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Biblical Commission.

Pope Pius X has given evidence that he like his predecessor, the lamented Leo XIII, wishes the sacred scriptures to be studied.

In a recent letter the Holy Father, after referring to Leo's work on these lines, declares as follows:

Wherefore, praying that it may be a good and wholesome measure and redounding to the welfare of Catholicity, we do, by our Apostolic authority, institute the academic degrees of Licentiate and Doctor in the faculty of Sacred Scripture to be conferred by the Biblical Commission according to the laws hereunder written:

I. Nobody shall be advanced to the academic degrees on Sacred Scripture who is not a priest, either secular or regular, and who has not moreover obtained the Doctorate in Sacred Theology in some university or institute approved by the Apostolic See.

II. Candidates for the degree of Doctor or Licentiate are to undergo an examination, both oral and written, and the matter for this examination is to be fixed by the Biblical Commission.

III. It will be for the Commission to appoint the judges for determining the knowledge of the candidates, and these judges are to be at least five in number and consultants of the Commission. The Commission may, however, in the case of the licentiate, delegate the verdict to other suitable men.

IV. Candidates for the degree of Licentiate in Sacred Scriptures may be admitted to examination immediately they have obtained the doctorate in Sacred Theology; but candidates for the doctorate shall not be admitted until a year after obtaining the degree of Licentiate.

V. In the examination of candidates for the Doctorate in Sacred Scripture there will be this special condition, that each candidate shall expound a written thesis, selected by himself and approved by the Biblical Commission and shall afterward read the same defend it from the attacks of adversaries in a legitimate, meeting to be held in Rome.

This we do will, decree and determine, ought to the contrary notwithstanding. It only remains now that our venerable brothers, the Bishops and the other prelates, each for the advantage of his own diocese, may look for that fruit from these. Our decrees, which we hope will be abundant. To this end let them encourage and aid in the attainment of degrees in this faculty, those among their clergy whom they see to be endowed with a special taste and aptitude for special biblical studies and let them consider those who possess these degrees as specially qualified for the office of teaching Scripture in the seminaries.

Speaking of the Rev. Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst, the New York "Times" says: "It is a pity that his own profession, noble and true as the great body of its members are—cannot discipline, repress or cast out one who so pitifully discredits it."

No mortgage tax this year, is the message which comes from Albany. The legislature's record this year is practically nil.

One may not always agree with President Schürmann of Cornell, but he is not far astray when he says that "There are too many Americans whose fathers died to free the black race who now assert that no one but the white man is capable of self government."

Reason Why Perhaps.

It is the fashion for our non-Catholic friends to hold France up as a Catholic country and to point to the French government's expulsion of the religious orders as a object lesson of how even Catholics cannot put up with the terrible monks and nuns.

Catholics know that France cannot be classed a Catholic country in the sense that its government is Catholic. The administration is now in the hands of the devotees of the secret society fetish and these hate the Catholic church because she has dared to expose the machinations of these secret societies to enlighten religion in France and to install unbelief in its stead.

"But" it is argued the majority of the voters in France are Catholic. Then why do they not turn out the secret society bigots and install staunch Catholics in their places?

Judging from an extract from a recent issue of a French paper the French politicians have borrowed a leaf out of the political book of the Tweeds and the Dame Martins.

A correspondent of the London "Tablet" states that the following in the "Le Bien Public de Gand" under the caption "The Dead Who Vote":

"During the elections at Orleans, in order to assure themselves of an easy majority, the gentlemen of the bloc (the Government party) conceived the funeral idea of causing themselves to be elected by the votes of defunct electors. This idea, though brilliant, appeared to certain persons as a little far-fetched, and a courageous citizen, one M. Lorillard, desired to rid the urns of this 'Dance of Death' contingent. The names of half a hundred persons who had departed this life appeared on the electoral lists: M. Lorillard procured the certificates of Death of this mortuary phalanx and armed with them presented himself before the justices respectfully praying them to lay the ghosts. In the face of such astonishing audacity the bloc trembled with rage, and M. Rabier, who saw himself threatened with the disappearance of his phantom army corps, immediately took the train to Orleans and in open court stigmatized the action of M. Lorillard as a sale besogne. After this sentence of the eminent orator the duty of the magistrates was sufficiently indicated. Of the fifty defunct electors only four were permitted to return to the tomb; the rest remain at the disposal of the bloc to assist in overcoming the 'infamous reactionaries.'"

France's Crowning Shame.

Infidelity is rampant in France's official circles these days. Premier Combes has announced his intention of driving the religious orders out of France. The world has seen and read how the military power has been employed to break up the schools maintained by these religious orders, notwithstanding the manifested desire of the people to retain their time honored instructors.

Not only were the schools closed but the monks and nuns were driven from the monasteries and convents and their property confiscated to the state.

Not satisfied with driving out the teaching orders the godless premier has rushed through the French legislature a measure empowering the government to suppress the cloistered orders. They are not to be permitted to enroll novices; their institutions are to be closed up; their property is to be confiscated and they are to be exiled to find shelter where best they can.

To read the way these monks and nuns are to be treated one would imagine they were criminals of the basest type instead of humble followers of Christ seeking only to be allowed to worship their God in the way they had been taught from infancy.

Nothing more barbarous or inhuman could be read in the annals of pagan and heathen peoples and to think that it is to occur in a sister republic, not a benighted despotism.

It is high time for French Catholics be they monarchists or republicans in their ideas of political economy, to get together, stand together and strike a blow for their rights.

Better give up the support grudgingly given by the state to church than to submit to the exactions of the bigoted secret societies.

Even Unitarians observed Easter this year. We wonder why.

Signs of the Times.

Every few days the secular press contains some peculiar story which may be said to be "signs of the times."

The otherday the New York papers printed a harrowing tale of a woman who moved in the best society so-called who was said to be happily married who had been committed to jail in a neighboring county as a habitual drunkard.

It was stated that the woman's husband had done everything to cure her of the awful appetite for liquor but that all efforts had failed. She would brace up for a few days or weeks but sooner or later she would relapse into her old ways.

According to the New York papers this woman began her drinking career by going out to lunches after the theatre and there taking a glass or two of wine.

To speak plainly, there is far too much drinking among women than there should be. A young man hardly dars nowadays to ask a young lady to accompany him to the theatre unless he plans to invite her to lunch afterward. Lunch means a bottle of wine and it is not long before a taste for liquor is developed which lasts a lifetime.

This is not all. It is not considered "smart" to give a luncheon or a tea without the accompaniment of wine—too often it is liquor—of some sort. High balls, gin fizzes, sherry flips, cocktails are called for glibly by young women, who would sneer if their washerwoman were to sit down to a pitcher of ale. Yes, these same young scions of the smart set would be horrified if their fathers or mothers were to drink a glass of beer in their own homes.

Mothers are to blame for allowing their daughters to roam around unattended and also for allowing them to go to lunch with young men escorts. "American freedom of action" is all very pretty in theory but in practice the English custom of keeping a strict check upon the daughters is better.

Why don't you talk about the boy's drinking may be asked. That is bad, very bad, but drinking boys cannot be mentioned in the same breath with drinking girls or women. When women drink as men they put themselves on a plane with drinking men and when we lose respect for woman and womankind we have lost what is best and purest in human economy.

If women wish to win drinking men from their cups, they must cease serving and imbibing liquors at their luncheons and teas.

Pertinent Comment.

President Schürmann of Cornell, recently wrote: "In the modern world, Russia stands for force. England, France and the United States are illustrations of the power of ideas."

Whereupon a contemporary comments: "As for example the South African war with its British concentration camps in which Boer women and children were done to death; the suppression (in France) of religious liberty, and the Philippine Islands record, watercure included."

The president of St. John's college in Fordham writes to a newspaper friend: "As Father Massi became a Jesuit without ceremony, he will also without ceremony commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of his admission to the society of Jesus. No invitations have been issued for the occasion, nor will any special public celebration mark the event. On the morning of March 25, after the completion of his annual retreat, now in progress, Father Massi will simply say low mass before the students in Fordham College chapel."

When the secular "yellows" can find nothing else to write about nowadays they manufacture a yarn about Pope Pius X's health or the possible danger of anarchists in the Vatican and retail these to their unsuspecting readers as "news."

Pertinently remarks an exchange: "If St. Patrick was a Protestant he made a bad job of his mission in Ireland. Who, either now, or at any time, would ever think of Ireland in connection with Protestantism or of the average Irishman as anything but a Catholic?"

"Progressive polygamy" is what Rev. Dr. McKim of Washington, calls the "society divorces."

It is fashionable nowadays to talk of the "half civilized Russians." But we do not recall of reading about even one lynching in Russia.

Five Minute Sermon

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

We must know, says St. Augustine that God can do many things which we cannot understand. As Jesus while yet mortal could walk on the water without sinking, and as He was able without being seen or touched to pass among those who wished to cast Him from the precipice and to stone Him in the temple, so after His glorious resurrection He could pass through closed doors and enter the room without difficulty. All is explained by the power of Christ, true God and true man.

As our senses are the doors of the soul, we infer that when these senses are closed to things of the world Jesus will enter into our souls and say: "Peace be to you." Let us, then, close our eyes in order not to see the vanities of the world, our ears not to hear them spoken of, and our lips in order not to speak useless and evil words, and Jesus will come into our hearts and announce peace to us.

Weekly Church Calendar.

Sunday April 10.—Gospel, St. John, xx, 19-31.—St. Macarius, bishop.
Monday 11.—St. Leo the Great, pope doctor and confessor.
Tuesday 12.—St. Julius, pope and confessor.
Wednesday 13.—St. Hermenegild, martyr.
Thursday 14.—St. Tiburtius & Comp., martyr.
Friday 15.—St. Peter Gonzalez, confessor.
Saturday 16.—Bl. Ben. Joseph Labre, confessor.

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Opening of Ralph J. Bendon's new furnishing goods store at 249 Main St. E. All the new styles for men.



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Women's novelty hosiery, emb. lace effect, brown and tan 50c

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We have lots of gloves that cost more but want to tell you first of all of the "Cyrano," easily the best \$1.00 glove made. It is in all the new spring colors; two pearl clasps—special 75c

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SAMPLES Hats worth from \$1.50 to \$2.00 at each 75c

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All 25c chocolates per lb. 50c

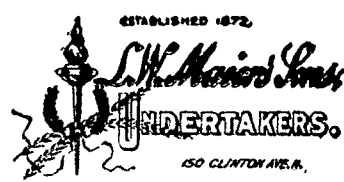
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Furniture has the basement of Colonial Hall and part of the main floor—not as much space as upon the old Third floor, but every piece of furniture should appeal to you—all new.

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We desire to thank The Old House, J. W. Martin & Bro., and the manager, G. Clay Cox, for the liberal donation of the BEAUTIFUL BROWNING PIANO, and to, as far as we can, rectify the mistake made in several of the papers that have announced that this piano was donated by a firm of similar name.

It is the wish and desire of the donors of this piano to make a SPECIAL OFFER that will increase the fund through the purchase of tickets on this instrument. Accordingly "The Old House," J. W. Martin & Bro., will place to the credit of each person buying 12 tickets on the Browning Piano they have donated, a payment of \$25 toward the purchase price of any piano that may be selected from their stock, including the Steinway. This offer will be good for thirty days from the close of the fair, to anyone except the person who secures the Browning Piano.

It is but just to a firm who have made such a liberal offer to our Fair that all who are interested in the Home should know who have assisted us in our work.

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