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SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1904

The Month of June.

The church celebrates the feast of the Sacred Heart in June and during the month we should offer up our prayers in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus that our souls may be thoroughly imbued with the beauty of this devotion. The life of Christ was one of continual kindness and the sweetness of His human heart was shown in a series of most loving acts towards the afflicted and those in distress.

We should therefore practice the devotion most sincerely and show by our love and adoration of the Sacred Heart that we desire His help in our trials and temptations and the grace to follow in His footsteps.

The Concordat.

The French government, while willing to inflict insult and contumely upon the Catholics of France, are afraid to go the extent of breaking the concordat and thus severing the relations between church and state, as the New York "Times" puts it: "That arrangement, while it is expensive, gives to the rulers of France for the time being a power over the Church which they might not be able to exercise safely, if at all, in its absence. The annual cost is estimated at \$10,000,000, though indirectly it is probably considerably more than this. But on the one hand, the taxes for this purpose are not unpopular, and their remission would obtain no recruits for the majority party, and on the other hand, if they were repealed, the amount the Church would be obliged to raise by voluntary subscription would be felt very seriously in precisely those classes where the Government now has a strong support.

American Catholics cannot understand the situation in France. In fact such a state of affairs would be intolerable to us. The Concordat gives to the Government the nomination of the Bishops from whom appointments are made by the Pope. This is a distinct recognition of a right in the nation to a certain independence of even the head of the Church, a right for which France at various times has vigorously contended. It is a substantial limitation of the sovereignty of the pope in Church affairs within the domain of France and an embodiment of the principle of national supremacy in all matters directly affecting the French people.

We incline to the opinion that most American Catholics will agree with the New York "Times" when it says: "From our point of view and our own experience it seems that the complete separation of Church and State would be far the best for one and the other. We believe that it would be even more advantageous for the Church than for State in the long run.

The statesmen of France, on the other hand, do not forget that the Concordat was originally arranged with the First Consul of the French Republic in 1801, that it was modified in favor of the State when the Pope was a prisoner in Fontainebleau, and that during its century of existence it has more often served the purposes of the state than those of the church. If they consent to surrender the authority it confers they will have to be convinced that this authority is no longer needed to control what they regard as the aggressions of the Church."

Vaudeville in Church.

Every little while we read in the daily papers some new "fandango" which has been or is about to be employed by Protestant ministers as a drawing card with which to attract congregations to their churches.

Not so long ago we read how a congregational church in Chicago was filled by the introduction of a professional whistler who warbled "Holy City" and "Voices of the Woods." Phonograph concerts are no novelty no wadays in Protestant churches.

One of the daily papers last Saturday announced that a "recently called" candidate for one of the vacant Baptist pastorates believed "in preaching the truth understandable to-day, truth incarnate rather than truth in the abstract" which is an ingenious way of saying that the would be pastor believes in preaching just what the people want and will pay liberally for.

The same preacher says he believes in the blackboard as a side adjunct to the preacher's talk because "it clarifies conception." Why not preach the Gospel straight? It does not need a blackboard to demonstrate.

Why is it that Catholic churches in which no vaudeville or extraneous attraction is presented, are filled three and four times every Sunday morning while Protestant preachers talk to empty benches?

Closed Jails.

For the third successive season the Westmeath grand jury has presented white gloves to the judges—the usual acknowledgement of the crimelessness which leaves judge, jury and bailiff occupationless.

Irish jails have been driving a rather depressing business of late years and one by one they are taking down their signs and putting up their shutters.

This fact moves Seumas McManus, who is touring the Green Isle, to comment:

"The number of closed jails in Ireland to day is far in excess of the number in which the wheels are still turning. This, though one of the most remarkable, is one of the least remarked features of Irish social progress. It is, of course not to be forgotten that oftentimes in the past the Irish jails were crammed with people of stainless character—but this alone did not account for all the now disused establishments."

All Not Gold That Glitters

We are reminded of the truth of the old saying that "all is not gold that glitters," upon perusal of a letter written recently by Robert J. McLaughlin, resigning his position as school teacher in the Philippines.

He did not like his job and says so. To be sure he had a right to quit and no one could say to him nay. But Mr. McLaughlin makes serious charges against the United States government at least that part which is responsible for the government of the Philippines. He makes the direct charges that the teachers in the province where he was stationed received no pay between August 1903 and March 15, 1904. He also alleges that he was ill for several weeks and that the superintendent of the province came to see him but did nothing toward payment of his back salary although he was penniless. In conclusion, Mr. McLaughlin makes these sweeping accusations:

"I charge the Government with corruptly neglecting its burden duty to pay the native teachers.
"I charge the Government with resorting to cowardly misrepresentations to secure employees in these islands, and with mercilessly relegating them to remote places to endure all the perils of ferocious disease, hardship, isolation, neglect and bodily danger.
"I intend to sue the Government for heavy damages for inveigling me into these islands by printing false statements in the Civil Service manual and for deliberately and maliciously hazarding my life and sacrificing my health, happiness and peace of mind.

Marvellous as has been the growth of the United States in the last 114 years, the expansion of the Catholic church during the same period has been still more striking. Where there were tens a century ago there are now thousands and the end is not yet.

A Baptist negro preacher boasts that "the richest man in the world is a member of the Baptist Church, John D. Rockefeller." The founder of the one true church was the poorest man in the world and He did not take much stock in rich men.

In his autobiography Herbert Spencer tells us that "religion can never perish." Queer assertion from one of the most noted atheists of modern days. But then, did ever an atheist live who really believed what he talked or wrote?

Mayor Cutler honored the city and himself by reappointing Bishop McQuaid to membership in the park commission. There's no more zealous member on the board.

Five Minute Sermon

The Parable of the Supper.

The supper mentioned in this Gospel signifies the entrance into paradise after which there is perfect peace and rest, and nothing to disturb the mind or tire the body. Many, however, recognize in this supper the holy Eucharistic table, and that the most precious food that is taken by receiving the Most Holy Sacrament.

When the hour for supper has come the work or business of the day is done, the meal is taken in peace, the time is passed in pleasant conversation and then each retires to rest, during which the tired body recovers new strength, the mind gains new vigor, and upon rising the following morning all feel refreshed and able to resume their work. Now the same happens to the soul when it partakes of the Eucharistic table. When a Christian approaches this table with the proper dispositions he forgets entirely the cares of the world; he converses confidently with God, his true friend, brother, and father; he enjoys peace of mind, during which he recovers from all his sufferings; he receives new strength to battle against his spiritual enemies and to carry even heavier crosses, and like a new man, he attempts to climb the high mountain of evangelical perfection.

As we have applied the parable to the Blessed Sacrament, let us reflect that he who, on account of worldly cares or of a sinful life, does not receive this sacrament runs the greatest risk of being deprived of it at the hour of death, because then Jesus Christ will refuse to be the food of those ungrateful ones who turned away from Him when He most lovingly invited them during life to partake of His table.

Weekly Church Calendar.

Sunday June 5. Gospel, St. Luke, xiv, 16-24. St. Boniface, Archbishop and martyr.
Monday 6. St. Norbert, archbishop.
Tuesday 7. St. Robert, abbot.
Wednesday 8. St. Columba, bishop and confessor.
Thursday 9. St. Columba, abbot.
Friday 10. Feast of the Sacred Heart.
Saturday 11.—St. Barnabas, apostle.

COOK OPERA HOUSE.

The Cook Opera House Stock company will next week present Belasco and DeMille's "The Charity Ball." This play is one of the most successful of comedy dramas written by these two. The play presents clever dialogue, an interesting plot and, indeed, it has been given here before and doesn't need any description. Mr. Lytell and Miss Andrews will have congenial parts as will the others of the company. Matinee performances will be given Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

National Theatre.

For next week, the last of the summer stock season at the National Theatre, where Miss Jessie Bonstelle has been entertaining capacity houses for the past three weeks, the popular and well known play, "Camille" has been selected for presentation. It was in this play that Miss Bonstelle's won her first laurels as an actress in this city, her rendition of the famous role being declared the best thing that she ever presented. Since her first appearance in the part she has been seen in it in this city no less than seventy times.

BAKER THEATRE.

The next star attraction, week of June 6th at the Baker Theatre, will be Walker Whiteside, the indefatigable young actor, supported by the Davis-Boyle Stock Company, including Miss Maude E. Hall and Mr. Montague. His clever vehicle is "We Are King," a satirical comedy written especially for him by Lieut. Gordon Keane of the British Army. There will be the usual matinees on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. A handsome souvenir will be given to each lady attending the performance Monday matinee.

Picnic and Excursion Parties are now being booked by E. C. Roesser at New York Central office, 20 State street, for Manitou Beach and other points along the line. Special rates to excursion parties with improved service and excellent accommodations.

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