grow. And then, as if nature had seemed to mock the haughty infidel, she quietly extended the delicate roots of that seedling under the massive blocks of stone and slowly raised them from their place. And now, although scarce four generations are passed since that tomb was sealed, that most insignificant seedling has accomplished what God blimself was challenged to accomplish. The heart of a Christian should be m tomb for the faults of his friends.

Choose for a friend in preference to all others the amiable heart of Jenus, which slone will be faithful in death when all things else will be taken from

We can be merry as well as religious. One is as much a privilege of our nature as the other and as deserving of attention and cultivation, but they are fore, what is to be done in such cases: not separable. They are so bound up biplath your line as you think you believe in each other they never thrive apart. Quarry the granite rock with razors or moor the vessel with a thread of silk; then may you hope with such

keen and delicate instruments as human knowledge and human reason to contend against those giants, the passion and the pride of man. Judge-Rat to save time I supp you will admit that you were drunk! Pat-Dirunt; sort Ot west se sobs

SEEKING LIGHT

ON POINTS OF CATHOLIC FAITH AND DISCIPLINE

lightenment to Catholies and also to Those Not of the Honochold of the Baltle Of Christ. The Bible tells us that if our sine be

as scarlet, they shall be made whiter to this, what assurance have we that

If God has forgiven your sine and ber them no more, and no purgatorial and did not perform sufficient pertory, because God's justice requires

And you ask what assurance we have that we are forgiven at all? We have the assurance that if w do all we can, God will do what is just towards us, but if we have not done what we could we shall have to There are no mathematical assurances The father, at work all day, comes in such matters, but hope and trust in

What is the reason for altar boys,

Altar boys help the priest at the alanswer, or respond, to the prayers in the name of the reoplant morly all the people answered these guages and difficulties in answering properly, the Church peeced laws that only a few should answer these prayers and this is some by the alter

What is the meaning of the word

God pity and moften the father whose tion of what was said. Sometimes it children fear him, who grow affent as also means, Verily, truly Formerly his foot crosses the threshold, who sail the people present at divise sershun the room he darkens with his vice answered the priest's prayers by presence! God bless the generous, saying Amen. Alter boys and the choirs do it now.

> If a Protestant friend should sak you why you were a Catholic, how would

There are many ways to explain church that Christ founded. because ther first. Such a greeting is a full pay. Catholics have not changed their creed from the days of the Apostles to the present time; because the Catholic only and the de discourse the world only and the de discourse the world only and the de discourse tries, but all nations; because in the Such a father will have great infin. Church is spread all ever the world. ence over his children. Carefully he and comprises not only a few noungains their confidence, and securely he tries; but all nutions; because in the keeps it. As the evening advances he Catholic Church alone I and maints holds them by his side, and they love who can do wonders by dell's power to be there. Make your children hap and where God grants such graces the py. Whatever cares press do not neg. truth must exist. Further I would lect them. Convince your children that tell him all other denominations were you love them, and you can easily lead started by men who have remodeled, them to yield to your wishes. Weekly | changed and keep on changing their creeds, and some of these denominations exist in one of two countries only, and date their existence only for the last 50 or 100 years. Certainly the true Church of Christ was not hidden during the other 1800 years

> If a man is in doubt whether he consented to a bad thought and if he cannot swear before God that it was wilful and the confessor asks him about it, can he tell him: I do not know whether it was wilful, if it seems

that it was not? After having explained it in confecsion as well as you know how, this Bull Run during the civil ? was the best answer you could give, wra Smith with his div as long as you could not swear that it too late to know the p was wilful. It seems you are strain seeing that if he savate of having told a lie in confession. You be exposed to the fire of his did not so long as you were not ab. he asked if any man we solutely certain what kind of a con- sectifice his life." sent it was.

Can a man sin in doubt? I heard he

Could not, Is it so?
Suppose a man is enting mest and paper: begins to doubt whether it is Friday, exal Smith. still he keeps on eating and will not. He then gave ask about it, he sins in doubt. Again, der, saying to his suppose a man eating meet and he "Should this mean stops and asks whether it is Friday, will find this p but nobody can tell him and his rese. Having resched sons are as weighty for being Friday Found soldier w as for not being, and in this soubt he finishes his meat, he did not sing in

Often I went to confession and was saked by the confessor whether a sta was so or so, but I did not know nyself how it was, and so I left the confessional more dissatisfied than becommitted them. Be not for ingular airn that is (CA) and tive whether a tin was mortal or gard had given is co ton your state will be forgiven even. Here is an those sing that you thought were of the Cross is venial, but which were indeed mortal sing.

Does presented to the same of the same as the same of the same of

Predestination does not m

God knows whether me TIN to on seven the Calvin, means that One are some people for heaven and hell. Predestination in the Cathernac, means that God gave to extra grade, but to all me a tion how God could allow a pulse be born if He knew that be to be damaged might be explained wny: God gives to every men will and enough green to week ell stigs. I see the first to work see the first to daylined it is no reason (18 should not have erealed the ably it you spend sale in a think the world say that it we ter it have been under the greated. In heaven we will be able to understand these sayets

misent to be day

But you are not m damaed. On the contrary, ye he served. This is God's will, and of a free will, with that he and halved against fied. The trust in the Lard will not be

Why to Cotholies have & ing in their shareh all night. It is not only burning all, all day, too. Talk to be read that Jesus is present on the a that as the oil is sentenely. https://www.se.se.//wastab hight should live tox boss (

mentions anything of Calbolic Chares, but a and bound yi You you enale het The to conduct her. You you to justice, temper and to many other follow her who and a hope of worldly

sponsibility of her and doing so, reselve may be doed God aspect this To hadmin troop man be careful that this ab most will not affect. Total Injury year and some but it of about his fair aver against the rules of Catholic Union and Time

A. romite late the retire. "You will be killed."

"A fried!" Fife

"Give the men."