

Cheerful and Sincere Devotion That
Marks the Piety of Their Faith.
Impressions of a Convert From the
Scottish Presbyterian Church.

The readers of the Glasgow Observer
are being favored nowadays with a
noteworthy series of articles bearing
the general title "A Convert's First Im-
pressions." More interesting and read-
able matter than is furnished by this
particular convert's experiences on
joining the Church we have not met
with in a long while. In the latest is-
sue of the Observer the writer discuss-
es the spontaneity and naturalness of
Catholic piety and illustrates his point
by many a graphic picture, among oth-
ers the following:

"Go to Ireland (and a more Catholic
nation does not exist on the face of
this earth), and there you see how sim-
ply and naturally the people practice
their religion. There is an easy, uncon-
ventional style about the whole thing
which is truly edifying. Not one morn-
ing, but seven mornings in the week,
whether in crowded cities or quiet vil-
lages, the church bell summons the
faithful to Mass and Holy Communion
—not after an ample breakfast of ham
and eggs (according to the principle of
that typical Presbyterian, Dr. Guthrie
—'porridge first and then prayers'),
but with an unbroken fast, at 4 or 5 or
6 a. m., when Protestants are snoring
in their beds. (Cheerfully the people re-
spond, and Scotch folks would be as-
tounded if they beheld the numbers
who morning after morning, without
any obligation, but purely out of devo-
tion, begin the day with Jesus Christ
in the Blessed Sacrament. At midday
the Angelus bell peals forth through
streets and hills and valleys. In the
afternoon there is a constant stream
of visitors to the Blessed Sacrament,
some remaining for long periods of
time, so sweet do they find it to be in
the presence of their Saviour.

"At the corner of almost every street
a little shrine is fixed, from which
some holy face looks down upon you
as you pass; on the country roads you
suddenly find yourself kneeling before
a wayside crucifix or a shrine of Our
Blessed Lady; in the fields and on the
hillsides you hear the pious workers
singing their sweet and simple hymns
to Mary, and even the little children
run up and take your hand and beg a
holy picture or a rosary in a way that
is not to be resisted.

"These are but samples to show how
natural and simple and unaffected
Catholics are in practicing their reli-
gion. I am not copying this from a
guidebook, but writing what I know
and have seen myself. They do not put
on long faces and a special black suit
and look preternaturally solemn on one
day out of seven. They live in con-
stant remembrance of their religion,
and by ever recurring fast and festival,
by rosaries, scapulars, crucifixes, medals
and the Agnus Dei, it is kept be-
fore their minds and eyes."

If the best of Catholics to the man-
ner born were to be thrust into the
darkness and barrenness of Protestant-
ism or unbelief for a brief period they
would love their religion more than
they do, be more faithful in practicing
it and more zealous for its propagation.
We hope that "A Convert's First Im-
pressions" will be republished in book
form for the good that they are calcu-
lated to do among Protestants, as well
as Catholics, for whose benefit they
were primarily intended. Ave Maria.

The Orders and Their Heads.

THE DEAD PRIEST.
A shadow slept folded in vestments,
The dream of a smile on his face,
Dim, soft as the gleam after sunset
That hangs like a halo of grace,
Where the daylight hath died in the val-
ley
And the twilight hath taken its place—
A shadow! But still on the mortal
There rested the tremulous trace
Of the joy of a spirit immortal
Passed up to its God in His grace.

A shadow! Haat seen in the summer
A cloud wear the smile of the sun?
On the shadow of death there is flashing
The glory of noble deeds done.
On the face of the dead there is glowing
The light of a holy race run,
And the smile of the face is reflecting
The gleam of the crown he has won.
Still, shadow, sleep on in the vestments
Unstained by the priest who has gone.

Yes, sorrow weeps over the shadow,
But faith looks above to the skies,
And hope, like a rainbow, is flashing
O'er the tears that rain down from their
eyes
They murmur on earth, "De profundis;"
The low chant is mingled with sighs,
"Laudate" rings out through the heav-
ens—
The dead priest hath won his faith's
prize.
—Father Ryan.

THE CHURCH AND SCIENCE.
Some Inventions the World Owes to
Catholic Clergy.

The Linzer Quartalscript gathers to-
gether an interesting list of some of
the discoveries and inventions due to
the Catholic clergy.

Guido, a monk of Arezzo, discovered
the musical scale, the fundamental
rules of music and the principles of
harmony.

The deacon of Amalfi, Flavio Gioja,
perfected the magnet and so rendered pos-
sible the great ocean navigations which
revolutionized history. A Dominican,
Spina, invented spectacles. The first
astronomical clock was built in 1226
by Richard Wallingford, abbot of St.
Albans. The Jesuit Cavalieri discovered
the scale of colors in sunlight in
1647. Another Cavalieri, a Jeronite
monk, who died in 1647, invented the
method of the "invisible" for measur-
ing surfaces and solids, now supplanted
by the differential calculus. Regi-
omontanus, whose real name was Jo-
hann Muller, bishop of Regensburg,
who died in 1476, was the first inven-
tor of the metric system, erected a press
in Nuremberg for the publication of
rare mathematical works, was a great
astronomer and long before Galileo
(died 1642) taught that the sun was
stationary and that the earth revolved,
greatly advanced the sciences of al-
gebra and trigonometry and improved
several mechanical instruments. The
Jesuit Kircher (died 1680) was the in-
ventor of a lens and Heber of the pan-
tometer and the magic lantern. An-
other Jesuit, Scheiner, in 1650 inven-
ted the pantograph. The immortal Co-
pernicus, the father of modern astron-
omy, whom Luther called "a fool who
wanted to upset the whole art of as-
tronomy," was a canon of Frauenburg.
A Spanish monk, Pedro de Ponce, de-
vised the first method of instructing
deaf mutes, while the French Abbe de
L'Epée was the inventor of the deaf
and dumb alphabet.

The list of the Linz Quarterly is in-
teresting, but certainly incomplete. We
miss from it, for instance, all reference
to the illustrious Francis Bacon of Ox-
ford, Prior Roger Bacon (1214-94), the most
famous cultivator of mathematical and
natural sciences in the middle ages, the
inventor probably of the telescope, while
his claim to the invention of gun
powder is shared with another friar,
Berthold Schwarz. Long before either,
in the tenth century, Gerbert, afterward
Pope Sylvester II, was equally cele-
brated as a mathematician and phys-
icist. Again we miss the "father of ge-
ology," the Catholic Bishop Stenson or
Stenlinus. Catholic Home Companion.

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER.
Doubts for coming days possess me;
Fears that I may waiting be,
Though convinced that Thou wilt bless
me.
If I from the danger flee
True, Thy love doth e'er attend me,
Sweet and merciful and free,
But, dear Lord, from self defend me;
Keep my service all for Thee!

Weakling oft, the tempest rages
In my breast, and none may know
Of the angry storm that wages
In the heart depths far below!
For the days so closely near me
(Give to me Thy strength and peace,
And, dear Lord and Master, hear me,
Grant me from self love release!)
—Amadeus, O. S. F., in Guidon.

THE BISHOP OBJECTED.
A Sermon on St. Patrick That Heated
His Limerick Blood.

An amusing story is told of Scattery
Island in connection with St. Patrick.
A newly ordained priest was invited to
give the panegyric of the saint on
his first day in Limerick. The cath-
edral was crowded, and the sacrifice
preacher had to pass on his way to the
pulpit was filled with clerical students,
many of whom were friends of the
orator. As he threaded his way
through them he whispered to one of
them who was a bit of a wag, "Tell
me where St. Patrick was born?" "In
Scattery Island, of course. Surely you
know that."

The preacher delivered a well pre-
pared and eloquent discourse which
was highly appreciated by all those
who were listening to him and who
were, like himself, citizens of Limerick
of the violated treaty. The aged bish-
op, who was very deaf, had been
wheeled to the front of the pulpit
stairs, from whence, with ear trumpet,
he could follow the discourse of the
preacher, who was a protegee of his.

Everything was right until near the
close, when the young priest wished to
speak of St. Patrick's birthplace. He
then delivered himself somewhat in
this manner: "What an encouragement
it ought to be to you to lead holy lives,
you faithful Catholics of Limerick, to
know that the great apostle of Ireland
was born on that sacred little island,
Scattery Island, at the mouth of your
splendid river."

The bishop could not stand this falsi-
fication of all history, so he shouted
out, "That is not true, sir; he was not
born there."

The poor young orator then said: "His
lordship the bishop corrects me and
says that St. Patrick was not born
on that island. But it matters not
much when we consider that his soil
was made sacred by his footsteps and
hallowed by his tears and prayers."

And he would have continued in that
strain, but the bishop could restrain
himself no longer and shouted out in
a voice still louder than before: "Come
down, sir, come down at once, and
don't be teaching my people what is
false. St. Patrick was never on Scat-
tery Island, nor, for the matter of
that, did he set his foot at all on County
Clare, but he blessed that county
from Limerick." Donahoe's Magazine.

St. Michael the Archangel.
St. Michael the Archangel is honored
in the Church's calendar by two feast
days on May 8 and on Sept. 29. He is
honored above all the other angels
because God Himself has distinguished
him above all others and because he is
united with us by special bonds as the
great protector of the universal Church.
In every age, in every clime, great hon-
or has been paid to him. The number-
less altars and churches dedicated to
him and many confraternities bearing
his name, the various devotions prac-
ticed in his honor, all give testimony to
the love and confidence the Church has
ever entertained for the glorious arch-
angel. And this unswerving confidence
in St. Michael's patronage is well
founded, for his extraordinary sanctity
places him near to the throne of God,
the source of every blessing. His valor
and power make him dreadful to the
enemies of our salvation. His love of
God makes him ever ready to lead us
wandering children back to the home
of our affectionate Father.

WHAT WAR VESSELS COST.
Uncle Sam Pays Well for His Fighting
Machines.

The cost of the U. S. S. Charles-
ton for hull and machinery was \$2,740,-
000. She was launched January 24,
1904.

The contract price for the Alabama
for hull and machinery was \$2,650,000.
Her mean draft is 23 feet 6 inches,
extreme breadth 72 feet 2 1/2 inches.

Contract price for the Kearsarge
was \$2,250,000, mean draft 23 feet 6
inches, extreme breadth 72 feet 2 1/2
inches.

Contract price for the Kentucky
\$2,250,000, mean draft 23 feet 6 inches,
extreme breadth 72 feet 2 1/2 inches.

The contract price for the Missouri
was \$2,885,000, mean draft 23 feet 2 1/2
inches.

The contract price of the Virginia
was \$3,590,000.

A Railroad Automobile.
The automobile has been adapted to
railroad tracks by the use of steel
flanges which are fitted on the wheels
outside the rubber tires. Light ma-
chines have been introduced on vari-
ous railroad lines for the use of track
inspectors. Owing to the absence of
obstructions on the railroad tracks
and the smoothness of the rails a
much higher speed can be attained
than could be got out of the same
machine on a road.

A Reason For It.
There is a well-known story told by
Dean Ramsay years ago of two old lad-
ies of his church. "Was it no a
wonderful thing," said one of them,
"that the Breeshish were eye victorious
over the French in battle?" "Not a
bit," said the other, "dinna ye ken the
Breeshish say their prayers before gaein
into battle?" "Aye," returned the
first, "but canna the Frenchmen say
their prayers as well?" The reply
was: "Hoot! Jabberin' bodiee! Wha
could understand them?"

A Mistake in Heaven.
Kinglake, the historian of the Crip-
mean war, was approached by a spiri-
tualist one day, who told him that
the speaker had had a command from
the recently deceased Mrs. Kinglake
to convert "William Alexander King-
lake" to his doctrines. "Well," said
Kinglake, "even in heaven one has
a right to expect accuracy. My name
is Alexander William Kinglake." The
commissioner left at once.

POSSESSION OF LOUISIANA.
How Spain Secured It From and Re-
turned It to France.

Spain acquired possession of Louisi-
ana in 1763, after the treaty of peace
at Paris, when France, which had
ceded Louisiana to Spain under the
secret treaty of 1762, gave up all her
other possessions in North America
to Great Britain. Spain held the ter-
ritory for 37 years, returning it to
France on the demand of Napoleon
Bonaparte, through the secret treaty
of St. Ildefonso, October 1, 1800.
France did not take possession until
after the sale to the United States,
when it did so in order to give a
legal title to the purchase. The pur-
chase gave this nation the control of
the Mississippi river system and ex-
tended its title over a territory greater
than the original area of the country.

SELECTIONS.
Churches are an awful long ways
from good fishing.
It makes a man awful tired work-
ing hard to keep from doing anything.
In an argument the way to get the
other fellow mad is not to let him get
you mad.
You don't have to tell a girl you are
going to kiss her; she can tell it
quicker than you.
It's curious how little objection you
have to drinking water when it isn't
the only thing you have to drink.
A widow has a mighty quiet, soft
way of making you do a thing you
want to do.

Bird Sleeps on the Wing.
The frigate bird can feed, collect
materials for its nest, and even sleep
on the wing. The spread of the frigate
bird's wings is very great, and it
can fly at a speed of 96 miles an hour
without seeming to move its wings to
any great degree. Mr. J. Lancaster,
an American naturalist, asserts that
he has seen a frigate bird on the wing
for a whole week, night and day,
without rest.

Preparing in Advance.
Among the numerous superstitions
of the Cossacks there is none stronger
than the belief that they will enter
heaven in a better state if they are
personally clean at the time they are
killed. Consequently, before an ex-
pected battle they perform their toilet
with scrupulous care, dress them-
selves in clean garments and put on
the best they have.

Economy That Pays.
An order has been received by the
railroad employes of the Boston &
Maine that all waste paper shall be
saved, packed into bags and at a cer-
tain time each month be shipped to
Boston, where it will be sold to junk
dealers. Lead car seals and brass
lantern burners have been so collect-
ed for some time.

The Pope Dug Grave.
When the present pope was a priest,
and the doors of the church had to be
unfastened very early in the morn-
ing, he frequently opened them him-
self, so as not to disturb the beadle
if he had slept too long. When there
were not enough persons to carry a
coffin he frequently assisted, and it is
recorded of him that on one occasion
he helped to dig a grave.

Trebizond on the Black Sea.
The city of Trebizond, one of the most
important cities and ports in the
Black Sea. It is about 480 miles from
Constantinople and 100 miles from
Batoum. It is the port of entry as
well as the distributing point for the
interior, viz., Erzerum, Bitlis, and Van,
and for the caravan route to and from
Persia.

Brazilian-German Bank.
An old wish of German exporters
to Brazil has been fulfilled in the es-
tablishment of a branch of the Brazil-
ian Bank of Germany at Porto Alegre.
It is believed that the German trade
to the Rio Grande region will profit
greatly from this new institution.

London Bridge Widening.
Widening London bridge from 53
feet 5 inches to 65 feet has cost \$3,500,
a running inch. But its roadway, 35
feet wide, and its footwalks of 15
feet width on either side are worth
\$500,000 more in increased facility
for its enormous traffic.

REFLECTIONS.

He who serves his friends is a busy
man.
It sometimes happens that headache
is an aching void.
It is foolish to waste advice on peo-
ple who can't take a hint.
Sometimes the proof of the pudding
is the undertaker's bill.
Obscurity is the abiding place of
the husband of a prominent woman.
Hope is a pretty poor life preserver
to fall into trouble with.
No matter how ugly a girl you meet
it is good policy to be nice to her
till you find out if she is an heiress.
An umbrella isn't much good until
it is used up.
All men have brains, but some
haven't sense enough to use them.
A man's idea of a heroine is a wo-
man who can suffer in silence.
The Lord hasn't time to help a man
who is too lazy to help himself.
When a girl is in love it takes
but one other person to make a world.

Water Power Better Than Steam.
Even in Spain waterfalls are now
being used as a source of electric
power. In Italy the employment of
innumerable waterfalls has enormous-
ly increased the output of manufac-
tured silk. "Here," says an English
writer, "is a form of power that will
last longer than Great Britain's coal
fields."

An Ancient Malediction.
A German society has lately pub-
lished an interesting paper on the
subject of ecclesiastical anathemas
launched in the middle ages against
animals. Among the maledictions
cited is that of a pastor of Dresden,
who in 1559 cursed the sparrows for
disturbing his congregation.

Brazilian Agriculture.
Although the Brazilian state of
Bahia is almost entirely an agricul-
tural region, plows, harrows and cul-
tivators are practically unknown
there.
Good Paper From Hops.
The discovery has been made that
good paper can be produced from the
refuse hops that have hitherto been
thrown away in breweries.

The gold returns of Queensland for
May show a total yield of 60,300
ounces.
Size of Boston Common.
Boston Common contains about 48
acres.
The shore line of Maine, including
islands, is about 2,400 miles.

NEW YEAR'S

Let bygones be bygones
Who's buffed in neither
Dinna cloot the auld days
And the new ones the gither.
Wi' the fause and the fallings
O' past years be done
Wi' a grip o' fresh freen'ship
A New Year begin.

What'er its faults, what'er
its joys, what'er its sorrows, 1904
will be a memory to most our
readers when this issue reaches
them. If the old year brought
sorrow as our portion let's try to
forget it. If it brought joy, let's
hope 1905 will be as bright. "The
old order changeth, yielding place
to new" so let us cherish hope,
that greatest happiness of man
and enter upon the new twelve-
month with courage, with fortitude
with hearts filled with love of God
and our neighbor.

In the words of the poet, if we
have differed with a dear friend,
let bygones be bygones, clasp
hands with our brother and begin
the New Year with a clean slate.
But above and over all let us not
forget that God has watched over
us for a year and that we owe
Him at least love and respect. If
we say a prayer night and morning
and go to mass on Sundays we will
pay a portion of the debt we owe
Him. If we refrain from criticism
of our neighbors and from circu-
lating scandal we will save our-
selves many heartaches because
"we rarely repent of having spok-
en too little very often of having
spoken too much." A determina-
tion to be to others' faults a little
blind will yield as much in the way
of spiritual reward as any other
New Year's resolution.

A happy New Year to all our
readers!

Flippant

The Journal has had respect for
Professor Walter Rauschenbusch's
sturdy stand on reforms in municipal
government, but when he attempts to
discuss Catholicity through Baptist
hued spectacles we must say he does
challenge even respect for a worthy
antagonist.

Last Tuesday Professor Rauschen-
busch talked on Dr. Dollinger and
Old Catholicity before the Ministers' and
Association of Rochester. Either the
professor or the newspaper reporter
who attempted to convey his ideas to
the dear public was befuddled because
we have not been able to make out
just what he was driving at. We
gather however that at the Vati-can
Council Pope Pius IX shook his
crozier—"crook" Professor Rauschen-
busch called it—while the Jesuits
acted like "collie dogs," whipping in-
to line the retractory sheep—not a
very convincing or dignified argument
to proceed from a learned professor in
a Baptist theological seminary.

We are heartily in accord with the
professor in his conclusion—that "Old
Catholicity" did not take well in Ger-
many or anywhere else. One Luther
was enough even in that Protestant
country.

The Pope Bicycle Daily Memorandum
Calendar for 1905 contains a
memorandum leaf for every day in
the year, and 365 original sayings in
favor of good roads, good health, out-
door exercise, and that great vehicle
of health-giving, the modern bicycle,
by our most eminent living men of
marked accomplishment. The calendar
is free at Pope Mfg. Co.'s stores or any
of our readers can obtain it by send-
ing five 2 cent stamps to Pope Mfg.
Co., Hartford, Conn., or 143 Sigel St.,
Chicago, Ill.

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