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CHILD SAINTS.

They Needed Not Maturity of Years to Bring Them Sanctity.

St. Peter of Verona was an eloquent preacher at fifteen. St. Catherine of Siena was a zealous tertiary at the same age. St. Paschal Baylon converted the herdsmen of Aragon when he was but a lad in his teens. St. Aloysius was a saintly child before he was nine years old. When a boy at school St. Dominic sold books to feed the poor during a famine then raging, and he offered himself in ransom for a slave when he was but fifteen. St. Louis of Brignoles, nephew of King Louis, was devoted to the glorification of God and the mortification of self at an early age. It is recorded of this child that he would steal out of his royal bed and sleep upon the floor in memory of the King who had not where to lay his head.

So saintly was the childhood of St. Charles Borromeo that his singular virtues caused his elevation to the cardinalate at the age of twenty-two. St. Stanislaus Kostka was but seventeen when he died after a life which, though but short, had its every minute devoted to God. St. Laurence O'Toole was a model of virtue at the age of fourteen and became abbot before he was twenty-five. St. John, the beloved disciple, was only a boy when our Lord called to him to follow Him. St. Louis the Crusader, king of France, was but twelve when he ascended the throne and voluntarily vowed to make the defense of God's honor the aim of his life.

St. Agnes, St. Cyril and a host of other child martyrs gave up their lives for the holy faith. These young saints needed not the maturity of years to teach them the better way.

CHURCH SUPPORT.

The Question of Pew Rents in Westminster Cathedral.

The support of the Church is a very strenuous concern with the Catholics of England. A glance at the petitions for donations to religion printed in the advertising columns of the English Catholic papers is alone significant of this.

The following item from the Tablet will be of interest to American readers.

"An some misconception has arisen regarding the renting of seats in Westminster cathedral and has found its way into the press, it may be well to explain the exact position. The endowment which the late cardinal was able to provide before his lamented death for the maintenance of the cathedral, when taken in connection with the offerings received at the services, is not sufficient to meet all expenses connected therewith. Some of these expenses are of a nature which are not of a permanent character, and are of a nature which are not of a permanent character, and are of a nature which are not of a permanent character."

expenses by renting seats. Their offer was accepted, and their example has been followed by others. Only seats on the gospel side of the nave may be so rented, all other seats remain absolutely free, and it is not likely that a very large proportion of the more than 1,000 seats on the gospel side will be so appropriated. Moreover, no seat thus rented will be reserved after the service has begun.

So the policy of renting pews as a means of Church support is still debatable in England—Catholic Citizen.

The Catholic University.

Through Mr. O'Connell the board of trustees of the Catholic University of America announced at the conclusion of the recent annual meeting that never before was the institution in so healthy and prosperous a financial condition. The staggering blow delivered by the Waggaman failure has been offset, and the treasurer's report submitted to the board shows a cash balance on March 31 of \$84,341.63, with all debts paid. The financial statement of the treasurer placed the total assets at \$2,174,697, of which \$1,184,000 is represented in investments outside of the university grounds. Of this amount, as explained by Mr. O'Connell, over \$800,000 is represented by the claim against the Waggaman estate, from which full returns are not expected. "The board of trustees," said Mr. O'Connell, "look forward confidently to the time when the endowment plan for the university will be completed."

A Notable Convert.

Born and reared in the Methodist faith, graduated with high honors from the Drew Theological seminary and preaching in the Methodist Episcopal Church for five years, Rev. Edward E. Smith of Portland, Ore., has become a convert to the faith. For the last year Dr. Smith has been instructor in Greek at Columbia university. For two years he has not preached in the Methodist Episcopal church. "I have joined the Roman Catholic church because of the sacrificial element, which is fundamental in that religion, tending to make one more of a true Christian," said Dr. Smith.

God's Place.

We do not see enough of God. We shut our eyes and close our ears to His presence. We are too much engrossed in ourselves. We have permitted humanity to usurp the place which rightfully belongs to the Power Supreme, forgetting that the world's growth and mankind's unfolding depend not altogether on human effort, but in great measure on that Destiny, that Providence, that Intelligence whose mystery baffles all human ken.

Don't Get Discouraged.

Do you sometimes get discouraged because you do not see more immediate results of your efforts? Don't you

representative of disease, yet the majority were potent sources of decomposition and danger to health.

INSANITY IN LIFE CONVICTS.

Tendency to Mental Collapse Greater Than in Other Prisoners.

A tendency to insanity among life prisoners is pointed out by the directors of the State Prisons in their annual report. The report says: "Of the 473 prisoners undergoing confinement more than twelve per cent are serving life sentences. The periods of their individual confinement range from a few months to forty-six years. "With just enough exceptions to prove the rule, this large body of life prisoners is orderly and well behaved, although the tendency of them to drift into insanity is much greater than obtains among other convicts.

"The comparative youthfulness of persons who commit the bulk of serious offenses is a fundamental factor in connection with the problem of crime. The period between sixteen and thirty is the criminal age. Then the functional activities attain their maximum; then the fires of passion and of emotion wax hottest; then the spirit of incautious adventures exercises the greatest influence on the cross purposes of life; and then the responsiveness of the individual to his environment, whether helpful or hurtful is promptest."

Dust and Microbes.

Dr. Somerville Hastings, lecturing at the London Institute of Hygiene, recently on "Cleanliness is Next to Godliness," said that people were much cleaner now than in the reigns of Queen Mary and Elizabeth, when the washing of clothes was unknown. Cotton was hardly in use, and linen was expensive. The poor wore rough woolen garments, which were never washed, and the better class adorned themselves with silks and velvets, which were dyed when they could no longer pass muster in regard to cleanliness. It is recorded, said Dr. Hastings, that James I. never washed either hands or face during the period he posed as the wisest fool in Christendom, but confined his cleanliness within the narrow limits of wiping his finger tips upon a damp napkin.

A very simple experiment, made by an eminent bacteriologist, determines in a startling manner the potential dangers associated with accumulations of dust in living rooms. A pin-point was used to convey as much dust as so small a vehicle will carry. This yielded no less than 3,000 colonies of living germs when cultivated on gelatine, and although fortunately every species was not

Five Minute Sermon

The Testimony of the Holy Ghost

Christ promised that the Holy Ghost would give testimony of His divine mission, and of the truth of His doctrine. The promise was fulfilled. The world has acknowledged Jesus to be the only-begotten Word clothed in our flesh; it has recognized Him to be the Messiah foretold by the prophets and foreshadowed in the law; it was convinced of the holiness of His doctrine, by which truths not known before we taught, and precepts inculcated worthy of the God Who taught them and worthy of man, who was called to put them in practice with the help of divine grace.

The apostles were the first to know Him and to be intimately associated with Him; they were, therefore, witnesses of all He did and said. But, although they were constantly with Him, spoke with Him, saw all His actions, they did not always understand His words nor know the object of His actions. But after having received the Holy Ghost they remembered and understood all they had seen and heard during the three years of Christ's public life, and from all this they gathered the materials to teach the nations, to explain the truth, and to establish the discipline of that Church of which they were the founders throughout the world. They would preach to the nations the divinity of Christ and the truths of faith; they would say: We have heard with our own ears and seen with our own eyes all the things which we announce to you; and thus they would give testimony of Christ.

These words were also intended for us. We also bear witness to Christ, by leading a life according to His holy law; we also, by sincerely professing the faith and by observing the laws of the gospel, may expect, as St. Paul says, to be persecuted; we also who find ourselves objects of persecution must be encouraged by the hope of our eternal reward in heaven.

USE PAPER HANDKERCHIEFS.

Physicians Advocate This to Check Spread of Consumption.

Several leading London physicians advocate the use of a handkerchief made of paper. This is not only with the idea of preventing the spread of consumption, but a myriad of other diseases. It is argued that a linen handkerchief which is carried in the pockets and becomes heated is necessarily a disseminator of undesirable germs, and with the aid of the laundries, a constant circulation of deadly organisms is kept up.

It is customary in many English sanatoria to provide the patients with paper handkerchiefs, which, after use, are placed in receptacles, where they are immediately cremated. Most of the handkerchiefs used in these sanatoria are of Japanese make, as the English make has not come into great favor on account of their being much harder in texture than the Japanese.

What the Kaiser Smokes.

Although he is very fond of a pipe the Kaiser always smokes cigarettes in the streets of Berlin, says the London Bytander. The other day he threw away the stump of a cigarette in the Tiergarten, and a street boy who picked it up sold it to an American for a sovereign. For his friends the emperor keeps some excellent cigars which are specially manufactured for him in Havana. When he is out shooting he smokes a pipe, which was made for him from his own design by a pipe carver in Berlin. The bowl is of meerschaum and on it is a silver blackcock on a branch with its wings outspread. On the stem is a W set with the little bright stones which are found in the crop of the blackcock. The Kaiser mixes his tobacco with the dried leaves of sweet smelling plants.

The Average Age of Birds.

The doctrine of vegetarianism appears to be slightly shaken by the result of an investigation that an English newspaper has made into the subject of the longevity of birds. With one notable exception, the carnivorous or meat feeding birds are the longer lived. The exception is the swan. The average ages of some of the best known birds are given in the following: Blackbird lives 12 years; blackcap, 15; canary, 24; crane, 24; crow, 100; eagle, 100; fowl, common, 10; goldfinch, 15; goose, 50; heron, 59; lark, 13; linnet, 23; nightingale, 18; parrot, 60; partridge, 15; peacock, 24; pelican, 50; pheasant, 16; pigeon, 20; raven, 100; robin, 12; skylark, 30; sparrow hawk, 40; swan, 100; thrush, 10; and wren, 3 years. The average age of the boarding house chicken is still undetermined.

New Uses for Paper.

Among the new uses to which paper is being put are artificial teeth and "uppers" or boots and shoes. The old saying, "There is nothing like leather," may some time be changed to "There's nothing like paper." At this very moment a substantial business firm in Boston is considering a proposition to take up the work of manufacturing paper hats. By-and-by a high hat, dress suit and shoes rivalling patent leathers, all made of paper, may be considered quite the correct thing. The paper age may astonish the world to a greater degree than any that have preceded it.

Explosion Pressures.

In a lecture before the Royal Society Mr. J. E. Petavel discussed the pressure to which rifle barrels are subjected by high explosives. In the case of powerful cordite his experiments indicated that the enormous force of sometimes ten tons per square inch may sometimes be attained. This means that every square foot of surface has to resist a pushing force of nearly three and a half million pounds. These figures closely agree with those obtained by Sir Andrew Noble.

Guiding the Wayfarer.

A curious old custom is kept up at the picturesque Wensleydale village of Bainbridge, in Yorkshire, where every winter's night, at nine o'clock, a large horn is blown on the village green to aid any wayfarer who might chance to be on the surrounding fells to find his way to the village. The fine horn now in use was presented to the village some years ago, and at one time adorned the head of a huge African bull.

Odd Walking Sticks.

A South London publican possesses a unique collection of walking sticks, including many curious specimens. One is made from the rings of incandescent lamps, one from a shark's backbone, one of beautifully carved cork, another is made from sets of draughtboard men, and one weird-looking stick is made entirely of teeth.

Ice from Mont Blanc.

An ice trust has formed to cut into the Mont Blanc glacier at a height of 4,000 feet. The ice is mined with dynamite and the blocks are cut into cubes and sent into the valley by a small-gauge railway. In the valley they are cleaned and then sent by train to southern France. The ice trust pays its workmen \$1 a day.

Perfumed Warming Pans.

Perfumed warming pans are used in some of the country mansions of France. When guests remain overnight the host endeavors to discover the scent each prefers, and thus the sheets are impregnated with heliotrope, rose, lily or other desired perfume.

SHOOTING AN ELEPHANT.

Sensations of a Man Who Had Helped to Do It.

In the Globe Trotter of Nairobi, British East Africa, a traveler tells how he shot, but lost, an elephant: "The anthill we were trying to hide behind was so small that we had to take our hats off to be out of sight. I took a look over the top and nearly lost my breath by discovering that the elephants were coming right toward us. The male was walking first, and holding his magnificent head high in the air, and spreading his enormous ears straight out as if to catch the wind, and looked for all the world like some giraffe ship coming down with all sails set ready to put us out of existence. The female came behind in the same fashion. I turned to the shikari behind me and said, 'Good heavens! They are coming right down on us!' and at the same time looked round for a safer place but there was none. The shikari motioned me to lie down and not to speak, and urged, 'Good shoot, good shoot.' I whispered to Marlow: 'If they come now I won't be able to shoot, my heart is beating too fast.' His answer did not tend to improve my condition much. He only replied, 'Buck up, man, they are coming.' I had a double-barrel ten-bore and solid bullets with cordite behind. It was the only elephant gun in the party. The shooting therefore was left with me, and I had never fired a ten-bore in my life before.

"If those blessed brutes would only sheer off a bit to the right or to the left instead of coming down to investigate that little innocent wart in front of us it would be some consolation. But not they, on they came, emitting the most uncomfortable sounds through their trunks and holding straight down on us. I began to wonder whether they would go round over the hill—it was only one step for that fellow anyhow—and if they were going round what side would they take? I dodged from one side to the other until they were within twenty yards of us, and then to my relief it was evident that they were going to pass on the right side, and it wasn't many seconds before the big fellow sauntered leisurely round the hill within five yards of me and apparently looked sleepily down on us. Fortunately an elephant's sight is very bad, and I really don't think he saw us. I lay flat on my stomach and had great difficulty in getting the gun elevated sufficiently to get a sight at his temple. I at last succeeded, however, and led off in my anxiety to kill at once I pulled both triggers.

"The report was like the boom from a cannon and the recoil simply doubled me up like a concertina, while the breech lever of the rifle struck the bridge of my nose and side of my face so powerfully that it made me insensible for a couple of seconds and made me bleed profusely. I staggered to my feet while Marlow and the shikari both emptied their guns into the brute's head. One would think this sufficient to kill half a dozen elephants, but this one stood dazed for a few moments and then, instead of toppling over as it ought to have done, it threw itself completely around and, taking its mate along, made off for the woods as fast as it could go leaving much blood behind.

Returning to Nature.

In western New South Wales and western Queensland, Australia, black aboriginal stockmen are common. Many of the landholders have interested themselves in the training of the young aborigines, teaching many of them to read and write, and bringing them up side by side with the white children. The result has not been very encouraging. Says a writer: "I have known several instances where aboriginal tribes of both sexes were taken completely away from their people and brought up in a white family. They were taught various accomplishments, and spoke English just as well as the white youngsters. But invariably, on the first opportunity, they relapsed into barbarism and soon the only trace of their upbringing that remained to them was their faultless English. One native girl whom I knew was kept in a refined white home until she was 18; then, getting word of a native camp a few miles away, she stole off to it, and when found she was sitting in a 'umama' (native hut), with her clothes all discarded and a possum rug wrapped around her.

"Undoubtedly the best black stockman that I ever knew fell away in the same fashion. He had been brought up from a baby in a white family, and was noted for his scrupulous cleanliness and gaudyish care for his clothes. On horseback he could hold his own easily with the best men on the station. He was dressed, from his wide-brimmed, soft felt hat to his long-riding boots and spurs, exactly like the other stockmen. He spoke perfect English, took part in the various sports, and, in fact, differed from the white stockmen apparently in one respect only, the color of his skin. He was at this time about 23 years old.

"I left the station just then, and, returning three years later, I pulled up at an old 'mia-mia' to question the occupants about the route. Beginning in the usual pigeon English, I was amazed when the half-naked, dirty and unkempt native who was sitting in the ashes replied in first-class English. As his voice seemed familiar I looked at him more closely. 'Why, surely you're not Harry from Yaloo?' 'The same man, boss,' he replied. 'Soon after you left I married a girl of my own color and took to the old life.' And he kept to it."

Every man would rather cut down a tree than plant one.