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CREMATION AND CRIME.

The recent passage by the Legislature of the Province of Quebec of a law authorizing the erection of a crematory in Mount Royal cemetery, Montreal, brings the question of cremation well within the sphere of practical interest. Of course, the Catholic Church has taken a well-defined position against incineration and in favor of the natural burial of the dead. But Mr. F. L. Hoffman, in an article in the *Medico-Legal Journal* of New York, opposes cremation because of the facility with which it admits of the concealment of crime.

It is well known that poison, secretly administered, is often the cause of foul and shocking murder. Mr. Hoffman contends that in cremation all evidence of death by poison is destroyed, and that sufficient precautions to protect the interests of the public are thus rendered impossible. The practice of cremation, therefore, is apt to become an incentive to crime from the very fact that it is an easy means of escaping detection.

The Catholic Church will not, of course, be moved from her position by any provision, no matter how thorough, to make the association of cremation and crime impossible; her opposition to cremation does not lie therein. But it is worthy the attention of thoughtful men, who may be led by specious arguments to favor the introduction of this old pagan custom, that cremation might easily increase the already too numerous facilities for the commission and concealment of capital crime.—*Ottawa Union.*

A writer in the Italian press has just been calling attention to what the Jesuits have done for France, and he showed clearly that not only are the religious and literary glories of that country in a great measure interwoven with the history of the work done by the Jesuit Order, but also that in times of national triumph the Jesuit Fathers signally distinguished themselves by patriotic actions. During the Franco-Prussian war large numbers of them were at the front as military chaplains. Hundreds of the Brothers worked at the infirmaries and many enrolled themselves as soldiers. The Jesuits were well represented at Malmesbury, and Father Tallhan was mentioned in the orders of the day. Later he was riddled with bullets and Father Tonguy, who was wounded by a bomb, was further seriously injured at Bourget. Father Ardold was blown up in the explosion at the Citadel of Laon, and at Metz and Belfort Fathers Reneville and De Damas were killed upon the ramparts.

The Maryland General Hospital, Baltimore, will likely soon be placed in charge of the Sisters of Charity. Reasons for placing the hospital in charge of the Sisters are that they have a wide experience in that particular work, and that they are well fitted to manage such an institution in an economical manner. The Sisters of Charity own and conduct both Mount Hope Retreat and St. Agnes' Sanatorium, both of which are widely known.

Captain Bernier, the French-Canadian navigator, whose plan to reach the North Pole was recently outlined, has received an offer from a well known French-Canadian priest, Father Paradis, to accompany him to the pole. Father Paradis enthusiastically indorses Captain Bernier's project and says he is anxious to be the first to plant the cross at the pole and to celebrate mass there. It is probable that the expedition will be led by Father Paradis. Captain Bernier is a well known explorer and has made several expeditions from all parts of America from people who are anxious to see him on the

expedition, but the party will be limited to a small number.

A curious circumstance in connection with the recent fire at St. James' Parochial school Haverhill, is that a statue of St. Joseph, which was in a room in the third story, was unharmed by the fire, although all in its vicinity was burned. The stand upon which it rests was badly blistered by the fire, and the statue is somewhat blackened by the smoke, but the lace which enveloped it is not even scorched or blackened. A picture of St. Patrick in blackened. A picture of St. Patrick in the same room is also intact although the fringe was burned, and the glass broken. The picture was found in a perfect condition among the ruins shortly after the fire.

Beginning with the first Sunday in May masses will be said in St. Andrew's Church, Dunane and City Hall place, New York, at 2.30 o'clock every Sunday morning. The service is intended for newspaper workers. Recognizing that the hours of labor of men employed on newspapers practically prevent them attending the usual morning masses, Rev. Luke Evers, the pastor of the church, has planned the early service for the benefit of newspaper men.

A BLIND GIRL LEADER OF A CHOIR IN VERMONT.
Probably the only blind girl in the world who leads a church choir is Miss Catherine J. Dugan. She conducts the music of a Catholic church in Vermont. Miss Dugan is a graduate of the Perkins Institution for the Blind, in Boston, having been graduated two years ago with honors. Last year she took the post-graduate course in conducting she uses a baton, as any other leader would. Her music is, of course, an exact duplicate of the choir's, only the characters of hers raised and she reads by feeling them.

Of the wood of the cross, on which our Lord was crucified, the largest portions are in the basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem at Rome, and in the Cathedral of Paris.

The sponge used at the crucifixion is at Rome in the basilica of St. John Lateran.

What does R. I. P. and I. H. S. mean?

R. I. P. means Rest in Peace; I. H. S. means Jesus Hominus Salvator, or Jesus Savior of Mankind.

It is said that cold blooded Salisbury finds little favor with England's new sovereign; and it is not improbable that Ireland may find in Edward VII. a kinder heart than ever throbbled for her under Victoria's royal robe. Such at least was the hope that motivated Parnell's action in voting for a supplementary allowance by Parliament to that personage.

PERSONALITIES.

The Pope has commissioned Count Colacelchi of the Noble guard, to convey to Mr. Martinelli, papal delegate to the United States, his nomination as a member of the Sacred College of Cardinals.

W. Burke Cockran, who has consented to deliver the address to the graduating law class of the University of Wisconsin on June 17th has announced the subject of his address to be "The Lawyer's Part in Our Constitutional Evolution."

The late Judge George S. King, who died recently in Oswego, Kan. in the 78th year of his age, formerly belonged to Georgetown, D. C., and was the last remaining son of a once well-known family of that place. His father became a Jesuit priest after his wife's death; and their eldest son Charles, also entered the society so that father and son were members of the same religious community.

Archbishop Chapelle, of Manila, has sailed for Rome to make a report to the Vatican on the situation in the Philippines. Bishop Fitzgerald of the Cebu Archdiocese, an American, accompanies him as an adviser.

As a result of the mission in the cathedral, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 55 non-Catholics are being instructed preparatory to reception into the Church. Fathers—Fathers Shyne, Mulcory, and O'Leary conducted the mission.

DEVOTION TO ST. PETER.

"Men do not realize at once how great St. Joseph is," says the Sacred Heart Review. "We hear of no miracles that he performed, no sermons he preached, no conversions he made. He crosses the page of Scripture a silent, hard-working, simple-hearted carpenter, living in a lowly home, employed in humble toil. Yet three times an angel spoke to him; Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word of God, was carried in his arms; we may truly say we know one word St. Joseph spoke, though none others are recorded of him—'Thou shalt call His name Jesus,' said the angel to this favored saint. Jesus and Mary were in his care, in Bethlehem, Egypt, Nazareth, Jerusalem. His true greatness overwhelms us; he heard the villagers talk of the carpenter's son; he knew that the omnipotent King of kings was subject to his bidding; and he died in the arms of Jesus and Mary, after being for nearly thirty years the head of the Holy Family, the earthly ruler of that little household which was truly heaven on earth."

The priests of the Baltimore cathedral are themselves conducting a mission for the people of the parish. This is something of a departure, and reports say that the undertaking is a success.

A FRUITFUL FIELD.

Missions to Non-Catholics—Providential Manifestations.

Innumerable signs of the growing interest in the conversion movements are manifesting themselves every where. A letter just received this morning from a priest in a Western city encloses a check for missionary literature, saying: "I have worked earnestly among my Catholic people for many years, but there are some who have resisted all my appeals. I see among the non-Catholic people many choice souls, who will rise to the higher grades of the Christian life if they had but the abundant opportunities that I have presented to these recreant Catholics. I have made up my mind to cast my hook and line on the outside, and try to catch these fishes that have gotten out of Peter's net."

These diocesan priests become the best convert-makers, when they turn their energies that way. Any one who is at all conversant with the work of the secular clergy is acquainted with many priests whose time is largely occupied in instructing converts.

The most unexpected things frequently occur to the priest who is engaged in convert-making, and he often receives help and testimony where he least expects it.

"It happened to me in the South on one occasion," said a missionary, "that I came to a town where Protestantism was most pronounced, where a Catholic priest had never been seen for the teaching of the Church as much as heard of. In one of my lectures I was engaged in defining the nature and position of the Church as unique among teaching bodies, when a venerable man rose in the audience and asked permission to speak. I knew him to be a son of a Protestant minister and I supposed that his speech would be an attack against me or the Church, still I felt that I must let him talk. To refuse permission would have produced an extremely bad impression on all the rest of my audience. So, reluctantly, I gave the required permission, and saying in my heart many ejaculatory prayers prepared myself for a possible attack.

The old gentleman faced the audience and began:—Ladies and gentlemen I just want to say a few words to you. I have lived among you many years and my character you know. The Catholic priest comes to us a stranger and he preaches things opposite to what we have heard all our lives. He has distributed books among us, one of which I have. I read that book from cover to cover, and I want to say to you that it is a good book and true. I want to say that it has enlightened me on many matters. Things I believed about the Catholic faith I know now to be false, and I think we ought to inform ourselves in these matters."

The old man sat down. I thanked God in my heart. As I knew something of the venerable interlocutor I determined to improve the occasion. I arose and said: "You know Col. —; you know him to be one of the most intelligent and best read men in the country. He is a man of character and of honesty, and he bears testimony to me, he assures you that I am an honest man and have been telling you the truth. Will you not then believe? Will you not trust what I say?" So I began, and then I continued an ardent defence of the faith and doctrines of the Church.

"The enthusiasm, when I finished, was immense. Many came forward to speak to me, many asked me to tell them more of the Church, many laid before me their difficulties. During all the rest of the mission my lectures drew crowds and the old gentleman and I became firm friends. Finally, I had the pleasure of receiving him and several others in a class of instruction for baptism."

"Father," he said, "it was nothing but the grace of God. I began reading that book with stubborn obstinacy and hatred of the Church. As I went on, however, my prejudices one by one melted away, and at last I saw that I could not, consistent with my reason, continue to be a Protestant. I simply had to join the Church."

And so it is that God uses the most unlikely instruments and the most unpropitious circumstances to advance His Church and increase His glory.

A. R. Doyle,
Secretary Catholic Missionary Union.

PAULIST MISSIONS.

April missions by the Paulists were numerous. Fathers O'Callaghan, Kennedy and Grant will bring three weeks' labor in the Burlington, Vt., cathedral to a close on May 5th. Fathers Menton, McCorry, and Harney close a two weeks' mission at New Brunswick, N. J., next Sunday. Rev. T. F. Burke and Father Outinette conducted a mission in St. Monica's Rochester, N. Y., last week. Fathers Doherty and Conway will be at the Marquette, Mich., cathedral until May 5th. Then they go to Negaunee, Mich., until May 19th. Rev. E. P. Younan, C. S. P., is at St. Patrick's, Montreal, Canada, from April 25th to May 19th. Then he goes to Father Crowe's church, Jackson, Miss., remaining there until June 1st.

TO SAVE HER BROTHER'S LIFE.

Hundreds of letters are being written from Louisiana in answer to the appeal of Sister in a Convent of Mercy, New York, to save the life of her brother, Frank Miller, who is under sentence of death at Birmingham, Ala., for the alleged murder of a patrolman. Frank Miller formerly resided in that state, where he won several medals for bravery. Postmasters are advised that the postoffice at Birmingham is being swamped by letters in Miller's behalf. The appeal has taken the form of an endless chain scheme and is rapidly extending to their states. Miller received largely in circumstantial evidence. The letter of the convent Sister is a pathetic appeal to save an only brother from the gallows.

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WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR.

Sunday May 5, 1901.—Gospel, St. John xvi. 5-14.—St. Plus, priest confessor. Monday, 6.—St. John, before Latin Gate. Tuesday, 7.—St. Stanislas, bishop martyr. Wednesday 8.—Aparition of St. Michael. Thursday, 9.—St. Gregory Nazianzen, patriarch, confessor, doctor. Friday, 10.—St. Isidore, ploughman. Saturday, 11.—St. Francis Jerome, confessor

DIOCESAN EXAMINATION.

Very Rev. Thomas F. Hickey, V. G., presided Thursday morning at St. Bernard's Seminary over the concursus announced for candidates for the vacant irremovable rectories in Rochester and Hornellsville. Ten priests of this diocese tried the examination conducted by the diocesan examiners. Appointments will not be announced for several days.

New York Central Pan-American Rates

Commencing Wednesday, May 1st, the New York Central will put in effect the following low rates Rochester to Buffalo and return on account of the Pan-American Exposition. Thirty Day tickets sold daily \$2.50. Two Day Coach Excursion tickets sold daily \$1.50. All tickets are good only for continuous passage in each direction. The thirty day tickets will be honored on all trains except the Empire State Express or the Lake Shore Limited, and in Pullman Cars upon payment of Pullman charges. Coach Excursion two day tickets will not be good in Pullman cars or on trains Nos. 3, 6, 18, 19, 22, 50, or 51.

Passengers will find the New York Central Belt Line Service the best and quickest way of reaching the Exposition Grounds. A fifteen minute service will be in effect; trains run direct from New York Central Station, Buffalo, to the Exposition Terminal Station directly opposite the Propylaea Stadium and Electric Tower. Fare five cents. Call on New York Central Agents for tickets and all information.

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