

# The Catholic Journal.

—THE LEADING DIOCESAN NEWSPAPER—

Twenty-fourth Year, No. 35.

Rochester, N. Y., Friday, May 30, 1913.

Price Per Year, \$2.00 Per Copy

## Asprig of Lavendar

In the ruddy region of Provence, where the grass dies and the olive ripens, there lived in former times mighty nobles, who made war upon each other from castle to castle and from hill to hill. Travelers in that vicinity, even now, report seeing big stones heaped up around the farmhouses and green lizards coming out from under them with their backs blackened, witnessing to the smoke of ancient fires which devoured these castles.

Now the crickets chirp; the ortolan whistles on the hilltops; sturdy peasant girls, bound for the far-off fountain, stop half way down the slope to watch the flight of pigeons over the pine woods; a resinous odor floats in the air mixed with the fragrance of plants which reminds one of incense; the shepherds on the mountains can distinguish vessels in the harbor of Marseilles; all is at peace or gaily alive, in the sunshine of happy Provence. It is far, far away in the past, this tale of the little Count Roger.

He was only seven years old, the age when hours are reckoned only by the new pastimes they bring. He played ball in a hall with an arched ceiling, hung with Oriental tapestries and nearly on a level with the roof of his father's fortress. When he climbed the iron bars of its windows he could see the sky reflected in still waters below, swans swimming among the reeds, and about forty paces off, the enclosing wall of the fortress, built of marble blocks; and on its summit the stern figure of a man in armor. He had neither brother, sister, nor mother. He had to play alone, which is dismal, or with his nurse. And for the last two days this nurse had been bemoaning herself, refusing food and clasping the child in her arms with words of farewell he did not comprehend, or else falling on her knees and sobbing against a carven column, while the leather ball flung by little Count Roger rebounded from it. "Why do you not play with me, as you always do, dear nurse?" inquired the boy.

"Poor dear! Poor darling!" was the reply. "The chateau is besieged; the enemy will enter, will plunder and pillage, will slay us all."

"You are lying nurse! My father is there; they will not enter. You are but a woman. Come and play!"

He did not guess the danger but she could distinguish the tread of soldiery, flinging themselves from one wall to another, crossing the inner court yards, scaling stairways hewn in the rock, to appear now here and now there at sundry vulnerable points. She trembled at the sound of bullets, which in almost continuous volleys jarred the ramparts at the other extremity of the castle. And when she opened their door, the damp breath of the arched corridors brought whistling against her face the shrill blare of trumpets and the shouts of many combatants.

The child, pointing in displeasure, seated himself, with his back to the column.

Suddenly a man rushed in, clad in a torn buff-coat bareheaded. "My Lord!" he cried, "the chateau is about to be taken! Come! Let us flee to the underground passage!"

The nurse at this uttered a cry of fright and fled through the corridors.

But the lad belongs to a bold and daring race. He rises. He repulses the hand the man is extending.

"John, the Burgundian," he cries, "take me first to the top of the highest tower!"

"We have not time; the foe is even now breaking in."

"Not till I have climbed up yonder. I am always left down here with the women. Now, I will behold the estate of my fathers from the top of their towers before I lose it!"

And as the giant approaches, pursuing the little lord, who retreats from him, bent on saving the lad even by force, if needful,

## News From Ireland

the latter escapes and cries, plunging through the open doorway, "Follow me if you can, John, the Burgundian!"

He darts down the corridors, wheels, gains the stairway of the loftiest tower and vanishes up the spiral steps, shadowy leaves on the great stem which springs up towards the light.

His footfall, swift and light as a fawn's, echoes in the cage of stone. The careless laughter of youth mingles with it, recedes and dies away. The servitor wears in pursuit of the child; his shoulders hit against every twist and turn; his helmet is dented by striking the walls. "Stop, my lord, stop! I can see the ends of the ladders above the walls. Just hear the firing!"

But when, all exhausted, he reaches the flat roof of the watchtower he sees the little Count standing there. Clouds of dust and smoke surround him; arrows and balls whistle about, scratching the battlements; but the child, leaning out over the abyss, is gazing at his father's domain spread out at his feet. With clear gaze, wondering but fearless, he is counting up the hills, following the dark line of pine forest sloping eastward and the course of the tiny river between the harvest fields.

"Now, take me down, John, the Burgundian, I shall never forget it. I have seen all the land and I shall come back to it some day."

He bends over, with these words, and seizes a tuft of lavender in full bloom which dangles over the abyss. Then the servant lifts in his arms the little Count, no longer resistant, but out of breath, and with closed eyes, pressing to his heart the bunch of lavender. They descend the stairs of the tower, reach the underground passage, which the foe had failed to find; they were saved.

Eighteen years passed away. Count Roger, taken to Italy, had found a slender welcome and scant hospitality there, at the hands of a relative. His father was dead, the power of his house gone and half ruptured alliances were awaiting renewal or dissolution, when it should be clear what would be done by this orphan youth who, as yet, had neither spoken nor acted.

The young man lived in an ancient dilapidated villa, isolated on the plain, with his old servant, John, the Burgundian, grown white of head and less bold of heart. Around his dwelling, beyond its rose garden, arched vines and black yew-trees, fields of grain, meadows and rice-grounds formed an immense circle, up to the line of mountains on the horizon. A few small cities white with snow, capped the distant summits. And sometimes on his one horse, a dust-colored mount, Count Roger, with his squire behind, would go to market or to some fete given by one of the small nobility. He was much sought after by the ladies, who, finding him handsome, adroit, proud of glance and chary of words, would say to one another, "What is the matter with him, this fine, sad-hearted youth? We are wasting our smiles on him, while others stand begging for them."

What was he brooding over and seeing in visions? Why, a whole field of Provence, ladies of beauty, forests of pines; clear sheets of water, hills crowned with villages, and a near view of the sea. These kept him from being attentive to the rest of the world. The bouquet of lavender was to blame for it. He had placed the tuft in his chamber, tied to the hilt of his sword, and he gazed at them both every day.

When he reached the age of twenty-five, he bought some golden spurs and a helmet with white plumes, had his gray horse newly shod, borrowed a white mare for his servant, and said to John, the Burgundian, "It is your part, now, to follow me. We are setting forth to reconquer my paternal domains. My subjects will rise in my behalf. The hour is come."

At the Bruff Quarter Sessions Judge Law Smith heard an action for breach of promise of marriage brought by Nora Burke, Ballinacran, Kilmallock, against Martin Ryan, Balline, Kilmallock. The judge awarded £35 damages.

At the opening of the Longford Quarter sessions on April 14, Judge Curran congratulated the jury on the peaceful state of the county.

Sligo. The death took place recently at the home of his parents at Carneara, Lavagh, of Peter Brennan aged 19 years, a very popular young man.

To be continued

## Catholic News Notes

**Antrim.** While out walking in the neighborhood of Fortbreda, Dr. J. M. McCormac, Great Victoria street Belfast dropped dead.

A boy named Edward M'Cracken, of 95 Church street, East Belfast, was drowned in a pond near Alexandria Wharf, where he and three companions were amusing themselves on an improvised raft.

**Armagh.** Mrs. Rosa Brady, widow of Bernard Brady, died at her home Shankill street, Lurgan, on April 16.

An old woman, named Mary McKeown, who resided alone in a small house in Ballistemple, was found dead on April 20. She was in receipt of the old age pension for the past couple of years.

**Cavan.** The following deaths have taken place: April 18, Mrs. L. Carolan, Kingcourt. Recently, Peter Galligan, Kinalack. April 21, Mrs. C. McEnaney, Augnammullen. Recently, Mrs. Reilly, Cloneen.

**Clare.** Miss Moroney, trained night nurse in Kilrush Union, has resigned her position.

At a recent examination of the College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, W. J. Brennan and Stanislaus J. Brennan, sons of C. M. Brennan, Smithstown House, Clare, passed their final examinations with distinction.

**Clontarf.** Mrs. Louisa Jane Hussey de Burgh, of Kilfinnon Castle, Glendore, who died on November 2 last, left personal estate valued at £12,461.

**Derry.** As there were no criminal cases to be disposed of at the Coleraine Quarters Sessions the high sheriff presented Judge Todd with a pair of white gloves. His honor said they were the first pair of white gloves he had received in the county at the Easter sessions. At the last sessions he had received three.

**Dublin.** After a brief illness, the death of Hugh Mackrell, Ardara, Newry, a former D. C. for the Luley electoral division and one of the oldest and most respected residents in the neighborhood, occurred on April 19. The interment took place in the cemetery attached to Shinn Catholic church.

**Dublin.** Miss Margaret Toher, L. P. S. I., has been unanimously elected to the position of compounder of the South Dublin Union.

**Fermanagh.** Died. Recently, Cladius Quarter Sessions, had only one bill before him for trial.

**Galway.** Judge Anderson, at Galway Quarter sessions, had only one bill before him for trial.

Portumna Rural council has appointed Mr. Roemgrave as engineer for a scheme embracing the erection of forty-six laborers' cottages.

**Kerry.** The Listowel Urban Council has appointed Mrs. Gleeson to the position of clerk of the Urban Council recently vacated by her husband under pressure from the Local government board.

**Limerick.** At the Bruff Quarter Sessions Judge Law Smith heard an action for breach of promise of marriage brought by Nora Burke, Ballinacran, Kilmallock, against Martin Ryan, Balline, Kilmallock. The judge awarded £35 damages.

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## Future Priests To Be Ordained

The annual ordination exercises of St. Bernard's Seminary will be held Saturday morning, June 7th, at the Cathedral. Forty-nine students who have completed their courses will be ordained into the priesthood or subdiaconry. This is a somewhat smaller class than usual, but it is expected that next year's class will be one of the largest ever ordained here. There are 221 students at the seminary this year, coming from 30 dioceses.

The plans for the new school of the Sacred Heart, Jersey City, of which Rev. J. C. MacErlain is the rector, show a building to cost about \$60,000. There will be twelve class-rooms and accommodations for one thousand pupils.

The spiritual retreat of the clergy of the diocese of Davenport, Iowa, will begin at St. Ambrose College in that city June 16th, and end on the 20th. The diocese will have ten deacons ordained priests this year.

The Lee Street Baptist church, Baltimore, has become the property of St. Joseph's parish, and will soon be consecrated by Cardinal Gibbons.

The new secretary of the Apostolic Delegation at Washington, Mgr. Mesuras, has been a priest since 1906 and is a Doctor of Theology, Dr. of Philosophy and Dr. of Canon and Civil Law, and speaks English right well.

The new St. Patrick's school at Lawrence, Mass., was dedicated on the 9th inst. Its cost was \$35,000. Lt. Gov. Walsh delivered the address.

On May 30 a massive bronze tablet will be erected at the entrance of St. Aloysius church, West Side Avenue, Jersey City, to perpetuate the name and the work of Rev. J. A. Sullivan, the late pastor of the Church. Father Sullivan died on April 17, 1912.

At Port Huron, Mich., Father Joseph Spaeth, age 64 years, while walking along the street fell dead.

A new parish, taken from the western part of St. John's parish at Stamford, Ct., and the eastern part of Greenwich, has been established at Riverside. Rev. Nicholas F. Coleman will have the charge.

At Mt. St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Md., Prof. Henry Jourdan, the oldest of its faculty, died on the 29th ult., at the age of 82 years.

The Paulist Fathers in Portland, Ore., are to have a fine new Church, dedicated to the patronage of St. Philip Neri. It will be erected on Sixteenth Street in that city.

The President has appointed Father William R. Arnold, of Peru, Ind., an Army chaplain.

On May 10, St. Agnes' Hospital, Philadelphia, one of the largest and most progressive institutions of its kind, rounded out the first twenty-five years of its existence.

A new home for the Sisters of St. Cassimer's parish, Newark, is to be erected on Nicholas street at a cost of \$15,000.

A great Catholic Congress will take place at Linz, Austria, in August.

At St. Peter's, Rome, Pope Stephen II., erected a belfry with three bells in the year 755.

In Montenegro Catholics number about 25,000. The Church there is recognized by the State.

All over the German Empire the indications of the disintegration of Protestantism as a religion are in evidence.

## Procession of Holy Eucharistic

The feast of Corpus Christi was celebrated Sunday with an outdoor procession of the blessed sacrament on the grounds of the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Prince St. In many Catholic countries the feast is celebrated with outdoor processions, but in this country, except where religious orders have spacious grounds, it is celebrated in chapels and churches.

Bishop Hickey granted permission to the Order of the Sacred Heart in this city to hold an outdoor procession, and two large altars were erected on the Prince St. grounds. The procession, led by Rev. Dr. M. Nolan, chaplain of the convent, passed from one to the other of the outdoor altars, and the final benediction was given in the chapel of the convent.

The religious, the children of the convent and a few friends participated in the ceremony, which marks the octave of the feast of the blessed sacrament.

## Choirs Give Third Recital

Catholic Music Exemplified at Convention Hall

The third public recital of the United Catholic Choirs of Rochester, made up of 400 boys and men's voices, took place in Convention Hall Wednesday evening.

A varied and interesting program was arranged by a special committee of choir directors of the city, under the supervision of Bishop Thomas P. Hickey. More than 4,000 invitations were distributed. Convention Hall was tastefully decorated with flowers and the stage of the auditorium was enlarged to a greater extent than for any other given in Convention Hall.

The choir of seven choruses were represented in the concert and besides singing in the choir three great ensemble numbers, the choir of each church gave two or three numbers of its own.

In the course of a brief period of appreciation Bishop Hickey announced that the concert would be continued as a permanent organization and that early in the autumn arrangements would be made for next spring's concert.

Meetings will be held in the parlors to plan the program and it is expected that more parish choirs will participate in next year's concert.

Memorial requiem mass for deceased members was held at Corpus Christi church at 8:30 o'clock Friday morning. The following brothers died during the past year: Rev. Wm. Gleason, E. J. Hetrick, M. J. Leman, John F. Swan, R. F. Whalen and Frank J. Hughes.

**Mass Caravan** Joseph P. MacSweeney has received a communication from the supreme commander of the Order of Alhambra, Wm. J. McMahon, of Albany, in which he pays Musa Caravan the compliment of having finer costumes and giving a finer exemplification of the degree than any other caravan.

The caravan held a meeting Wednesday night. There was an entertainment and lunch.

**Weekly Church Calendar** S. June 1—St. Caprasius, Ab. M. 2—SS. Marcellinus and Comp. T. 3—St. Clotilda, W. W. 4—St. Francis Caracciolo, Th. 5—St. Boniface, Bp. F. 6—St. Norbert S. 7—St. Robert, Ab.

St. Joseph's Academy, Portland, Me., will soon have a normal school department.

In Ireland there are only 15,000 Masses and about 4,000 Jews.

Wallace, the composer of the opera "Maritana," resided at Waterford, England. He became a Catholic.