

The Catholic Journal

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Friday, Oct. 23, 1908.

Led by Science

The "Messenger" publishes the following as additional proof that Science and Truth are not incompatible:

The death of Henri Becquerel, the distinguished physicist, is called by the French papers an irreparable loss to science. He was but fifty-six years old. One might have hoped for many years more of successful research. Glowing tributes to his great achievements will be paid by all the scientific periodicals, but we fear there will be scant mention of the fact that his scientific work to quote his own words, "brought him to God and to faith." The funeral discourse pronounced by his parish priest, was published in LaCroix, Sept. 9, 1908. The expressions used imply that in early manhood Becquerel neglected his religious duties. His conversion was attributed by himself to his study of science. Behind the marvelous phenomena, some of which he was the happy discoverer, and behind the laws that rule in nature, he discerned the intelligent First Cause before whom he bowed his mind and his heart. Becquerel was in later life a practical Catholic, a faithful attendant at Sunday Mass, and a model in his family, joining in daily prayer with all the members of his household. His life is a fresh refutation of the charge that faith and science are incompatible.

Universality

The recent Eucharistic Congress in England afforded another proof of the Church's universality. The London "Tablet" gives this dramatic picture of this "Congress of Nations":

"When the crowds had gathered for the High mass on Thursday it might have been across the sea in some fair city of France, and not in London, that the Congress was being held. The Archbishop of Paris was the celebrant. French and Belgian priests in their familiar soutane were there in hundreds among the congregation. Nevertheless it was, as the Legate has phrased it, 'a Congress of the Nations.' In one humble corner was the representative of the Archbishop of New Orleans, one Father Brockmeier, whose name announces him a Teuton, and he was the founder of the League of Priest-Adorers who are pledged to watch one hour a day before the Blessed Sacrament. Nearby a Chinese was in devout prayer. Mongolians from Japan, Indians, negroes, bearded priests from missionary lands, Germans, Dutchmen, Greeks and Poles, and Africans, all mingled with French and English. But the English that was heard, whether it was touched with a Colonial or American accent, or heard in its native purity, was mingled with a soft brogue that told of Ireland. Here was a Gael from the Highlands, there was a Celt from Brittany, side by side with a dark-eyed Spaniard and a blue-eyed Norseman. And they all were of one heart and one mind. What was most striking was the great preponderance of men, and the profound devotion of the whole congregation. They had come to meet their God and to pray, and assist at the great eternal Sacrifice, one and indivisible for the world."

The Catholic Union and Times says "Suffering saloonkeepers of Atlantic City sorrowfully maintain that closing their places on Sunday causes a loss of \$150,000 a Sunday. Their loss, however, no doubt means better dinners in many homes; also shoes for the little ones and other necessities." Our idea was that the chap who could afford to visit Atlantic City would not eat a poorer dinner for what he spent there.

Rabbi Dr. Solomon, a convert, is giving a mission to Jews in Pittsburgh, with the approval of Bishop Canevin.

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TROLLEY CAR BLAMED.

This Time it is the Cause of Appendicitis.

A man who has been an extensive traveler in Norway, where pedestrianism is almost a national pastime and where everybody walks, so to speak writes to oppose the trolley car theory "as being justly responsible for the great increase of appendicitis in this country."

One theory of the cause of appendicitis is that it is due to overmuch jolting of the abdominal walls while riding in trolley cars. But in Norway they think nothing of a walk or run of three or four miles before breakfast and pedestrianism is said to be more general than in any other part of the world, an afternoon walk of 20 miles being quite common.

But appendicitis is reported to be quite common in Christiania, and several noted walkers have been operated upon. The much commented upon prevalence of this disease in Norway therefore, where the feet and not the cars are the popular mode of locomotion, would seem to do away with the theory of the harmful influence of the trolley cars.

Baker Theater.

Commencing Monday night

Vaughan Glaser and his company will enter the seventh week of their engagement of the Baker Theater by producing with special permission of William Gillette his original version of A Conan Doyle's story of Sherlock Holmes, dealing with the mysterious case of Miss Faulkner and the missing letters in which the most desperate criminals in London became interested. This is one of the most fascinating of all Conan Doyle's stories. In this particular episode Sherlock Holmes is called in to recover possession of letters and photographs given to a sister of Miss Faulkner by a member of the nobility and stolen by two clever swindlers who realize the priceless value of the letters. Matinees will be given on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. By arrangement with the Western Union Telegraph Company and the newspaper offices, full and complete returns of the election will be received and read from the stage of the theater election night.

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