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Father Tim and the Drummer.

I never saw Father Tim really angry but once, and that was when some one insulted the Blessed Virgin. I will tell you how it happened. Jack Kilduff, who was traveling for a New York furniture house, had just finished a cigar and a chat with two liquor drummers, and the three came forward to the chair car. Jack took a seat by himself and sat with his hand in his pocket gazing unseeingly out the window. Only a keen observer would have detected that his lips were continually moving. After some fifteen minutes he quietly tucked away the rosary which he had been reciting (that was the reason he had kept his hand in his pocket), and which he never failed to recite while traveling from one city to another. One of the liquor drummers happened to be looking that way, at the time and caught sight of something in Kilduff's hand.

"Get on to the mess of black pills Jack Kilduff carries in his pocket. Say, Jack, what's the trouble? System out of order?" "Those are not pills, you mut-ton head," said the other—one of those wisecracks whose reservoir of wisdom is constantly overflowing for the benefit of ordinary people's little founts. "When your doctor prescribes pills, does he make you take 'em strung on a chain like that? That's a charm Catholic's use when they adore the Virgin. Hey, Jack, come out of the fog. A guy that can rake in orders for \$25,000 worth of furniture in a week ought to have enough 'gray matter' to cut out twelfth century idolatry."

Now, Father Tim always tells us that it is worse than useless to argue religion on the train; but on this occasion he had slapped his breviary shut without marking the place, and was facing the liquor drummer before Kilduff had time to say a word.

"You have just said the Catholics practice idolatry towards the Blessed Virgin Mary. Are you aware that that statement is a gross insult to every Catholic within hearing?"

"Sorry it gets on your nerves, old man; but what I said is true."

"Prove it!" came sharp and quick as a pistol shot.

"Why, everybody knows it!" "Everybody knows it?" echoed the priest, and his lip curled sarcastically. "If that is what you liquor drummers call proving a statement, then I wouldn't care to buy any shares in the business you are traveling for. I don't think it will double its list of customers in a week."

The drummer felt that his theological lore was rather frayed at the ends. He cursed himself inwardly for not holding his tongue. But there was no retreating now; the nearby passengers had laid down their papers and were listening for his reply. He clinched his teeth and jumped in with a splash.

"Go into any Catholic Church and you will see at a glance that they adore the Virgin; they always have her image on the altar!"

"I see you have the image of an elk on your coat lapel," said Father Tim; "does that mean that you adore the beast?"

"They burn lights and offer flowers to her!"

"When you come to die, even your wife's mother will put lights and flowers around your coffin. Happy man, your mother-in-law adores you!"

The drummer did not enjoy the laugh. He charged anew.

"When they get hold of a rag or a stick or a stone that she happened to touch, they think they have a treasure."

"Remember the Maine!" Do you know what a rusty piece of iron from its bulk will sell for?"

"But they pray to her!" cried the drummer. He was now striking blindly. "And we should pray to no one but God."

"What do you mean by praying?" queried the priest.

"Why, I mean to—to say prayers—to ask for things."

"And you claim that we must not ask for things from anyone but God?"

"No, that isn't what I mean. I mean—"

"Your whole trouble, my dear sir, is that you don't know what you do mean, and unfortunately you have not enough sense to keep quiet until you find out. In the presence of these passengers you charged the Catholic Church with practicing idolatry towards the Blessed Virgin Mary. The charge is false, and I defy you or any man to prove it. On the contrary, I can show you black on white that, according to the universal law of the Catholic Church any man that would practice idolatry towards the Blessed Virgin Mary or any other creature would be guilty of heresy and would by that very fact be excommunicated—cut off from the Church."

"But though Catholics do not adore the Blessed Virgin, they honor her, which is quite another thing. Why do they honor her? Because they love Jesus, and she is the Mother of Jesus. If you profess to love me, and at the same time you turn your back upon my mother, I will count your declaration of love a lie. Do not say that Jesus, being God, is indifferent to the way we treat His Mother. He is the God that gave the command, 'Honor thy father and thy mother.' Will He act directly contrary to His own command—He who said, 'I have done so you also may do?' You honor the mother of great men; why not honor the Mother of your God? You honor the stable where Jesus was born; why not honor the Virgin who gave Him birth? It is one of the insoluble mysteries of human history that there should be so many fair-minded people who are sane on every other point, yet have an insane fear of offending Jesus if they show the marks of common decency towards His Mother."

"But," cried the drummer, who had been thinking hard and believed he saw an opening.

"Catholic's do more than honor the Blessed Virgin; they pray to her; they ask her to work miracles, to cure deadly wounds, to mend broken bones, and to do other things that only a God can do. Surely this is idolatry!"

"If they ask her to do these things by her own power, it surely is idolatry; if they ask her to ask God to do them, it surely is not. But why do they not ask God directly themselves instead of asking a roundabout way and asking the Blessed Virgin to ask Him? Because they are not extremists. All extremes are foolish. It is extreme and therefore foolish to speak always indirectly to God and never to dare to speak to Him directly as a child to its father. It is extreme and therefore foolish to speak always indirectly to Him and to have a holy horror of even breathing a prayer to His Mother, as though it were high treason, like praying to the devil."

"Catholics pray at times to the Blessed Virgin because it is a delicate compliment to Jesus to show this mark of veneration for His Mother."

"Catholics pray at times to the Blessed Virgin because God encourages us to do so. When He inspired the Evangelists to write His life, though they did not write one one-thousandth of all the things He did, yet He took care that they should not omit the fact that He worked the first of His public miracles at Cana or Galilee in answer to Mary's prayer."

"Catholics pray at times to the Blessed Virgin because it brings a little of that variety into religion for which the human heart craves. The religion that has no variety in it will soon become stagnant, dull, monotonous, dead. Instead of the luxuriant vine from which all the members draw life-giving sap, it is a dry stock that puts for but one sickly shoot once a year on the annual go-to-church Sunday."

"Catholics pray at times to the Blessed Virgin for the same reason that the boy who knows that he deserves the cowhide rather than an excursion will send his

angel sister' to get his permission to go fishing rather than ask for it himself."

"All that," cried the drummer, "is silly sentiment or middle-aged superstition. God is the Father of all and the human heart needs no intercessor between itself and Him."

"How do you know what the human heart needs? Did you ever lift a poor wretch out of the mire of sin after he had broken his good resolutions for the hundredth time, put him on his feet and bring him safe at last into his Father's house? The Catholic priest is doing this every day of his life. Experience tells him that there are numberless sinners who, after falling back again and again into the most shameful sins finally give way to despair. All the arguments in the world will not induce them to call once more upon the God whose mercy they have so repeatedly abused. But the very name of 'Mother' is so expressive of tenderness and pity, or forgiveness and forgetfulness of the misdeeds of wayward children, that, at the sound of that sweet name, they raise their despairing heads and whisper, 'Mother, pray to Jesus for us.' Here again experience tells the priest that no one that calls on Mary for help, with true sorrow for his sins and a firm purpose of amendment, is ever left unheard. You may explain it as you wish, but the fact is there, and it is a fact of extreme importance to the sinful sons of Adam. No more crafty trick was ever excogitated by a crafty devil than that which shuts off this source of salvation from thousands of Christians by means of the insane fear that affection and respect towards God's mother is an insult to her Son."

"Here is my station, gentlemen. I bid you good day,"—C.D. McEnery, C. S. S. R., in the Li-gourian.

Late Pope Pius Honored Priests

As a reward for their devotion to the cause of educating young men for the priesthood and building up the diocese of Rochester, the late Pope Pius X, at the time of Bishop Thomas F. Hickey's visit to him, elevated Rev. Dennis J. Curran, V. G., and Rev. Dr. James J. Hartley to the rank of domestic prelates, with the title of Right Rev. Monsignor.

That was one of the last official acts of the late Pope. Bishop Hickey petitioned His Holiness to confer those honors on the Rochester priests, and just before leaving Europe, the bishop was informed that the request had been granted, and the documents were presented the priests.

Monsignor Curran occupies the position of vicar-general of the diocese which he has labored unceasingly to build up. Monsignor Hartley has been pro-rector of St. Bernard's Seminary since it was organized by the late Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid.

Vercelli, Italy, is an Archdiocese with 136 parishes and over 250,000 inhabitants.

In the Vicariate Apostolic of Central Tonkin, China, are 19 convents of native Sisters, with over 450 members.

A new Croatian church is being built on South Throop near West Nineteenth Streets, Chicago. Rt. Rev. Paul P. Rhode, D. D., officiated at the cornerstone laying.

The Spiritual Retreat for the clergy of Chicago will be held at Notre Dame University, commencing Aug. 24th.

The Dominican convent at San Pablo, Spain, was founded in the year 1276. Its church has a remarkable front, richly carved.

Flowers for Blessing of the Graves. Cheapest and best at Henry P. Neun, 9 North St., Mercantile Bldg. Both phones. Adv.



Bishop Hickey.

Welcome Bishop Upon Return to City

Bishop Thomas F. Hickey was given a rousing reception last Friday evening on his return from Europe. The New York Central station was crowded to the doors.

Bishop Hickey landed in Boston Wednesday. He was accompanied here by Jeremiah G. Hickey, his brother, who went to Boston to meet him. Fifty members of the Catholic clergy formed themselves into a receiving line in the subway, and each extended greetings on behalf of his congregation as the Bishop passed to the waiting room. When he appeared there the Fifty-fourth Regiment Band began to play and the people applauded.

The First Regiment, Knights of St. John, stood at attention in front of the station. Members of Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus, acted as the Bishop's personal escort. Delegations from the Federation of German Catholic Societies and other Catholic orders also participated in the reception. A decorated automobile with conspicuous banners bearing the word "Welcome," received the Bishop as he left the station. Other cars were provided for the clergy.

The procession went in Clinton avenue north to Main street, to State street, to Platt street and to St. Patrick's Cathedral.

At the benediction in the cathedral Bishop Hickey delivered an address. He laid stress on the fact that seven weeks ago the day before he had a half-hour conference in private with the late Pope Pius, to whose memory he paid a high tribute. He gave the papal blessing. He did not comment on the European war, but urged all Catholics to follow President Wilson's policy of strict neutrality.

Bishop Hickey said that Rev. J. P. O'Hern was now convalescing and would probably sail from Europe soon. Father O'Hern did not want his friends to worry about him, as he was not in danger, Bishop Hickey said.

"War is terrible," said the Bishop in an interview. "We comprehend what it means. In the near future I shall send a letter to all priests of the diocese asking that they and their congregations pray for peace."

The Dominican Sisters at Stockton, Cal., are to have a fine new home to cost about \$20,000. It will adjoin St. Agnes' Academy.

Cemetery Bouquets and clusters ready to place on the graves. We give particular attention to the arrangement of the Flowers and put in plenty of Ferns without extra charge. Rochester Floral Co., 255 East Main St. Adv.

The Teaching of Sex Hygiene in Our Schools

Has Received Numerous Commendations.

The teaching of sex hygiene in the schools is being urged by so-called "advanced" educators and "social reformers" as a cure for immorality of the present day. In quite a number of places an effort has even been made to introduce it as a regular part of the school curriculum. The position which Catholics, and indeed all right-thinking men and women should take on this important question is outlined in a pamphlet recently issued by the Central Bureau of the Central Verein, entitled "The Teaching of Sex Hygiene in Our Schools."

The author of the pamphlet is Rev. Francis Heiermann, S. J., President of St. Xavier's College Cincinnati, O., the treatise first appearing as an article in the well-known Medical Journal "The Lancet-Clinic" of that city, eliciting numerous commendations from physicians, teachers and editorial writers. It was subsequently revised by the author and now, in compliance with many requests for copies, has been reprinted by the Central Bureau with some addenda. The subject of which it treats is one on which every Catholic should be informed. The price of this pamphlet is 5 cents per copy, or \$4 per 100, with discount for purchases in large quantities. It can be obtained from the Central Bureau of the C. V., 307 Temple Bldg., St. Louis, Mo.

The Catholic ladies of Toledo, Ohio, recently presented their Bishop with \$2,500 to furnish his thirty-five room episcopal residence.

A new church for St. Rita's parish, Cohoes, N. Y., is to be built for the Italians of that city. It will be located at the corner of Main and Newark streets.

The late Rev. Matthew Bohn, of the Redemptorist Congregation, who died at Ilchester, Md., conducted more than 900 missions and retreats.

The late Father Gueguen, of Vincennes, bequeathed his estate to the charities of the diocese of Indianapolis.

The diocese of Bismark has two Catholic Indian boarding schools.

The old Fiske Homestead in West Wrentham has been purchased by the Diocese of Providence for a retreat house for nuns.

St. Clement's Church at Sheboygan, Wis., will cost \$45,000.

Rev. H. F. Kroll, of Fort Wayne, has collected nearly \$35,000 for a diocesan aid society.

At the centenary celebration of the independence of Argentina and Chile there will be an Irish exhibit.

Why Not Improve? by taking courses in the R. B. L. Evening School. Opens next Monday night at 7.30, Y. M. C. A. Bldg.

All business subjects taught including Bookkeeping, Short-hand, Stenotypy, Typewriting, Business Arithmetic, Penmanship, Business Correspondence, Business Law, English and Spelling. Call, phone or write for new Evening School Circular giving full information. Rochester Business Institute, S. C. Williams, Principal; John F. Forbes, Associate Principal. Adv.

Henry P. Neun, Florist, at No. 9 North Street, will take orders for Flowers and bouquets for the ceremony of the blessing of the graves and deliver Saturday or Sunday morning at very reasonable prices. Both phones. Adv.

News From Ireland

A man named Miller, while cycling at Ballyearry, August 28, collided with a motor car, was thrown heavily to the ground and died an hour later from a fracture of the skull.

At a meeting of the Carlow County Council on August 11, E. McDonald, J. P., was elected coroner for the county.

On August 4 the death took place of John Webster, J. P. Ballykeenan.

August 16, 1914, at County hospital, Galway, the death occurred of Patrick, eldest son of the late John Clarke, Tullymore House, Balleboro, County Galway, aged 55 years.

The Little Sisters of the Assumption, Cork, have offered their services at nurses of the wounded to the general commanding that district.

The residence of Mr. Kilduff, 100, avenue Terrace, Monkstown, has been completely destroyed by fire.

Coraleena, the residence of the late Captain D'Arcy Irvine, Rathmullan, was burned to the ground. The origin of the fire has not been discovered.

The appointments of the magistracy of the city are announced of Alderman John Keogh, chairman of the North Dublin Union, and Thomas Gallagher of Gallagher Brothers, 45 Middle Abbey street.

Herbert Park entrance gates are now open to the public nightly. The roadway is lighted by electricity.

The Enniskillen Yacht Club has decided to abandon their racing program this season owing to the uncertainty caused by the present course of events.

On July 22, at St. Patrick's, Galway, by Rev. P. Lohan, C.C., Peter J. O'Malley, J. P., County C., Maam, was married to Annie H. Kelly, staff nurse, County hospital, Galway.

On August 3, at Tully, William Mangan, captain of the Killybegs H. C., presented on behalf of the club, a handsome case to Peter Gleasure on the occasion of his approaching marriage.

The death of Michael Milon, Castlejohn, occurred on the 18th instant. Deceased, who was one of the most popular men beneath the shadow of the mountain, had been in failing health for some time.

The National Hotel, Limerick, has been destroyed by fire.

Mrs. M. A. Hogan, wife of William Hogan, Punch's Row, died on August 14th.

The death of Michael Farrell, Edgeworthstown, occurred on August 13, at the age of 66 years.

A marriage ceremony was celebrated in Balla on August 2, the contracting parties being Miss Ellen Brennan of Lisahan, and Michael Hopkins of Carlecarra.

Martin J. Mylotte, merchant, Carna, has been appointed a Justice of the peace for County Galway. Mr. Mylotte is a Mayo man and is extremely popular in Connemara.

The death of Rev. Hugh McGrath, P. P., Moynalty, occurred in a Dublin private hospital. Father McGrath had reached his fifty-first year.

Major W. F. H. Bredin, resident magistrate, has been transferred from County Monaghan to Kings county.

Died.—August 12, 1914, Ellen Shilleagh, after a short illness.