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SATURDAY, DEC. 30, 1905.

Another Year.
And now we will say farewell to
1905.

To some it has been a season of
sadness. Disappointed hopes, un-
realized ambitions, may have fallen
to the lot of some. Bereavement
of loved ones, sickness, poverty,
may have been the cross laid upon
others. Happiness, fruition of hopes,
blessings unobscured may have
been the portion of others.

No matter in what class we find
ourselves, 1905 will soon pass into
oblivion. For good or for evil, for
better or for worse, the days which
have flown never will come again.

If the 1905 pages please us and
please our Creator well and good. If
it displeases, it is not too late to
mend. The past is buried, but the
present is here. To-morrow may
never come for many of us.

Then improve the present. If the
past be not good make the present
better. This rests entirely with
ourselves. God will aid us, but He
will not force Himself upon us. Calls
upon Him will not be unheeded for
He is an unwilling visitor.

With heartfelt wishes that all
may be well with them during 1906,
the Catholic Journal wishes all its
readers a Happy New Year.

Politics.
On one side of the political house,
at least, there are strenuous days
ahead. Reconciliation, investive,
whispering, accusations of bad
faith, appeals to baser passions of
men, threats of reprisals; all these
and others more sinister in import
were bandied back and forth during
the last few days between men who
have occupied the highest places in
the gift of the people of the State
of New York.

It is not a pleasant spectacle to
look upon.

Nevertheless, it is but what may be
expected when men forget their
sworn obligations in a mad scramble
for wealth, for the gratification
of personal ambition or for the ac-
quisition of power.

Pride goeth before a fall.

People of the state, irrespective of
party, next fall, may exemplify the
truth of the old proverb.

Next to Priest.

It has often been said but it can-
not be reiterated too often that the
medical profession in its relation to
humanity occupies a position second
only to that of the priesthood.

Indeed, with many persons, the
influence of the physician is above
that of their religious adviser. The
doctor is more nearly akin to them-
selves, his visits are frequent and his
advice followed more readily. Is it
because greater attention paid to the
removal of bodily disease than to
the cure of spiritual maladies?

If the physician be a godly man
how much good may he not do in
the way of guiding the patient into
a proper mood spiritually. If the
physician be a believer in revealed
religion, it is too much to expect
that his belief will impress itself
upon the patient.

Catholic physicians, especially, have
a great measure of responsibility.
He is charged with the responsibility
of baptizing the newly-born infant.
If there be reason to fear its early
death. His advice and influence
may be exercised actively and vigor-
ously in the case of the dying unfor-
tunate.

of mad devotion to social whirl and
insane worship of face and figure.
Where a non-Catholic doctor might
connive at or assist in murderous
operations, the Catholic doctor must
set his teeth hard and rely upon his
medical skill and the aid of the
Creator of himself and his patient.
"Thou shalt not kill" must ever
ring in his ears.

In this connection, the closing
sentences of a remarkably able paper
read by Rev. Charles Coppens, S. J.,
before the medical section of the
second Australian Catholic Congress
are timely:

"There are yet other most im-
portant services, gentlemen, that you
can confer on your fellowmen, and
that are expected from your honor-
ed profession. One of these is so
valuable that to have conferred it
once would be a rich reward for the
labors of a lifetime, namely, to pro-
cure for an immortal soul adoption
among the children of God. You
may often have occasion to do so
when present at the birth of an in-
fant. Not one of you is ignorant
of the fact that, in danger of death,
when no priest can be had, anyone
may lawfully baptize a child, or an
adult who desires to receive the
Sacrament of regeneration. As a
rule, a Catholic physician is the best
qualified person to act on such oc-
casions. He knows exactly what is
to be done; he is calm and free from
agitation; he enjoys the confidence
of all concerned; when it is necessary
he can even anticipate the time of
parturition. In such circumstances
the physician has not only the
high privilege, but the solemn duty
also, of bestowing on that precious
soul the greatest blessing it is capa-
ble of receiving. Besides being
familiar with the right form of this
baptizing, you should instruct in this
matter nurses and midwives, as you
would in clinical processes on which
life may depend.

"At other times it may fall to your
happy lot to procure the consolations
of religion for those entering the
portals of eternity. You have
rendered them all the services that
medical skill and science can afford;
as professional men you have done
your full duty as Christian men you
may, and when you may you should,
confer still higher blessings. You
will then prudently suggest, and
politely urge, the calling in of the
priest in due time; you will, if needed,
support the falling strength of your
patient by all the resources at your
disposal till his preparation for a
better world is completed. You will
be careful not to let the use of
anæsthetics cloud his mind at the
moment on which a happy eternity
may depend."

Postal regulations, legally, may not
prohibit sending through the mails
as "sample copies" in December,
July issues, but, morally, they should
so prohibit. Such "samples" are a
fraud pure and simple.

Pope Plus X is making the Col-
lege of Cardinals a cosmopolitan
body. South America was honored
in the recent Consistory by the
elevation to the purple of the arch-
bishop of Rio Janeiro.

So far, the Catholic Secretary of
the Navy has not given evidence of
any intention to turn the naval
branch of our defenses over to the
Jesuits.

It is to be doubted whether the
express messengers and drivers
really appreciate the Christmas sea-
son. Giving and receiving are the
chief delights of the Yuletide to
those who have no spiritual interest
in the feast.

To procure a fraudulent divorce
"Abraham" humiliated his profession-
al reputation and his liberty. At
last the hand of the law has been
laid upon him and less than the
usual penalty for "shining lights" de-
tected in crime is manifested for
him. Divorce is a nasty business
viewed from any standpoint.

If there is any law to punish the
big insurance grafter it should be
invoked and to the fullest extent.
Justice demands that these "Cor-
porate capacity thieves" be punished
just as severely as the ignorant, low-
born thief of burglars.

Well Merited.
Publication in the press of the re-
ported determination of a maguate
who has risen to his present position
by the rapid-fire methods so preva-
lent in these days of "high finance"
to divorce his wife—who had stood
by him in the days when he was a
struggling \$40 a month clerk, kept
his house and acted as a mother to
his children—in order to marry an
actress has aroused a storm of angry
denunciation.

This is a healthy sign. Every
manifestation of opposition to the
divorce curse is an earnest that
dormant quiescent public conscience
is awakening. This is a concession
that the position of the Catholic
church on this much agitated ques-
tion is the only sound and safe one
to follow if the integrity of the Re-
public is to stand intact.

Possibly, the cold-blooded in-
difference shown by this maguate in
discussing his plans may have some-
thing to do with the public out-
burst. Be that as it may we are
glad to see it. It demonstrates that
the innate spirit of chivalry of sym-
pathy with outraged virtue still
beats true in the American heart
even if it does not respond always to
the purely spiritual and religious
sentiment involved in the legalized
concubinage which is all that the
marriage of divorced persons means
in the sight of Almighty God, what-
ever aspect it may assume in the eyes
of the law and in perverted human
minds.

Healthy
Let us hope that Herbert W. Par-
sons the newly elected chairman of
the New York republican county
committee means and will have
power to carry out the following
declaration of principles:

"The test of the competency of a
district political leader should not
be his past affiliations with state
leaders, nor his ability to deliver
delegations to conventions, but rather
efficiency of his work for the party."

It must be conceded, however,
that Mr. Parsons' idea will not ap-
pear with telling force to what are
known as "practical politicians." An
altruist might imagine that the
practical politicians are clever enough
to scent danger in the manifestly ar-
roused sentiment against political
bosses but these professional politi-
cians are thick skinned and tough-
hided and nothing short of physical
force will cause them to efface
themselves from the body politic,
especially when they are aided and
abetted by the "corporate capacity"
of the directors and stockholders in
corporations who, while they effect
to despise the politicians, neverthe-
less are willing and eager to bag the
lion's share of his swag.

Now is the day when the bills
come in—the unpleasant reminder
of the holiday season.

Telephony is the latest industrial
science which is coining fortunes
for its devotees.

May 1906 be noted for establish-
ment of the governments of the
world on a permanent peace basis.

Now that 1905 is waning, what of
1906? Will it be well with us all a
year hence?

Fur dealers and sellers of skates
do not think overmuch of the brand
of weather dealt in by Forecaster
Dey.

Wonder if old King Christian of
Denmark found any more crowns in
his Christmas stocking.

What a beautiful service mid-
night mass is! There is a peculiar
beauty, fascination, gripping heart-
throb in the ceremony performed at
the stroke of the bell which ushers
in the anniversary of the birth of
the Saviour of mankind, which ap-
peals to one as nothing else in this
world, even to the man who sneers
and scoffs, in his puny ignorance, at
the supernatural.

Mayor Outler's reappointment of
Thomas J. Neville as commissioner
of public works is a well merited
commendation of a faithful public
servant.

When practical politicians fall out
what "naughty words" they can use.
And how deftly they launder polit-
ical linen on the public highway.

When the politicians finish throw-
ing mud at each other let us hope
they will permit the legislators to
legislate in the interest of the
people.

Will the Bannerman ministry fare
better than that of Balfour?

Five Minute Sermon

The Prophecy of Simeon
In to-day's Gospel we are told of
the predictions of Simeon and Anna
made when the Child Jesus was pre-
sented in the temple in compliance
with the law which required the
presentation of every first-born.

Simeon recognized in Jesus the
Son of the Eternal Father, and
therefore adored and glorified Him
and awaited His blessing and the
application of His merits and grace.
He then did not bless Christ; he
blessed Joseph and Mary, to whom
he foretold the heavenly favors and
graces relative to their high office
and to the arduous duties imposed
on them.

Anna said that the Child was in-
deed the expected Messiah, the Son
of God, clothed in our flesh; that He
came to take away the sins of the
world and to redeem the human
race from the slavery of Satan and
from eternal death. All this she
told to those pious souls who, resting
on the faith of the patriarchs
and trusting in the promises of the
prophets, believed and hoped in the
Christ to come, and awaited from
Him the redemption of afflicted
Israel.

If we begin from childhood to
lead a holy life and persevere, as
Simeon and Anna did, in good
works, we can, like them, press to
our breasts Jesus Christ in spirit
and truth; we will obtain light, and
be able to make Him known to
many. And lastly, at the end of
our lives we shall be contented and
rejoice, as Anna and Simeon were,
and be able to say with them that
we die happy, because death or us
is the passage to eternal beatitude.

New Year's Day.
GOSPEL: St. Luke ii 21.—"And
after eight days were accomplished
that the Child should be circumcised,
His name was called Jesus, which
was called by the angel, before He
was conceived in the womb."

Weekly Church Calendar.
Sunday December 31—Gospel, St. Luke
ii, 35-40—St. Sylvester, I. pope and
confessor.
Monday January 1—Circumcision of
Our Lord.
Tuesday 2—St. Macarius, hermit.
Wednesday 3—St. Genevieve, virgin.
Thursday 4—St. Titus, Disciple of St.
Paul.
Friday 5—St. Telesphorus, pope and
martyr.
Saturday 6—The Epiphany.

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AMERICAN INVENTIVE GENIUS.

Tread of Present Activity is to Facilitate Transportation.
Since the establishment of the
Patent Office there have been in all
about 800,000 patents applied for,
and approximately 40,000 patents
were examined last year. To-day
America leads the world, as it has
done for a long time, in inventions
of every kind.

The Patent Office has no statistics
of the number of patents on any one
subject, but those who have been
working on the files of the office for
years tell of tendencies along certain
lines of activity. For instance, in
1896, at the height of the bicycle
craze, when, instead of the usual
five examiners in a division thirteen
were required to do the work. Now
one attends to bicycles and does other
work besides. The bicycle has
been supplanted by the automobile,
a large number of patents for new
developments of which are constantly
being filed under classifications of
vehicles, motive-power machines,
and steam and gas engines. The
number is on the increase every
week.

The desire of the human family
to imitate the birds and fly through
the air is shown by the number of
patents on that kind of invention.
Only five or six a month appear at
the present time, but this division is
looked upon as sure of growth. The
inventions in transportation appli-
cances continue to hold the palm and
lead them all. Sixty-eight patents of
this sort were filed in one week, and
despite the fact that the railroad has
reached a very high state of effi-
ciency, the work of inventors con-
tinues. In general machinery the
steam turbine is being developed es-
pecially for use on the big battle-
ships, one having been ordered for
the biggest battleship in the world,
which is to be built by the British
government. Pneumatic tools cause
an increasing number of patents.

SIGNALING WITH DRUMS.

**Means of Communication Where an
Alphabet is Unknown.**

The natives of the West Coast of
Africa have little need for wireless
telegraph, according to a story told
by a missionary at the rooms of the
Presbyterian Foreign Board. Talk-
ing of the susceptibility of the na-
tive African to rhythm he told this
incident: The African always calls
the people together by means of a
drum. The drum varies in size, but is
always made by hollowing out a sec-
tion of a log. The drum not only
tells the people of the meeting, but
its purpose as well. The news which
may be thus sent is astonishing. On
one occasion a missionary was in the
Palmer House at Efulen, at some
distance from his home. A rain-
storm came up and he had no um-
brella. A drummer, learning his
need, tapped a message to a friend
and in a short time the latter ap-
peared with an umbrella. The na-
tives have no alphabet and an um-
brella is not usually in the require-
ments of a palmer. How then, did
the drummer make himself under-
stood? During native wars the gov-
ernment has to prohibit the use of
drums as the natives are able with
them to send news from one village
to another.

Desks of Famous Men.

The desk of Salmon P. Chase, a
plain piece of furniture made from
mahogany, is in one of the rooms of
the Treasury Department at Wash-
ington. There are many of these
old desks scattered about the coun-
try, their chief claim to interest be-
ing that once some well known man
leaned over them.

Alexander Hamilton's traveling
desk made of mahogany and measur-
ing 12 by 16 inches and 30 inches
high, is an interesting object. Upon
this desk was written much of his
literary work, and the worn green
baize with which it is lined attests
to the use to which it was put. There
is a drawer in one side, and several
compartments for pens and ink,
while upon the top is inscribed a silver
plate with the name "General Alex-
ander Hamilton" engraved upon it.
Within the top is a strip of parch-
ment which says: "Given by Mrs.
General Schuyler to her daughter,
Mrs. General A. Hamilton." No
doubt the convenient size was what
recommended it to the General.

Nathaniel Hawthorne's desk is
preserved at the Custom House, Sal-
em, Mass. A desk at which he wrote
some of his intimate romances was
just a board standing out from the
wall at an angle. This is still in the
tower room at Wayside, his home at
Concord, Mass. Victor Hugo had in
his Guernsey house a study built al-
most entirely of glass and perched
upon the roof. Like Hawthorne, he,
too, stood at his writing, and his
desk was a mere shelf fastened by
hinges to the wall.—Delinestor.

The Joys of the Plunger.

It is estimated that everywhere
only about five people in fifty who
bet on races ever win anything. If
this were not the case, bookmakers
could not live. The odds are so
placed as to encourage betting and
at the same time provide a large
margin of success for the book-
maker. But it is just the possibility
of winning a big stake for a little out-
lay that constitutes the fascination
of betting for the average frequenter
of the tracks. These risky plungers
generally wager small amounts, but
the aggregate sums invested are
large; as the bookmakers know very
well. In nothing is the old saying
that a fool and his money are soon
parted better illustrated than in bet-
ting.—Baltimore Herald.

FASHIONS FOUNDED ON UTILITY.

**Doffing of the Hat and the Firing of
Artillery Salutes.**

Fashionable fictions, indeed, have
almost as much vitality as the
legal ones. Why, for example, do
you remove your hat? That rather
banal courtesy had in old times a
real significance. On entering the
hall of a castle a knight removed his
helmet to show that he had confi-
dence in the goodwill of his host.
Not to remove the helmet was as
much as to say that the owner was
guarding himself against a possible
"buffet" from sword or mace.

Captain Hope shows that the mili-
tary salute had originally much the
same meaning. What soldiers call
"going through the motions" once
signified willingness to unhelm if
you were not prevented from doing
so by the exigencies of the moment.

The practice of firing artillery sal-
utes can be accounted for in the
same way. Guns came into use long
before the abolition of armor, and in
those days it was considered a cour-
tesy to load all the castle guns—not
blank—at the approach of a distin-
guished personage and fire them off.
The emptying of the guns, just be-
fore the visitor came within range
proved the absolute confidence of the
host.

The offering of the right hand can
be traced to the same origin. For-
merly, when one man met another in
friendship, he offered him his un-
armed sword hand, to signify that
he would leave his sword in its
sheath, and that the other need not
be on his guard against attack.

The sword is also responsible for
our habit of mounting a horse on
the near side—a custom, in all
probability, of comparatively mod-
ern origin, and at the commence-
ment of the Christian Era were not
only very short, generally speaking,
but worn on the right side of the
person.

To the sword, likewise, we owe
the buttons that are placed at the
back of a tall coat. Their original
raison d'être was to support the
sword belt, as they do on a soldier's
tunic to this day.

TODEAL WITH MORALLY INSANE

**Criminologists Decide Special Meas-
ures for Punishment.**

Professor List of Berlin in a pa-
per on "moral insanity," which was
read at the Congress of Criminolo-
gists, submitted that special meas-
ures must be carried out to render
morally insane persons, whether
criminals or not, harmless to society.
Secondly, the professor insisted that
morally insane persons must be pun-
ished with less severity than others.

Professor Torp of Copenhagen op-
posed the second proposition. He
said it was customary in Denmark to
punish the morally insane less se-
verely than ordinary criminals, but
the system provoked general discon-
tent. It was only suitable for those
who were irresponsible from external
causes, such as drunkenness. Ex-
perience showed that persons who
were morally insane were not sus-
ceptible to improvement by punish-
ment, and always relapsed into
crime. They should not be pun-
ished, but should be dealt with by
special treatment.

Dr. Kellhorn, representing the
schools of Hamburg, said the per-
centage of morally insane children
was far greater than was generally
believed. Over 1,000 were taught
in nine Hamburg schools. Two per-
cent were confirmed criminals,
whose rescue was hopeless, but the
remainder could be reformed by
suitable treatment. Punishment by
imprisonment or detention did more
harm than good.

After a long debate, in which
many speakers denounced Professor
List's propositions as unworthy com-
promises, both were adopted by a
large majority.

A Bird Four Feet High.

The "emperor" penguin, one of
the discoverers of Captain Scott's re-
cent Antarctic expedition, was the
subject of an interesting illustrated
lecture by Dr. Wilson before the re-
cent ornithological congress in Lon-
don. The bird stands about four
feet high, weighs eighty pounds or
more, and with its black coat and
erect posture has, when seen at a
distance, a truly startling resem-
blance to a dwarf man.

These "emperors" of the penguin
world live upon the great girdle of
ice which surrounds the Ant-
arctic continent, and seem to de-
pend mainly for their food on crus-
taceans caught in the crevices of the
ice. The female lays a solitary egg,
which is caught on the great web
feet, so that it never touches the ice,
and is held there covered with the
mother's body until hatching oc-
curs.—Exchange.

A Mad Anthony Button.

A handsome button, evidently
from the coat of one of the merry
officers who served under Mad An-
thony Wayne in his campaign
against the Indians of the Northwest
territory of 1794, was recently
picked up from the site of his camp,
eighteen miles from Pittsburgh on the
north bank of the Ohio River. The
button is solid silver, and when it
was found by Attorney J. R. Mc-
Creight, of Pittsburgh, and the Rev.
R. B. Carrel, of Baden, was covered
with the dirt of more than a century.
When General Wayne was sent to
punish the Indians for the defeat of
General St. Clair he established a
camp at what was known as Legion-
ville, where the button was found.
Here for almost two years he drilled
his men and, when he met the In-
dians, his victory was complete.