

Home Column.

MOTHER.

Anna Jacobsen.

The sun-rays bathe her in mellow light—  
The strands of gray and the dear worn lace.  
More beautiful far than when baby eyes bright  
First gladdened her young mother days.

Little hands fluttering on her breast  
Long lolled meekly in waxy rest;  
Little lips that have lisped her name,  
Long silent; you have not been in vain.

You have traced the beautiful lines of faith,  
Of love and hope, on that peaceful brow;  
You have pointed the way straight to Heaven's gate—  
Ah, soon will she enter it now.

But the babes that have grown away from her knee,  
They have traced sadder lines than the child above.  
Oh, Mother, we kiss your dear hands and eyes—  
We can bring you naught but our tribute of love!

IT IS THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN IT WHO FURNISH A HOUSE.

Just as there are few, if any, men or women who are in absolutely perfect physical condition, free from any trace of disease, deformity or weakness, so there are next to none who are mentally sound and normal. Physic experts tell us that we are all insane on one or more points. Our friends do not put it quite so badly, but when out of our hearing they do not hesitate to pronounce us "queer" or "peculiar" in certain ways, while we as freely discuss their "eccentricities" or "odd notions" concerning things and people. Taking it for granted, then, that there is some streak of madness in us all, it should give no offence to allude to the most common form of mania observable among women. As far as I can see, it is the worship of inanimate things. The passion for fine furniture, carpets, curtains, silver, china and bric-a-brac takes such complete possession of some women that their most sacred duties and obligations are gradually sacrificed to it. In thousands of middle-class houses, the common necessities of wholesome, well prepared food, frequent changes of clothing, good books and occasional happy outings are denied to the entire family because the mother is struggling to pay for the brocade satin covered parlor chairs, the too costly piano, or china dinner service, which give neither pleasure nor comfort to husband or children, but are only designed to excite the envy of neighbors and visitors. It is the blessed exception among housekeepers of moderate means who can realize that the house is of secondary importance to its inmates, and that her duty is first to make her husband and children happy and comfortable, giving only the time and money left over, after accomplishing this result, to the luxuries fitting up and decoration of rooms reserved chiefly for the use of strangers. A visitor obtains a far more agreeable impression of a simply furnished house in which all its inmates are obviously well cared for and contented, than of one in which gorgeous effects of upholstery prove but a thin disguise for the real discomfort and discontent in the heart of the home. A model housekeeper and homemaker of many years experience advising a bride about the selection of furniture said: "Buy nothing at first but what you cannot possibly do without. Then make additions, as your means permit, of such things as distinctly increase the family's comfort and convenience, or minister to their higher needs." This wise counsel was strictly followed, with the happiest results. The people who live in that house are the real adornment and centres of interest in the various rooms. Yet there is an air of comfort, sweet cleanliness and appropriateness in the quiet appointments which produce a restful, attractive result such as is rarely obtained by studied effects of rare or sum-

ptuous furniture. It will surprise and disconcert many housekeepers to discover that quite a number of the purchases they have deemed necessary or useful could be quietly removed from a room without interference in the slightest degree with the happiness of its regular occupants. No object that is not really useful or really beautiful is worth money, or the place it would fill in a living room; but a healthy, rosy child, or a few merry lads and lassies enjoying their birthright of loving care and comfort under their father's roof lend charm and dignity to the humblest surroundings.

BLESSING OF ST. MARY'S ACADEMY.

An interesting and impressive ceremony took place last Sunday afternoon, when His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface publicly and solemnly blessed the building. He was assisted by Rev. Father Cahill, O.M.I., pastor of St. Mary's, Rev. Father Allard, O.M.I., Rev. Dr. Trudel, Rev. Father Gendreau, O.M.I., Rev. Father Lacasse, O.M.I., Rev. Father Bourret, of St. Agathe, Rev. Father Drummond, S.J., Rev. Father McDonald, S.J., Rev. Mr. Dumoulin, eccl., and Rev. Brothers Lewis, George and Thomas of the Brothers of Mary.

The now spacious convent chapel, radiant in its beautiful stained glass windows, with the fine altar surmounted by an artistic, wide-armed statue of the Sacred Heart, was filled with friends of the institution, when His Grace intoned the "Veni Creator," which was continued by the convent choir. He then announced that he would proceed to bless the building first outside and then inside. While sprinkling the large edifice outside with holy water, the clergy realized its splendid proportions; then the procession, preceded by Mr. Dumoulin carrying a large cross, entered the building and went through every room of the five storeys from the cellar to the fifth storey singing appropriate psalms and accompanied by many of the laity. All admired the airiness and lightness of the class rooms, dormitories and halls, and the excellence of all the appointments. On returning to the chapel His Grace vested in stole, cope and mitre and requested Father Drummond to say a few words.

The speaker congratulated the Reverend Mother and the Sisters on the successful completion of this beautiful edifice. Alluding to the addition of a new wing last year to St. Boniface College, which then made it the largest educational establishment in the Northwest, he said his college must now be content with second place, since the new St. Mary's Academy is much larger than any school, college or university building in the Northwest. He felt that his hearers were proud to see this new institution in which their daughters could receive a solid education. The Sisters, while fully alive to all real improvement in methods, are sufficiently conservative not to reject the best traditions of the past. The result of many of the new mushroom growths in the educational field is, as university examiners can testify by experience, that students know nothing accurately. Their heads are filled with a multitude of scraps of general information disconnected and unrelated to one another. The issue is not real knowledge, but a dissipation of mind leading the student to a high opinion of his own attainments, an opinion which experts do not share. In educational matters what is new is very likely not true, for there have been wise men and women in past ages; and, conversely, what is true is very likely not new, for it must have stood the test of time before its truth can be generally accepted by able teachers.

A Catholic institution like this pre-supposes religion as a life-element, a thing not to be insisted upon, but to be taken for granted. It is a mistake to imagine that in Catholic convents too much time is devoted to prayers to the detriment of secular studies. Facts tell quite the other way. Probably more time is given to mere study here than in any non-Catholic college or school. Short prayers are indeed recited at frequent intervals to remind the students that they are creatures and that their first duty is dependence on their Creator, but the aim of all this is sim-

ply to form a religious atmosphere and on the whole very little is taken up with purely religious exercises. This atmosphere of religion imparts to education a unity and cohesion that cannot be obtained otherwise.

Besides these fundamental principles of Catholic education parents will find here women who, far from making the teaching profession a stepping stone to something supposedly higher, devote their whole lives gratuitously to the teaching of the young. This devotedness and singleness of purpose on the teachers' part tends to make convent education eminently safe. Pupils, with such examples daily before them, acquire habits of self-restraint and self-denial which are the best safeguards of Christian morality.

The speaker bore witness in particular to the cheerful, kindly and hard-working spirit that animated the pupils of St. Mary's Academy. In conclusion he wished the greatest possible future success to the Sisters who, trusting in the Providence of God and more especially in the protection of the Sacred Heart, whose beautiful statue crowned the altar, had bravely taken upon themselves the financial responsibility of so great an undertaking.

His Grace then imparted his episcopal blessing, and presided at the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, which opened with Riga's "Quid retribuam" rendered with taste by the choir; a beautiful "Ave Maria" was then sung most feelingly by one of the Sisters, after which the choir sang Birge's "Tantum Ergo."

Mr. Bawlf and Mr. Cass insisted on taking up a collection which, although not announced, realized over forty dollars.

PRIDE VERSUS HUMILITY.

There never was a time when vice was not opposed to virtue. As different from each other as the burning heat of the tropics and the land of snow and ice are those two attributes of the human heart. When the brow is flushed and burning, and the lips are dry and parched in order to combat the fever, a remedy should be used to counteract it.

Pride is a fever which consumes the soul and saps its strength. Often in delirium we dash from our lips the cooling potion that would save us. We often hear the expression, "He is proud, but it is the right kind of pride and therefore commendable." Many imagine that pride is an indication of elevation of character, and that it naturally accompanies an exalted and noble disposition. Is not that a mistake? Pride is an inordinate self-esteem, and do not the good qualities which seem to spring from it, really proceed from self-respect and a high standard of morality?

"A good tree is known by its fruit," and although good is said to come out of evil, how can any real virtue have its emanation from an evil source? Pride will not keep us from committing sin. On the contrary, God sometimes permits us to fall into sin as a punishment for our pride. How can any God-fearing Christian clothe himself in a mantle of pride and by his ostentatious demeanor repel the advances of his fellowmen? Granted, he has wealth, talent, position, knowledge, fame. Who bestowed upon him all those gifts and blessings? Perhaps they were acquired by individual effort. Even so, there is less reason why he should feel proud of them. God permitted him to accomplish his designs and gave him whatever was requisite. And he who has much let him remember—"When much is given, much is required."

Better by far to be poor, illiterate and obscure than to use wrongfully the gifts and talents bestowed on us by God. If we are endowed with personal beauty let us always remember the matchless loveliness of Jesus and Mary. If wealthy, give a good example to others similarly blessed. In every position in life let our gifts redound to the loving Father who bestowed them. Our bodies go down empty into the grave, but to our souls can be applied the merits derived from them.

And humility, what can be said of the virtue left as a legacy to his spiritual children by St. Francis de Sales? "It is the touchstone of de-





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votion, and always walks accompanied by charity. It is the modest violet among the flowers of virtue. It is often plucked by ruthless hands and cast away to be crushed and trodden under foot. It is choked by noxious weeds and pierced by cruel thorns, but from the bruised petals sweet odors are wafted heavenward."

How humble was the divine heart of our blessed Model. After He has invited us to make our poor erring hearts like unto him, can we still turn coldly away and allow the demon of pride to enter and destroy the soul's sanctuary? Go to the feathered tribe and learn a lesson of humility.

"The bird that soars on highest wing  
Builds on the ground her lowly nest,  
And she that doth most sweetly sing  
Sings in the shade when all things rest.  
In lark and nightingale we see  
What honor hath humility."  
—Pittsburg Observer.

**THE SELF-MADE MAN.**

The self-made man is usually a bird, and we all know him from away back. He played marbles for keeps when a boy, and cheated all his playmates out of their marbles. He swapped a bladeless knife for a four-bladed, sold that for 50 cents, bought a pound of sugar and made a barrel of lemonade, which he sold on circus day for \$8. He then started out in business and sold tough meat for choice cuts and made a fortune. When he got \$1,000 he organized a stock company with \$1,000,000 capital, mostly watered and sold the stock at par. When the company failed it was found that he had sold out a long time before. When he died he was a millionaire and left all his money here. It is very warm where he is now.—Independent, Vancouver.

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