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Friday, Feb. 3, 1911.

First Communion.

Much interest is taken in the Pope's decree as to the age when children may make their first communion. It has been reported in the press that the age has been set arbitrarily at seven years. According to the rules laid down for the reception of this sacrament in France, which have been approved by the Holy Father, first communion may be received "at the age of discretion which commences generally at the seventh year." The regulations for France continue as follows:

"Clause II. stipulates that children who have reached that age shall be admitted to take their first communion individually or collectively in a private manner, without any solemn ceremony if they fulfill the following conditions: First, a knowledge, proportionate to their age, of the three principal mysteries of religion; second, a sufficient devotion which supposes the recital of prayers and dispositions of piety towards the Holy Eucharist; third, the precise promise made by the child, and distinctly ratified by the parents, to complete his religious instruction by following the catechism classes till the age of First Solemn Communion; fourth, the authorization given by the confessor in accord with the parents, and presented with the baptismal certificate and the attestation of the above mentioned promise in order that the child's name may be inscribed among those of the communicants in the Liber Status Animarum. Before giving his authorization the confessor should ascertain by an examination or by the testimony of the clergy of the parish, that the child really fulfills the conditions indicated above.

"Clause III. Parish priests, confessors, Christian parents, masters and mistresses are to exhort the young children to approach the Holy Table as early in life and as frequently as possible. With that object in view, they inculcate Christian doctrine into their minds and a catechism class for very young children shall be formed in every parish.

"Clause IV. The First Solemn Communion shall be celebrated every year as previously, after the preparatory retreat, with the customary ceremonies. Only those children who shall have attained the age fixed by the diocesan regulations, attended divine service regularly, followed assiduously the catechism classes during the period prescribed by the same regulations and undergone in a satisfactory manner an examination on religious instruction, shall be admitted to it. It is only after the ceremony that a First Solemn Communion ticket shall be delivered to the children. It might be completed by a certificate of elementary religious instruction."

This is a matter, however, which will be taken up by the Bishops in the United States and they will enlighten the faithful when uniform rules and regulations have been agreed upon and

approved. Parents would do well to consult their parish priests instead of accepting their information from the secular press which is more likely than not to be misinformed.

Six Anglican Converts

To the five Anglican converts recently commented upon in this paper, a sixth has been added in the person of Rev. J. Steele, who served for upwards of twenty-two years the leader of the Orange party of Ulster, Lord Ernie as private chaplain.

The six ex-Protestant clergy men have gone to Rome to study for the Catholic priesthood and have been appointed to the College of Noble ecclesiastics, with Father Cleary, an Irish Franciscan, as professor in moral theology. Mr. Steele, who is an Irishman, has been in a particular manner the recipient of congratulations from the Irish element, as the Hibernians jokingly remark to this gentleman "what a mountain of grace must have been necessary to move the stronghold of Ulster."

Not So In Ours!

So apt is the comment and so deftly put is the rebuke made by the Providence "Visit or" to those churches and clergymen who turn sacred service into semi-vaudeville performances that we cannot refrain from reproducing it in full as follows:

"We noted in the column of 'Religious Intelligence' which the local papers print on Saturdays that a reverend gentleman from Elizabeth, N. J., 'will preach all day.' The information was so startling that we went along the column to see if local ministerial activity was to be equally strenuous on the morrow, but we found that the New Jersey gentleman bore away the palm. But the choice of subjects among certain of the preachers was interesting and instructive, especially in view of the oft repeated contention that Protestantism gives its votaries the pure and undiluted Gospel. 'An Old Time Wireless,' for instance, does not bear on the face of it any particularly close relation to either the law or the prophets. It could serve some purpose, perhaps, by heading off the danger indicated in the subject of another preacher, viz., 'Running of the Signals.' Different in character, but equally sensational is the theme of another, 'A Night of Debauchery and Its Consequences,' concerning which it must be said that, however delicate and restrained the preacher proved to be, his subject was neither 'Circumstantial Evidence' claimed the matutinal activity of another pastor, while Master Willie Haigh, the 'Boy Preacher,' was set forth as the magnet in another church. In still another the 'Kentucky Sisters' were advertised as about to conduct a revival service.

How different in Catholic churches!

Rochester Honored

Announcement is made that Hon. Thomas F. Conway, Lieutenant-Governor of the State of New York and one of the prominent Catholic laymen of the Northern Tier is to be one of the guests of honor at the 1911 banquet of St. Mary's Holy Name Society to be held at the Hotel Seneca on the evening of Feb. 20th.

The Rochester banquets of the Holy Name Society have introduced several noted Catholic laymen to the public of this part of the State. Attorney-General O'Malley; John W. Hogan, the Syracuse member of the State Board of Charities; Wm. V. Cooke, deputy attorney-general of Albany; Justice Peter Hendrick of the New York Supreme court

and others have been so introduced.

This, of itself, is a delicate and indirect method of proclaiming to the world at large that we possess within our ranks men of the requisite attainments to fill with credit any position in officialdom.

Defended His Faith

Catholic young men sometimes fail to defend their faith when it is assailed or sneered at by non-Catholics. They would do well to follow the example of Cardinal Howard, the eminent English Catholic prelate:

"In early life," relates an English paper, "Cardinal Howard was in the army, and one day some of the officers picked up a scapular somewhere about the barracks, and brought it to the mess table, where it was ridiculed and treated with disrespect. At last one of them hung it to the gas pipe over the table. Lieutenant Howard came in rather late. He was immediately assailed with shouts of 'Oh, Howard, here's something in your line! Isn't this thing Popish?' As soon as Howard saw what it was he walked straight to the middle of the room and before them all said in a loud clear voice, 'Yes, it is something belonging to my religion; it is something I reverence and esteem, and for which I would be ready to draw my sword, if necessary to defend it.' So saying he drew his sword, and with the point of it took down the scapular from the gas pipe, kissed it reverently pinned it to his breast. No one said a word after that but all present honored him the more for his disregard of human opinion."

Bishop Ludden is not devoid of courage. Moreover he is apt to know whereof he speaks and he never was noted as "quitting."

What has come over the people that they have such a craving for carbohic acid?

David Graham Phillips murder was a shocking affair. The thought has often occurred to us that muck-raking, anarchism, harangues and appeals to the baser passions of men might easily lead to deeds of violence.

Mrs. Mann, wife of the Governor of Virginia, recently inaugurated, announces that wine will not be served at State functions or in the executive mansion during her sojourn as mistress there.

Energetic protest by the Archbishop of Montreal has resulted in the elimination of a number of "nasty dramas" from the theatrical repertoire for 1911.

Never be afraid to stand up boldly for your faith.

The following letter from the Episcopal pastor of the church attended by "Tom" Moore should go far to settle the report that he abandoned the Catholic faith:

"Bromham Rectory, Nov. 21, 1887.

Dear Sir: I am sorry that a former letter of mine in reference to Mr. Moore should have been lost or overlooked. Having known Mr. Moore well, I can confidently say that he never changed his religious belief; that he died as he lived—a Roman Catholic. It is true that during the last two years of his life no priest was allowed to see him; but during that time, in consequence of his mental state, none, not even a servant, was admitted into his room. Bessy Moore nursed and attended him entirely. He recognized her to the last, and his last words to her were: "Bessie have faith in God."

Mr. S. C. Hall must have strangely misunderstood or misheard what I said to him. With kind regard, believe me, yours faithfully,
Edward D. Edgell.

He Obeys Orders

General Dabney J. Jackson in his "Incidents of General T. J. Jackson" states that when the war between the states broke out Jackson was the professor of mathematics at the Military College of the South. He wished strongly to take command of a cavalry corps, but the heads of the institution were desirous to have him continue his teaching. Governor Wise called out the state troops and ordered that a corps of cadets be held ready for immediate service. Jackson, then major, reported at once at the guard room as ready for duty. General Smith said:

"Major Jackson, you will remain as you are until further orders." Jackson at that moment was sitting on a camp stool in the guardroom with his saber across his knees. At twelve the next morning he was found in the same position.

"Why, major, why are you here?" exclaimed General Smith.

"Because last night you ordered me to remain where I was," was the reply.

Royal Jewels in Pawn

The ex-Sultan Abdul Aziz pawned his crown jewels for a million francs at the Mont de Piete at Paris, and they were only just redeemed by the Moorish government in time to prevent their being sold among other unredeemed goods.

The sword of state, which is regarded in Serbia as a sacred relic, was also pawned by a former king, while our well known European monarch found himself in such straitened circumstances that the famous house of Attenborough once temporarily had possession of all his old silver.

Queen Isabella was, however, the most famous royalty who made no secret of the fact that she raised money upon the security of the portraits of her ancestors, which hung on the walls at the palace. Cattle, her Parisian home. The royal lady often declared how deeply she was indebted to her royal forbears for coming to her rescue and helping her out of her financial predicaments.—London M. A. P.

The Road to Success

Just take this up somewhere where you can see it. Success consists in getting out of yourself everything that is in you. It does not consist in doing almost quite as much or a little more than the other fellow. What the other fellow does doesn't amount to a dent in a door knob so far as you are concerned. The fact that he succeeds by laying an Atlantic cable, building an Eiffel tower, inventing wireless telegraphy or cornering the world's supply of oil doesn't make you a failure because you haven't got enough ready money to buy an automobile. You're successful when you put to some useful purpose every ounce of energy, every grain of gray matter, every mite of muscle that you've got. You're successful when you've developed all there is to you and have given that to the world.—Pittsburg Gazette Times

A Hard Hearted People

Philal pietry finds no place in the Tibetan character. It is no uncommon thing for a son to turn his father when he is old for work, out of doors and to leave him to perish in the cold. The superstition that the souls of the dead can't get on if they will haunt the living drives their hardened natures to giving by the exercise of cruelty the promise of the dying that they will not return to earth. As death approaches the dying person is asked "Will you come back or will you not?" If he replies that he will they pull a leather bag over his head and another him. If he says he will not he is allowed to die in peace.

A Lightning Change Artist

The rapidly with which chameleons change their color is marvelous. You gather one from an outdoor shrub and it immediately becomes dark almost black, blushing and with its mouth wide open, threatening to bite. Meanwhile it is never still, but continues to crawl upward whenever possible—up your leg, up your sleeve always upward. By degrees the angry black changes into whatever color is nearest. If one's dress is of a brownish color so is the chameleon's.

The Real Thing

"This," said the young benedict who was just realizing that he had caught a tartar, "is what I call real married life."

"I'm glad you're satisfied with something," she snapped.

"Oh, I'm not! I merely meant to inform you that it is not ideal."—Philadelphia Ledger.

His Good Action

A little Canadian boy went to bed and then suddenly recollected that he hadn't done one good action that day. His conscience was gnawing at him. He heard a little squeal in the corner of his room, and he got up and released a mouse that had been caught in the trap. Then he gave it to the cat.

Expensive Fiction

"Is that picture really a work of art?"

"I don't know," replied Mr. Currox, "but the story the dealer told me about it surely was."—Washington Star.

Enough Said

"Thrifty! I won't go into a long discourse. I merely tell you that she banks money in December."—Washington Herald.

His Dilemma

"For \$200 I'll fix your teeth so you can chew without difficulty."

"If I was to give you \$200 I couldn't get anything to chew on."—Life.

Fox as a Gamester

Charles James Fox, the English statesman, was even more notorious in the gaming world than he was famous in the world of politics. He squandered \$250,000 before coming to age. He became one of the most prodigal gamesters of the vicious days in which he lived. Some of his finest days in debate were sandwiched between excitement such as would nerve most men who had no serious business on hand. Walpole has given a glimpse of a typical passage in this extraordinary man's life. He had to take part in the discussion on the thirty-nine articles in parliament on a certain Thursday. He had not up playing hard from Tuesday evening until 9 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon. As he had to be in the house at 10 o'clock on Wednesday he had recovered \$60,000, that he had lost and by dinner time, which was 5 o'clock, ended losing \$55,000. On Thursday he spoke in the debate, went to dinner at past 11 o'clock; thence to a club, where he drank till 7 the next morning; thence to a gambling house, where he won \$30,000, and between 3 and 4 in the afternoon he set out on a journey to Newmarket.

Pirates and Strategy

The virtuous island of Sark was not always so. When Edward III was king, Sark was a haunt of pirates and wreckers. Sir A. Conan Doyle in "Sir Nigel" tells how they lived not upon the island, "but from what they can gather upon the sea around it. They are broken folk from all countries—justice fliers, prison breakers, ravers, escaped bondsmen, murderers and staff breakers who have made their way to this outland place and hold it against all comers." The merchants of Rye and Winchelsea fitted out an expedition against those scourges of the narrow seas. A landing was obtained by strategy. Leave was obtained to bury a supposititious dead sailor on the island, the burying party to come unarmed. But that party's coffin was filled with weapons, and so was Sark cleansed of its evil inhabitants.—London Standard.

A Story of Mathews

Charles Mathews one day previous to the period of his publicly proclaimed dire bankruptcy invited a friend to dine with him. The waiter was dined down by some rare sherry.

When Tea Was Dear

Those who grumble at the price of tea should turn for consolation to the records of its price in early times. At its first introduction into England, about the middle of the seventeenth century, tea fetched anything between 60 and 110 a pound, and though a fall in price quickly took place the East India company still had to pay over £4 for the two pounds of tea which it presented the king. However, even thus it is doubtful if the tea merchants got very fat, seeing that the importation of some 4,000 pounds in 1678 was enough to glut the market for some years.—London Chronicle.

English Injustus

An Australian tourist traveling in the west of Ireland asked an old woman how far it was to the nearest town. She sadly looked at him, then sighed and said:

Grams in the Leg

To those who suffer from cramp in the leg at night the following hint may be useful: When the cramp comes on take a good strong string—a long garter will do—wind it round the leg over the place that is affected and take an end in each hand and give it a sharp pull, one that will hurt a little. Instantly the cramp will depart, and the sufferer can return to bed assured it will not come on again that night.

A Mean Question

"Yes, it was George's idea to give me a silver spoon for my birthday."

"How many has he given you?"

"Why, twenty-two."

Cautious

"I have a remarkable history" began the lady who looked like a possible client.

A Dubious Saying

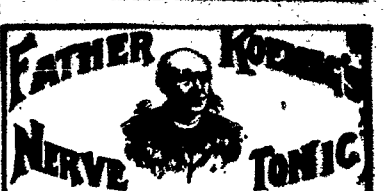
"He-Thy say that the face is an index of the mind. She-I don't know. It doesn't follow because a woman's face is made up that her mind is—Boston Transcript.

It Takes Time

"Has little Mrs. R. consorted herself over her husband's death yet?"

"Oh, no; no yet! You know what a long time these insurance companies take to pay!"

We must not sit down and look for miracles.—Milot.



FATHER KOENIG'S NERVE TONIC
Can Sleep Well and Eat Appetitely
Industry, Tex., Feb. 1, 1906.
The person for whom I used Father Koenig's Nerve Tonic is a 33 year old lady, she suffered from want of appetite of sleeplessness and was so weak that she could hardly walk a distance of about a mile, which she had formerly done with ease, without having to take a rest several times, she also had spells of dizziness and fainting when in presence of many persons, as at church. After using one bottle of the Tonic she is able to walk as long as she pleases and has splendid appetite, can sleep well and is strong again. Rev. W. B. Boney, pastor of St. Ignace's Church, Louisville, Ky.
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