

General Business News


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St. Patrick's Cathedral Radio Hour

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restful the setting about the foot of the altar.

There, my friend, are some of the candles which a few minutes past we saw in the furnace and mold. There they were but articles for consumption. Here they are dedicated to God. For there must arise in your mind thoughts which will move your heart and thereby excite devotion and perhaps by the means to remit even venial sin.

The Burning Candle
 The burning candle before you represents the God-Man, Jesus Christ. Only when pure wax is used can this symbolism be perfect. The bright flame signifies Christ's divinity. It proclaims in silence to the world the fact that Christ is God. The candle itself symbolizes His humanity. It tells the story of the manhood of the Redeemer. Even the little wick has its meaning. Concealed within the candle is a figure of His Soul. The wax itself a product of our virginity, is an emblem of Christ's most pure body. And, my friend, last but not least, these lighted candles designate very beautifully the hearts of the faithful, fragrant with virtue, pure, loving the "light" sun and dignified by it, while the unclean and smoky tallow-candle, composed of animal matter, characterizes the sinner.

Spiritual Meaning
 You know, my friend, that there is not a thing done or used in the Church without a deep spiritual meaning attached. Perhaps the most never advert to the mystical meaning because they are intent upon the sale of their merchandise. One can not blame them for this natural motive. But the moment these candles which you have seen in different stages of production are reached and with the hands of the priest he by his authoritative benediction turns them from profane to sacred use.

If you question this for a moment, then let us thank our accommodating guide and ride over to the Cathedral of Syracuse and see for ourselves. By the way it may happen that at this hour Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is in progress. Let us take a chance and see if we are fortunate enough to receive the blessing of the Eucharistic Lord in the hands of the priest after He has reposed above His tabernacle throne. Then we shall see light in various forms.

Over to the Cathedral we sped. Into the vaulted Church we walked. Sure enough there before our eyes was the exemplar which we sought. Brilliant electric lights made the interior as bright as midday. These were for the purpose of illumination. But before us on the altar six large candles in massive candle-sticks flickered their whitish flame. On the altar extensions below two, seven branched candelabra with lighted candles rested. Heavenward from a censer in the hands of an altar-boy arose burning incense, typical of prayer ascending to God on high. Heavenly indeed was the vision and

What light is to the material world, the God-Man Jesus Christ, is for the spiritual world. He is the "Light of Light"—"the true Sun that shines with unending splendor." He has communicated His Light to us in the form of truth and grace. This light should shine forth in the darkness of our heart and bring us into the fulness of His radiance hereafter. Our hearts thus transformed should radiate a glory acceptable to God. "Whosoever lives devoutly and chastely in the Church, striving for what is above and not for what is of the earth, is as a light from heaven, and while preserving

MONSIGNOR MEEHAN

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ed to know it. At first thought these qualities of mind might seem to be rather commonplace. As a matter of fact they are very rare. And proof of that fact is the dense fog in which a great part of our modern "intellectual" world lives, moves, talks, writes and has its being. There is no subject on which they are not ready to give their "views." But there are few which they master. Hence their views and advice are equally worthless. They seem not even to know the meaning of the verb to know. Monsignor Meehan knew. He knew the boundaries of his own knowledge and never wandered beyond them. He was always a student and kept always extending them; but not by design, but by native instinct, he knew just how far they extended, and that he was content within them; and this last not because he was proud or self-opinionated, but because his mind was clear, and his moral character simple, true and false humbly were equally alien to both. Pride and false humility both connote a pose, the play a role at variance with reality. Monsignor Meehan could not play such a role, even if he tried. He loved truth, and as the great St. Teresa of Avila has well said: "God loves humbly," because humility is truth, and God is Truth itself. It was because of this quality that his advice was so much sought and always so valuable when given. For when we seek advice it is not to have the question discussed and left hanging in the air, but to have a decision, without hesitation or titillation, that will set us at rest in a difficulty. On leaving his presence one felt he had received such decision and could act on it.

All I have said so far will be better known to those who were nearer to him in later years. But not so with the early influences that entered into the formation and development of his character, and those influences deserve a grateful mention.

Monsignor Meehan was the product of a good, even an ideal, Christian home. His father, Andrew Meehan, belonged to a type of the Irish immigrants of the middle of the last century which, as a rule, was more strongly imbued with the Catholic faith. Mentally and physically he was one of nature's noblemen. In stately appearance, in dignified bearing, in the calm, deliberate manner of his conversation on any subject whatever, he would have adorned the bench of the United States Supreme Court. In my life I have known few men, married or single, who impressed me so forcibly as did Andrew Meehan, when during vacation time at St. Andrew's Seminary, I visited at Scottville the home of my classmate and now departed friend. And those qualities that impressed me then he preserved even in old age. The priests who have passed through St. Bernard's will, I am sure, remember the noble profile of the crayon portrait of his father that hung in Monsignor Meehan's study. Indeed, it could not easily be forgotten.

When he was still in the vigor of manhood, with a happy home and a large family, there came to him an affliction which is perhaps the greatest and most trying that can befall a father. He lost the mother of his little children. But he was equal to the trial and met it with Christian resignation and fortitude. He became Father and Mother to his orphaned children; and to that humble artisan more, under God, than to any other person, the Diocese of Rochester owes a debt of gratitude for the inestimable services rendered from his son. What the lovable Saint of Lileux has written of her father, the Meehan children could repeat of their own. After the death of her mother, writes Saint Theresa, "our father's heart, already so affectionate, seemed to become enriched by an additional love that was truly maternal." It was an amiable home, as was the home at Nazareth. Mr. Meehan was the village saddler, as St. Joseph was the village carpenter. And Mrs. Meehan never wished to make the home other than it had been.

Endowed by Nature
 Endowed by nature with unusual talents, of which he seemed himself to be unconscious, he had received

Father Hubbard, Glacier Priest, Off for Alaska

San Francisco, Mar. 24.—The Rev. Bernard H. Hubbard, a popularly known as "the glacier priest," famed Alaskan explorer and head of the Geology Department of the University of Santa Clara, has left San Francisco for Alaska on what is believed to be his greatest adventure in the frozen north.

"One of the main purposes of my trip will be to prove that the Valley of 10,000 Smokes is dying down," Father Hubbard said before his departure.

Then Father Hubbard asserted he would attempt to climb Mount McKinley, the great volcano that has been causing all the disturbances on Denali Island.

This is Father Hubbard's sixth trip to Alaska.

Two Are Charged With Despoiling Vera Cruz Church

Vera Cruz, Mar. 24.—The authorities of the town of Vera Cruz, State of Vera Cruz, have arrested John J. Lopez and Jose F. Donis, who are charged with having despoiled a National property in the Cathedral of that town. These individuals are members of the club established in Vera Cruz after the capture of the Government of the American Party.

The club was organized for the purpose of maintaining Catholicism. Other members of the club visited communities in the State of Oaxaca which joins Vera Cruz. Governor Talpa of Vera Cruz is the reputed intellectual author of the group.

The method employed in the despoiling of the cathedral was the destruction of objects used in Catholic devotions on the grounds that "ignorance" would not permit the use of argument or reasoning.

Historic Books Given to Vatican

Vatican City, Mar. 24.—About 1,050,000 books and manuscripts, documents dating back to the first century have been sent from the noble House of Borghese to the Vatican Library. The Borghese family, which is one of the foremost in Italy, decided to transfer its archives to the Vatican in accordance with the action of other noble Italian houses in the last few years.

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