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ST. PAUL'S NEW CATHEDRAL

James J. Hill and His Wife Contrib-
uted \$1,500,000 Toward It.
James J. Hill, president of the Great
Northern railroad, will supplement his
many gifts to the Catholic Church by a
donation of \$1,500,000, given jointly
by himself and Mrs. Hill, toward the
erection of the new \$3,000,000 cathedral
in St. Paul, Minn., in which two of the
wealthiest parishes in that city will join.

This announcement was made recent-
ly by members of the clergy in con-
nection with further statements of the
progress of the cathedral movement.
The remaining \$1,500,000 is already in
sight and will be subscribed by
wealthy citizens.

This latest gift of Mr. Hill and his
wife is the biggest that has come from
a purse which has been for years wide
open, as it were, to the Catholic Church
in the west. It makes possible the
completion of what is supposed to be
the finest cathedral church in the west.
It was Mrs. Hill's gift a few years ago
that enabled the Catholic Church to
build the \$500,000 seminary for the stu-
dents for priesthood in Groveland Park.

The new cathedral will crown the
height, on St. Anthony's hill, which
commands a view of St. Paul and the
adjoining country for miles around.
This is the center of the most fashion-
able district in the city, scarcely a
stone's throw from the magnificent re-
sidence erected by Commodore Kitson.
The cathedral itself is to be modeled
in the style of the world famous Notre
Dame cathedral in Paris. The exterior
will be made entirely of solid granite,
with the exception of the portals,
which will be of the rarest Italian
marble. The design for the interior is
not yet completed.

Archbishop Ireland, when asked
about Mr. Hill's gift said:

"It would hardly be proper for me to
make any statement about Mr. Hill's
gift at this time. It is enough to say
that it makes possible the construction
of our cathedral. I feel new encourage-
ment to take up the work now and
have only one dream, to see it com-
pleted during my lifetime. I had feared
that the younger men would undertake
this task, but it appears after all that
I'm to have my wishes fulfilled. One
always must have some one thing to
look forward to in late years. This is
what confronts me, and I am prepared
for it."

Decorated by His Holiness.

A rare decoration has been bestowed
by the Pope on Mrs. Thomas Fortune
Ryan of New York city. It is the cross
"Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" and was
conferred upon Mrs. Ryan as a
reward for piety and charity. The
decoration is a silver Maltese cross,
having in the center the insignia of
the Pope, the miter and keys of St.
Peter, and with it came the following
diploma, signed by the cardinal secre-
tary of state, Merry del Val:

The Holy Father is pleased to bestow
the cross "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" of
the first class to Mrs. Ida M. Ryan in
attestation of approbation for the devo-
tion and loyalty shown to the Church and
its supreme head. The cardinal secretary
of state has the pleasure to transmit to
her the diploma and the said cross, to the
end that the latter may adorn her bosom
in the manner customary for other de-
corations.

Mrs. Ryan has devoted a large part
of her fortune to the building of chap-
els, hospitals and churches and has
recently erected a cathedral and par-
ochial school at Monroe Park, Va., at a
cost of \$375,000. The cross and diplo-
ma were delivered to her the other
day by Bishop Van de Vyner of Rich-
mond.

World's Fair Catholic Congress.

The subject of holding a Catholic
congress at the world's fair in St. Louis
next fall has been broached by a num-
ber of distinguished Catholics, both
clerical and lay. As this fair is to be
held to commemorate the purchase of
the Louisiana territory, a portion of
the country that is peculiarly of interest
to Catholics, inasmuch as it was
explored exclusively in the early colo-
nial days and first settled by Catholics,
the appropriateness of such a congress
at the fair is apparent. As yet no ac-
tual steps have been taken with re-
gard to this purpose, but it is expected
that it will take some definite shape
soon.

Lesson of the Martyrs.

Every principle of honest living that
the Church lays down is written in the
blood of tens of thousands of the mar-
tyred dead. The lessons that they
taught can never be forgotten. And
the fact that many of the noblest and
best among them gave up their lives so
willingly is proof sufficient that the
faith they lived by was both intelli-
gent and sincere.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Germany's repeal of the anti-Jesuit
law is regarded as a prelude to the es-
tablishment in Berlin of a papal nun-
derature.

In the devout villages of Catholic
countries the first thirteen stations of
the cross are often erected out of doors,
the last station being the shrine of the
village church.

Abbot Francis Gasquet, who was
much talked of after the death of Car-
dinal Vaughan as his successor, is about
to leave England and take up his resi-
dence in Rome.

Cardinal Gibbons was present at the
Pontifical High Mass celebrated in the
Church of the Epiphany, Pittsburg, in
observance of the golden jubilee of
the Right Rev. Richard Phelan, D. D.,
bishop of that city.

Word comes from Rome of a strong
movement set on foot among contin-
ental Catholic countries for the can-
onization of the late Pope Pius IX.
Many petitions have been received in
Rome asking for consideration of the
matter.

THE NEARNESS OF GOD

And Yet How Many Never Take Ad-
vantage of Their Opportunity.

On awakening in the morning behold
the good God extending his hand to
you, saying, "Do you wish that I should
care for you today?" And you, poor
soul, give your hand to this good Fa-
ther and say to him: "Yes, yes, lead me,
guard me, love me. I will be very, very
submissive." And if you remain under
the guidance and protection of God, is
it possible that you should be sad or
fearful or unhappy? No. God will
never permit a suffering which your
mother would not have permitted. No
God will never send you a trial which
your mother would not have sent. He
loves you more than your mother, and
he is more powerful. Oh, then spend
your day calmly and tranquilly, with
a thousand times more security than
when you were a child and felt your
mother near you.

Morning after morning the priest
comes forth to renew the oblation of
the spotless victim. A few there are
who, with bowed heads and lowly
hearts, kneel about the altar. Softly
rings the bell, telling that once more
the Saviour has descended to earth as
he came long ago an infant in Bethle-
hem.

Soon it is all over. One by one the
people silently steal away. The priest
reverently departs. And he who pre-
sents is once more alone. Alone! A sym-
pathetic friend out of all the multitude
over and anon finds his way to the
feet of Jesus, the little lamp ceases not
to flicker as it burns itself away in
love, but for all else Jesus is alone.

Oh, may we not well imagine Him
saying: "Alas, man, why do you thus
abandon Me? Why do you thus care-
lessly pass Me by? Why do you thus
leave Me alone? Is it for this I com-
mended always to remain on earth? This
solitude crushes Me. Oh, man, man,
come to Me, to My comfort now, and I
will be your solace for eternity!"

Hard indeed must be our hearts if
we turn a deaf ear to this appeal of
our loving Saviour—Golden Sands.

Faith.

Faith is a word that has had a long
history in this world. It has been the
watchword of many a fight, the motive
of many a sacrifice, the burden of
many a prayer. Millions have held
fast to faith in their lives; thousands
have testified to faith by their deaths.
Now, faith, or belief, in its primary and
elementary conception, is the accept-
ance of information on trust—on the
word of another. If I have never been
in London, I accept the fact that there
is such a place as London, and I ac-
cept it on the word of another. If I
have never tested the strength of wood
and iron myself, still I confidently en-
ter a railway carriage, trusting to what
others have investigated and pronounced.
But if I have visited London, and
if I have sufficient experimental knowl-
edge of the materials used in carriage
building, then I do not believe these
things, but I know them.—Bishop Hed-
ley, O. S. B.

Resistance in France.

Apocryphal of the recent passage of the
Combes bill in France ordering the re-
moval of the sacred emblems that were
hung on the walls in the courthouses,
the following from the London Tablet
is of interest: "At Dunkirk the consular
judges refused the workmen entrance
into their consulting room, declaring
that the picture of the crucifixion there-
in, which had been painted and pre-
sented in 1843 by Mlle. Rety, was their
property and that they were free to
keep it in a place to which the public
was not admitted. At Hasebroeck not
a single workman could be got to do
the job, whereupon the porter of the
court was compelled to do it under
threat of dismissal. The mayor then took
pictures to the Hotel de Ville (town hall), where, in
presence of the town council, they were
hung up in the council chamber."

In Honor of Mary.

Let us be more constant and fervent
in our devotion to our Blessed Mother
this year of her jubilee. Say daily
some extra prayers in honor of her
Immaculate Conception, such as "Bless-
ed be the holy and Immaculate Con-
ception of the Most Blessed Virgin
Mary, Mother of God," with three
"Hail Marys" in thanksgiving to God
for this inestimable privilege granted
to one of our fallen race. St. Cyril sal-
uted Mary as "the scepter and stay of
the true faith." So shall we keep our
faith in Christ and His Church intact
and inviolable as long as we persevere
in our devotion and love to His Holy
Mother.

The Church of Christ.

Once admit that Jesus Christ is God
and that He established a Church to
last until the end of time and you must
logically be a Catholic, for it is unrea-
sonable to believe that His work failed
and that the discordant man made
sects that constitute Protestantism are
His church. It must have one faith,
one Lord, one baptism, and they have
as many beliefs as they have members.
—Catholic Columbian.

SHORT SERMONS.

A straight line is the shortest in mor-
als as in mathematics.

Repentance is the golden key that
opens the palace of eternity.

When a friend offends you be as good
as the lawyers and give him the ad-
vantage of a technicality or two.

The love of God inspires the love of
our neighbor, and the love of our neighbor
serves to keep alive the love of God.

It is in the lulls of life that great
things are lost and won. You struggle
against the tides that beset you, but
those tides never rest.

THE NEARNESS OF GOD

On awakening in the morning behold
the good God extending his hand to
you, saying, "Do you wish that I should
care for you today?" And you, poor
soul, give your hand to this good Fa-
ther and say to him: "Yes, yes, lead me,
guard me, love me. I will be very, very
submissive." And if you remain under
the guidance and protection of God, is
it possible that you should be sad or
fearful or unhappy? No. God will
never permit a suffering which your
mother would not have permitted. No
God will never send you a trial which
your mother would not have sent. He
loves you more than your mother, and
he is more powerful. Oh, then spend
your day calmly and tranquilly, with
a thousand times more security than
when you were a child and felt your
mother near you.

Age of Mother Earth.

An eminent scientist's estimate of
the age of the world is "not so great
as 40,000,000 years, possibly as little as
20,000,000 years, probably 30,000,000
years." As not even the greatest sci-
entists have been able to find out with-
in 10,000,000 or 15,000,000 years how
old Mother Earth is, it must be con-
fessed that she keeps the secret of her
age quite as well as do her charming
daughters. The scientists may at last
come to the conclusion that, like the
others, she is "only as old as she
looks."—Baltimore Sun.

Hasped.

"Do you shave yourself very close?"
said the barber.
"Not very," said the victim. "I usu-
ally leave enough skin to fasten the
court plaster on, but of course you
didn't know that before you began."—
Cincinnati Times-Star.

His Theory.

"It is better to rule by love than
fear," said the gentle philosopher.
"Yes," answered Senator Sorghum.
"It is people's love of money that has
made life easy for me."—Washington
Star.

Cardinal Merry del Val.

The new secretary of state at the
Vatican is the least homme du monde
of any of the monsignori with whom
I have been acquainted, if we take
that term in a broad sense, though he
is a man to shine in an aristocratic
drawing-room and could with advan-
tage have figured in Disraeli's last
novel. But he is the most cosmopol-
itan, perhaps, of all the monsignori
and is equally at home in Ireland (with
which he is connected by his mother),
in England (also through her), and
—through long periods of residence—
in Belgium, Italy, Spain and France,
where he has family connections. The
facility with which he learns lan-
guages is almost phenomenal, and he
speaks and writes the tongues of the
different countries I have named, in-
cluding Flemish. His father represent-
ed Spain in Rome and London, where
Mgr. Merry del Val came out at the
coronation as extra nuncio. He had
previously gone on a special mission
to Canada to settle some thorny mat-
ters, and succeeded through the help
of Sir W. Laurier. Leo XIII took a
fancy to Mgr. Merry del Val for his
refinement, innate elegance and Latin-
ity. He and the present Pope were
among the few who did not set the ex-
tremely sensitive nerver of the late
Pope on an edge.—London Truth.

Mary in the Temple.

St. Anselm, speaking of the life of
the Holy Virgin in the temple, says:
"She persevered in prayer, in the read-
ing of the Holy Scriptures, in fasting
and all virtuous works." St. Jerome
goes more into detail and tells us how
Mary's life was ordered: "From early
in the morning till 9 o'clock she re-
mained in prayer, from 9 to 3 she was
engaged in labor, at 3 she resumed her
prayers until the angel, as usual,
brought her food. She was most con-
stant in vigils, the most exact in ob-
edience to the Divine law, the most per-
fected in humility and the most per-
fected in every virtue. No one ever saw
her angry."

Countess Castellane a Convert.

A recent dispatch from Paris says:
"Countess Castellane, formerly Miss
Anna Gould, has become a Catholic,
and her children will undoubtedly be
brought up in the Catholic faith. The
Castellane family are ardent Catho-
lics, the young count having attracted
much attention by his violent attacks
upon the present French government.
They have quietly exerted their influ-
ence upon the mind of the countess un-
til she has become a Catholic. She
never misses a day's service in her pri-
vate chapel."

What We Receive.

We should understand that we have
no right to complain if graces or spiri-
tual favors are given more abundantly
to others than to ourselves. We re-
ceive all we are entitled to, and, in-
deed, immensely more. That others
receive even more liberally is not con-
trary to God's justice, but simply an
effect of His mercy, which is, of
course, not capricious, but having its
reason in His wisdom, which is for us
inscrutable.

Give Thanks.

When you have received any pleas-
ant news that fills you with hope or
joy be mindful of the claims of friend-
ship. Hasten at once to Him who
loves you, and who awaits you. Tell
Him of your happiness, adding that it
is an additional joy to know that you
owe it to the watchful care of His
parental goodness.

Herotism.

Herotism is the brilliant triumph of
the soul over the flesh—that is to say,
over fear—fear of poverty, of suffer-
ing, or calumny, of sickness, of isola-
tion and of death. There is no serious
pleasure without herotism.

CONSCIENCE SATISFIED

Charity Got All That A Man Is
Worth To

"Henry!"
"Yes, dear."
"You needn't take so much trouble
to come in quietly. I've been awake
these three mortal hours. What time
is it?"
"About three o'clock."
"Nice time for you to be getting
home, isn't it? Where have you
been?"

"Over at Glanville."

Glance. Suppose you mean that
disreputable Bill Clark, who she
was there?

"Well, my dear, since it interests
you so deeply, the other members of
the party were Dr. Gilroy, lawyer
Howe and Maj. Smith."

"A nice set of ruffians! What were
you doing?"

"Having a social little chat. The
time slipped—"

"What else did you do?"

"Part of the time we played cards."

"Part of the time. What were you
playing?"

"Caroline, it was a game familiarly
known as draw poker. Now it's like
to go to sleep."

"Henry!"

"What?"

"Wake up. Did you win or lose?"

"Won, I guess."

"How much?"

"Don't know. Glanville said. Go to
sleep!"

"But about how much?"

"Henry sighed. 'As nearly as I can
remember about \$10.'"

"Now, aren't you ashamed? Out-
raged! I never should have thought
such a thing in the world. Now,
Henry—"

"What did you want me to do—
lose?"

"There's no use trying to treat the
matter flippantly. You can just go
right back and return every cent of
that money to the gentlemen you
won it from."

"But they've gone to bed."

"Then, the first thing to-morrow
morning."

Henry explained the involved char-
acter of the pecuniary relationships
in which it was possible, he said, for
every man to be a loser to everyone
of his opponents. A return of the
spells was out of the question. The
argument seemed satisfactory for
several minutes. Then the prosecu-
tion reopened.

"I'll forgive you on one condition."

"Name it."

"That you give \$20 of that money
for charity and every cent of the rest
of it for some new clothes for my
self."

Ten minutes later.

"I guess \$10 ought to do for char-
ity, don't you think so, Henry?"

New York Press.

The Den.

Clean all the house and clean the
barn.

Clean garret, kitchen, pen;

Clean all the closets till they shine.

But, woman, spare the den.

The gay French norel lying there

Upon the alken shade

Must not stand up against the wall

Like Cromwell on parade.

The Arab's head, upon the stand,

In all his wrath will rise

If you, with dust, dust his face,

And fill with dust his eyes

And you would scrub that inkspot on

And never feel nor care

Yet you was the time I had

The night I spilled it there.

Why dust the picture of the deer

That, wounded, sinks at bay

And thus wipe out the tiger marks

Of one who's passed away?

Clean all the house and clean the

barn.

Clean garret, kitchen, pen;

Clean all the closets till they shine.

But, woman, spare the den.

—Indianapolis Sun

An Air of Uncertainty.

Mr. Bashful—Isn't it close here?

Miss Pacer—Well, I have felt it
closer.—Chips.

From Florida.

A colored preacher in Orlando, Fla.,
the other night was exhorting his
hearers to try to get to heaven. He
shook his finger at a long row of
fashionably dressed northern visitors
and said triumphantly:

"Sisters and brothers, let me tell
you that heaven is so warm an pleas-
ant, an de-acclimatization up dar am
so puffed dat none ob you rich
Northern folks will ever feel like run-
nin' away from your fine