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SATURDAY, FEB. 17, 1906.
PERHAPS—PERHAPS NOT.

An interesting question is raised by the "Catholic Universe," when it says: "All is not gold that glitters. There appears to be more attraction in the store than in the kitchen for many girls. Yet are not the girls who live out much better off, as a rule, than the girls who stand behind the counter? We think so. "The term servant may not be applied to the clerks as it is applied to the girls who live out, yet we are all designated as servants by the Holy Scripture. The final blessing will be couched in the words: 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'"

"As a matter of fact, the girl in the store is much more of a servant than the girl who works out. The clerk has a hundred mistresses, while the girl who works out has but one. The clerk is under the constant supervision of a taskmaster in the person of the floor-walker or in that of the proprietor. The clerks must stand and look pleasant the whole day long, whether they are in the humor of doing so or not. Their duties are exacting and often burdensome. All this is true, provided that the mistresses are what they should be. We could tell of houses in this city where the domestics are used as slaves. Where they are made to do the work of two girls. Where their hours are from early morn until late at night. Where the children of the house are insolent and overbearing to the domestic. In short, the domestic has a "dog's life."

Then there is the question of matrimony. Rightfully or wrongfully, the young men of to-day look down on a servant girl and as the girls of to-day look forward to the day when they may have homes of their own they are not to be blamed if they seek vocations where they are not slurred by those of the opposite sex. Besides, young men are not fond of walking to the side or rear entrance to meet their sweethearts, and perhaps not permitted to enter there. Father McMahon, there is another side to this question.

PERJURY.

If newspapers, magazines and public orators are to be believed, graft has come to be recognized as one of our great national evils.
"Is perjury another?" asks the "Catholic Standard and Times." There are indications of an affirmative answer to this question. In New York city, Civil Justice Tierney has become so disgusted with the many perjurers who come into his court that he has ceased to swear witnesses upon the Bible. He says he doesn't want the Book desecrated in his presence.
In a striking pastoral on "The Oath," Rt. Rev. Joseph Medard, bishop of Valleyfield, Province of Quebec, Canada, takes up this question of perjury exhaustively. He says in part:

The oath is in itself one of the gravest of actions, it possesses a sacred character and man only uses it because he is essentially a religious being and wishes to unite himself closely to his God. In pronouncing it, he in effect directly calls upon his Creator and Master.
He binds himself no less gravely towards society, which bearing his weakness on his error, reassures itself by the fact that God Himself corroborates the oath which is taken in his name. He deposits, as it were, a pledge of his honor, and his name which a lie supported by an oath would cover forever with infamy and shame; he even involves the honor of his family, which could never be freed from the humiliation inflicted upon it by perjury.
The bishop, too, calls attention to the fippant way in which persons lie upon the witness stand and concludes with this admonition:
"The Church, knowing how holy and terrible the name of God is, with what reverence respect, with what fear and trembling it should be pronounced, has always stood up in her strength against the terrible crime of perjury. She has never been less strict in our country, and she was at seeing the occasion of becoming becoming multiplied before the tribunals, as

the custom has always been practiced, but again in those days of license when public elections are carried on, when there is so much danger of taking rash, false or unjust oaths. She has, by a special decree of the Fifth Council of Quebec, made of perjury a sin, the abolition from which is a case specially reserved to the Bishop. The Council of Montreal has confirmed the severity of this discipline throughout the entire extent of our province, and juridical perjury is inscribed among the number of those offenses from the guilt of which the offender can be regularly absolved only by the ordinary of the diocese."

A CONTRAST.

What a sharp contrast is drawn between Mrs. Clarence Mackay—the society woman who refused to contribute toward the erection of a Catholic school because she considered such institutions a menace to the Republic—and her mother-in-law, in the following press dispatch:
"A check for \$10,000 was received today by Father Tubman from Mrs. John W. Mackay, to be devoted to the proposed church in this city. The check is sent with a letter from Cannes, France, asking that Mrs. Mackay's subscription be accepted in memory of her late husband. This is the second donation received by Father Tubman from the Mackays. The first was sent by Clarence Mackay from New York."

THOS. J. NEVILLE.

While the Journal regrets that Thomas J. Neville has retired from Mayor Cutler's cabinet, it is more than pleased that he will remain in the city service.
Men of the experience and knowledge in municipal history and needs are not easily found and their number does not increase rapidly.

Those who knew the city's need knew also that Mr. Neville was the right man the right place as commissioner of public works. They knew also that the responsibilities of the position were weighty. It was not a matter of wonder, therefore, that Mr. Neville welcomed a relief from the cares of the position.
In his new position of city assessor, Mr. Neville will not have to shoulder so much individual responsibility. It is an important position, however, and one which the former commissioner is well qualified to fill.

The Journal extends hearty congratulations to Assessor Neville.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Cleveland appears to be sharing experiences with Rochester. An exchange says:
"Cleveland school authorities do not appear to appreciate or to want experience, for the reason that younger blood is sought. Persons marked for decapitation have proven themselves successful teachers and still can show that they are not old; but because they have passed a certain line, that line is the dead line. Success and good results, vigor of limb and of actions are not to count against an arbitrary line. Why not let that line enter school headquarters and operate against members of the Board and officials of the schools?"
A committee of the School Board recently reported that pupils examined in the public schools did not read well, which was to be expected when but 5 to 11 minutes, no more, is devoted to it weekly. Business men of Cleveland had complained that the school pupils who sought employment were deficient in mathematics. The committee's report would indicate that there was foundation for the complaint.
The committee prepared for pupils of the eighth grade a paper containing simple exercises in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, with a few easy questions in percentage. One hundred and ninety-three pupils in five schools were tested by this. The "sum" in addition, (eleven numbers varying from three to seven figures) was answered right by eighty-six and wrong by 104. In the subtraction test twenty-two were wrong, in the multiplication test (eleven figures multiplied by five) twenty-three were right and 168 were wrong. In the division test (nine figures divided by three) 107 were right and eighty-six were wrong. Of the answers to the questions in percentage 130 were right and sixty-two were wrong.

There was a spelling test of fifty words in common use which were pronounced to the pupils in four schools by their regular teachers, to avoid as much as possible any embarrassment or confusion. The words were given out to 144 pupils. Only one paper that was handed in was perfect. The worst contained thirty-six mis-spelled words, and the average number of errors was thirteen. The exercise in composition consisted of the reproduction of a story read to the pupils by their teachers, a story that was later discovered to be in one of the lower class reading books.
We venture the assertion that a similar test of the pupils in the parochial schools of Rochester would yield far different results. But we are inclined to the opinion that in the public schools of Rochester the result would be very much the same as in Cleveland.

Here is a chance for Commissioner Duffy. Let him institute a similar series of tests in Rochester and demonstrate whether or not the much-vaunted

new ideas are turning out good or only half-baked scholars.

Senator Penrose has introduced in the United States Congress a bill appropriating \$100,000 to be expended by a commission composed of a committee including the Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, in erecting a suitable memorial to Christopher Columbus.

Says "Church Progress": "There was a time in this country when publishers could issue any statement they pleased derogatory to Catholicity. Thanks to the Catholic press that time has gone by.

A Chicago paper announces that a Baptist minister of that city has resigned because his congregation dwindled to seven members. "From a distance," says an exchange, "it would seem more accurate to say that the congregation did the resigning."

Writing in an exchange, Rev. J. T. Roche says: "I regard the encyclical of our Holy Father on the teaching of the catechism as the most important document of its kind that has emanated from the See of Peter since the days of the Council of Trent. It deals with no perversion of the human intellect, with none of the philosophical errors so prevalent in the world. It deals with the real sore spot of humanity—neglect of the religious training of the children."

Says an exchange: "Some people's religion is just like a wooden leg. There is neither life nor warmth in it; and, although it helps them to hobble along, it never becomes a part of them but has to be strapped on every morning."

It may be said now that the theory of the White charter is exemplified to the full in Rochester. The mayor is "It" with a big I.

Their Majesties King Haakon VII. and Queen Maude, the newly elected sovereigns of Norway, have sent from Christiania to Mrs. M. E. Henry-Ruffin, a Catholic author, of Mobile, Ala., a letter expressing their pleasure and appreciation in reading the account of the early Norse Kings in her novel, "The North Star." The book, they say, has proved very acceptable to the Norwegian Government and people.

Bishop McCabe, the anti-Catholic Methodist Chauncey Depew, should be made to furnish proof of the following statement or confess that he is an unmitigated liar:
"We were met at the door by an unsightly-looking woman under the influence of liquor. She directed me upstairs, where I found the old man in conversation with a layman from the Catholic Church. The layman was advising him to call in the priest and take the last sacrament. The old man said: 'I cannot do that; it would cost \$30.' 'No,' said the layman, 'I will provide every cent of it,' or 'I will see to that,' when the old man said, 'Mike, I have just sent for a Protestant minister to help me, for I believe he can. Now, listen! I have worked with those Protestants and they don't drink or swear like our (Catholic) men do. They have got something more than we have got.'"

Instead of wasting its space in condemning the friars, the "Sacred Heart Review" collected a fund and sent eight priests to the Islands to help supply their places.
Says the "Ave Maria": "It is strange that in life we recognize the right of every criminal to have a fair, open trial, and yet we condemn unheard the dear friends around us on merely circumstantial evidence. We rely on the mere evidence of our senses, trust it implicitly, and permit it to sweep away like a mighty tide the faith that has been ours, perhaps for long years."

A Gard of Thanks

The members of Rg. 545, I. C. B. A. wish to extend their thanks to their friends and all those who assisted in making their concert, which was given for the benefit of St. Anne's Home for the Aged, such a grand success. A nice sum was realized.

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- LOT 3—Chameleon Louisines in combinations of brown, navy, green, red and black—regular 85c values, for **48c**
- LOT 4—Black Peau de Cygnes a pure silk in a 24 inch width and superior finish—regular \$1.25 value for **79c**

Gas Irons No Longer a Luxury

To-day we introduce the 1906 models of the best gas irons on the market—the productions of the Comfort Gas Appliance Mfg. Co. of Boston, and quote as follows:

 \$2.95 This is a dressmaker's iron. It consumes only 15 feet of gas in 10 hours, weighs 8 lbs. and has a polished and nickel-plated ironing surface.	 \$2.25 This household iron consumes only 10 feet of gas in 10 hours, weighs 6 lbs. and has a polished and nickeled ironing surface.	 \$3.50 This "college" or "traveler's" iron is reversible. It consumes only 10 feet of gas in 10 hours and weighs 5 lbs. Every part nickeled.
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