

What Doth It Profit

Father Casey was a young priest in those days, and he had a straightforward, uncompromising way of urging the principle: "What doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and suffer the loss of his soul?" which the lazy and the lukewarm stigmatized as excessive youthful zeal. Quite naturally then, when Owen McEwan began an enthusiastic recital of the offer he had received to trade his business in St. Mary's parish for a general merchandise store out West, the first question the young priest asked him was:

"Is there a Catholic Church and a Catholic School in the town?"

"I—I don't believe there is," replied Owen, with about ninety-nine per cent of the enthusiasm gone from his voice.

"You don't believe there is!" echoed the priest. "You are too shrewd a business man to buy a pig in a bag. Do you mean to tell me that you are making this deal without having a look at the goods. Haven't you been out to see this—what do you call it?"

"Centerville. Sure. I went out and gave it the 'once over.' It's a jerk-water station on the Pacific. Not fifty people in the whole place; but it has the trade of miles and miles of the swellest farming country on the map. Put a little grey matter behind that general merchandise, and you've got a gold mine."

"Owen," said the priest, "I know too well the way you give a prospective purchase the 'once over,' to suppose that anything in Centerville escaped you. There's not even a Catholic Church there, much less a Catholic school, or you would have seen it."

"No, there isn't," Owen admitted.

"Then, why do you say you believe there is none, when you know there is none?"

"Well," said Owen. "I really hadn't given that matter any thought until you mentioned it."

"You, with your family of young children, are planning on a permanent home; yet you have not thought of inquiring if there is a church in the place! What sort of Catholic are you? What sort of father are you?"

"Oh, I suppose there is a church somewhere near by."

"You just now said that Centerville is the only town in miles. And you know very well there is not a church at every cross road in that new country!"

"There may be a sprinkling of Catholics in the neighborhood; we can get together and build a church!" cried Owen triumphantly.

"There may be. Can you risk the salvation of your children on a may be? Believe me, if there were a sprinkling of genuine Catholics on those fertile farm lands you speak of, they would have built a church before this. Either there are no Catholics, or those who are there are no good—too lukewarm to make a sacrifice for their faith. In this latter case they will experience no particular revival of zeal by the advent of a man who does not care enough about the souls of his children to inquire whether there is a church in the place whither he is preparing to bring them."

"Now, Father Tim, be reasonable," pleaded Owen; if it is wrong to go to build up a home in a new country, then, my father and yours, the Lord have mercy on them, were the worst of sinners."

"My father and yours, Owen, left a land where their holy religion was persecuted and where starvation stared them in the face; but you are leaving a thriving business and depriving your children of all the advantages of a Catholic education for nothing else than the prospect of a little more of this world's goods. When my father and yours came to settle on the broad virgin prairies of America, they carried with them their holy faith as their greatest treasure. Their first thought was to settle near a church or to make sure that there were enough Catholic families together to get to work immediately and build one. Other immigrants who did not treasure their faith sufficiently to take this precaution, paid the dreadful price of seeing that faith lost to their children, as everybody knows who has seen the list of Irish Catholic names on the membership rolls of Protestant churches in districts where there is no priest. Owen McEwan, do not insult the memory of my father and yours by citing their exemplary conduct in justification of your own mercenary action!"

The young man's face darkened with rebellion and bitterness.

"Why must the Catholic Church," he growled, "be everlasting and persistently reactionary—always blocking the road and throwing sand on the gears? If it were not for the spirit of courage that dares to launch upon uncharted seas, if it were not for the spirit of enterprise that has the strength to tear itself from familiar surroundings, how would the stupendous progress of the past half century have been realized?"

"Owen," the priest's tone was gentle and almost sad, "you speak of the material progress of the last half century, while you could not understand, even were I to tell you, how many of our best and holiest traditions have been ruthlessly sacrificed for the sake of this vaunted progress; neither could you understand that there is often more moral courage in sticking to the humdrum life of home with its prosaic duties than in weakly yielding to every youthful longing for novelty and adventure. True, Almighty God has often used the spirit of adventure to further His own wise designs, but the stay-at-home, not the rambler, has ever been the sturdier pillar of society, both ancient and modern. Owen, I speak to you as a priest and as a friend. Your chief duty in life is to care for the souls of your children.

Continued next week.

Babe of Bethlehem.

Oh little babe of Bethlehem,
To you we bring our tears;
To you we bring our sorrows
Throughout the weary years.
When'er our days are darkest
Or our skies are drab and gray,
It is only Thee dear Saviour
Who can take our cares away.
But infant when you smile on us
And all our trials end;
Ah we poor human mortals
Forget our dearest friend.
We do not thank Thee as we ought,
We do not laud Thy name,
We have no time to sing Thee praise,
We are seeking worldly fame.
But as the days draw nigher
To the dear time of Thy birth
The knowledge of Thy goodness
Gladdens your wide earth.
C. LOIS RYAN.

LARGE CLASS CONFIRMED AT DANSVILLE CHURCH.

Dansville, Dec. 9.—An unusually large class received confirmation at St. Mary's Church last Sunday evening at the hands of Rt. Rev. Thomas F. Hickey. The services began at 7:30 o'clock, the members of St. Bonifacius Society forming a guard of honor for the bishop and clergy from the parochial residence to the church. Rev. M. Krischel of St. Francis Xavier parish of Rochester, a former pastor of St. Mary's, was one of the visiting clergy. Special music and decorations were features of the impressive exercises.

Convent Holds Celebration.

"The Procession of the Lilies," a picturesque feature of the observance of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, in Sacred Heart Convent, Sunday, was participated in by many former students and other friends of the institution. Rev. William E. Cowan of St. Bernard's Seminary preached the sermon and Rev. Michael T. Nolan, chaplain of the convent, celebrated benediction.

Knights of Columbus.

An entertainment in the form of a musical was held on Thursday evening for the members and friends of Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus, in the club-rooms, Triangle building. The program was given by Misses Lenzie Royce, Dorothy Clark, Ola Wheeler, Helen Stauder, Messrs. Charles Sullivan, Evan Chapman, Charles Cameron, Edward Sweeney, Edward LaPalm and Elroy Miller. The musical entertainment was followed by dancing.

K. of C. War News Service.

Transports bringing our troops home are now receiving especial attention from the Knights of Columbus and arrangements have been made to have K. of C. secretaries aboard as many of the boats as is possible. Already K. of C. secretaries are accompanying troops back, other secretaries are aboard ships going over after troops and others in this country are awaiting the arrival of ships which are to return for more of our fighters.

A force of K. of C. overseas secretaries has been mobilized at every embarkation point ready to supplement the staff of secretaries on transports leaving France, if it is necessary.

These Knights of Columbus secretaries are the most efficient men in the overseas department. Their responsibility is great and they must measure up to a certain standard before they are accepted for this service.

Foreign Mission News

The Propagation of the Faith Society
348 Lexington Ave., New York City.

"Peace has at last come to a war-distracted world, and men may now as never before enjoy the blessing of a kind Father in heaven. His Divine Son came on earth to enkindle love in the hearts of all and to establish a brotherhood that would knit the ends of the earth together. The true disciples and messengers of peace are the missionaries, who carry the message of equality to all men, irrespective of color or locality. In helping them in their sublime mission we are promoting true democracy."

A Chinese Jesuit scholastic named Joseph Si, after a period of teaching in the College of Zikawei, was returning to Europe to begin his studies in theology, and had reached Canada when the war put an end to his journey. He is making his studies at Montreal instead of Paris for this reason. As a result, the Canadian Province has become keenly interested in mission work in China. One Jesuit has already announced his intention of departing for that country and two students have taken up the study of Chinese with a view of doing likewise. Montreal already has a number of resident Chinese Catholics.

AFRICA'S UNSUNG HEROES.

Take the map of Africa, study the size and apparent impassibility of its great central regions, and then try to grasp the fact that an almost unbroken line of Catholic missions extends from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean.

Not much has yet been written about apostolic achievement in Africa—not enough, by any means, but when the true story of the struggles, disappointments, martyrdoms and final successes of the great army of African missionaries from Cyprian and Augustin to the twentieth century priest is finally written it will form the most wonderful page of the Church's history.

AN EQUATORIAL BREAKFAST.

Writing in The African Missions of his first experiences in equatorial Africa a White Father says of the breakfast that is offered to the honored guest:

"There is usually a sweet potato, or a banana cooked on live coals, and coffee of the country or warm milk, above all. For the invalids, an effort is made to supply the place of bread (not successfully) by a thin crusty cake of cassave (manioc flour).

"At Nandere, the 'brushmen' occasionally furnish us with wild honey, to help us to forgo the everlasting fried apples.

"But one thing never omitted by the 'veterans' at the end of the repast, is a taste of the succulent papaw which resembles a melon and may be eaten cooked or raw."

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Child Jesus' Month

15 S St. Valerian Bp. M.
16 M St. Eusebius Bp. M.
17 T St. Lazarus Bp. C.
18 W Expectation B. V. M.

19 T St. Nemesion M.
20 F St. Dominic, Ember Day
21 S St. Thomas Ap., Ember Day

We make a specialty of Christmas cards. 470 Main Street East.

Catholic Short Notes.

The Holy Father, by cable, imparted with paternal affection the Papal Benediction to all present at the celebration of the golden jubilee of the diocese of Harrisburg, Pa.

Archbishop Ireland devised his estate, of about \$86,000 to his diocese.

Cardinal O'Connell gave the immediate use of St. John's Seminary to the Emergency Public Health Committee, and its complete equipment as a place of convalescence for those recovering from the influenza. The seminary, which is at Brighton, has 135 large, airy rooms.

The corner stone of a shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes has been laid, at Mount St. Clare of the Franciscan Sisters, Clinton, Ia.

In memory of Cardinal Farley, an "Angelus Bell" will be hung in the tower of St. Andrew Church, New York.

The earthquake in Porto Rico killed 150 persons and damaged many churches and schools.

Rev. P. H. Frei built five provision churches in the vicinity of Lemmon, S. Dak., and Bishop Lawler dedicated them.

Henry J. Rahe, of Buffalo, and his four sons will enter the Notre Dame University as students, and Mrs. Rahe and her three daughters will enter St. Mary's Academy at the same time.

The half-million new Cathedral of Sioux Falls, S. D., was dedicated November 21st, by Bishop Thomas O'Gorman. Last June his clergy presented him towards its completion \$40,000.

At Tacoma, Wash., a memorial tablet marking the oldest Catholic Church in the State of Washington—the Immaculate Conception at Steelscom, was unveiled by the State Historical Society. More than 300 persons were present; Bishop O'Dea delivered the address.

At Sarzana, Italy, Sister Cardina, a survivor of the Crimean campaign, died at the age of 95 years.

The Church in China is making good headway. In Shantung 3,000 new catechumens have been registered.

The diocesan and regular priests of Rome are about equal in number.

Father Thomas Jones of Killorglin, County Kerry, Ireland, has been given a cup by the King of Norway for valor in saving eight Norwegian sailors by dragging them up a steep cliff 200 feet high and saving their lives.

Among the officials of the railroad and telegraph companies of France a society has been organized for the instructing of their employees in the observance of their religious duties.

In seven months Ireland exported to the United States salted mackerel to the value of one million dollars.

In the chapel of the Escorial, Madrid, Spain, there is preserved a miraculous consecrated Host, which is now over 300 years old. Twice in the year it is solemnly exposed.

Late News of Ireland

Carlow

Judge Brereton Barry was presented with white gloves at Carlow.

Cork

The death has taken place at Cork of Rev. Brother M. Carmody, late Superior St. Joseph's School, Orpington, Kent.

Mogeely U.I.L. passed votes of sympathy with J. Morrison, R. D. C., on the death of his daughter, and with M. Murphy, J.P., on the death of his son, Dr. Murphy.

Cork Fever Hospital, Board expressed sympathy with Dr. D. J. O'Flynn on the death of his brother, Rev. Father O'Flynn, C. S. S. R.

Mrs. Farrell, wife of J. E. Farrell, P. L. G., Youghal, died suddenly while out driving with her husband.

Dublin

Solemn Office and High Mass were celebrated in the Church of Our Lady of Charity of Refuge, Gloucester street, for the repose of the soul of the late Sister Mary, of St. Bernard Kelly. Right Rev. Mgr. O'Donnell, P. P., V. G. presided, and the celebrant of the Mass was Rev. M. A. Devine, C. C., St. Mary's, Sligo; Rev. T. O'Callaghan, C. C., and Rev. Father Moloney, C. C., being deacon and sub-deacon respectively, and Rev. G. Turley, C. C., (chaplain), master of ceremonies.

Kerry

Listowel Guardians have decided by 16 votes to 13, against the amalgamation of the Union with that of Tralee.

The death has taken place of Mrs. Slattery, wife of D. Slattery, a well-known Tralee merchant.

The death has taken place of G. Hoffman, stationmaster, Annescaul.

Limerick

Limerick Chamber of Commerce has placed its services at the disposal of the City-Technical Committee and the Department with a view to ending the dispute which led to the closing of the Technical Schools.

Michael Considine was accidentally struck on the head while playing in a hurling match between Croom and South Liberties at Limerick and died a few hours later in the County Infirmary.

Mayo

Belmullet R. D. C. expressed regret at the death of Rev. J. O'Donohoe, P. P., Templeboy.

Married—September 10, at Our Lady of Refuge, Rathmines, Dublin, by the Rev. Martin Hegarty, Stella Maris, Ballycastle (society of the bride). Peter, son of the late Francis O'Neill, of Dolphin's Barn, to Delia M., eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Shevians, Bangor Erris.

Tipperary

B. W. Allen, late agent Bank of Ireland, Tipperary, died recently.

In Tipperary there has been several deaths, generally from pneumonia. Among the victims are Thomas Hogan, manager of Count Moore's farm at Moorefort, Latin. His wife was also a victim of the malady a few days before.

W. B. Robinson, Nemah, has been appointed to the head mastership of Kingstown N. S. in room of Mr. Carter, appointed a junior inspector.

Waterford

The death has taken place at Mount Gambler, Adelaide, of Rev. P. Landy, P. P., who was born at Ballyneale over sixty years ago. He studied at St. John's College, Waterford, and left for Australia shortly after his ordination in 1880.