

The Parting Soul and Her Guardian Angel.

(Thoughts During Sickness.)

By Mrs. J. L. LARKINSON.

SOUL.

Oh! say, must I leave this world of light,
With its sparkle of streams and sunshine bright,
Its budding flowers—its glories in sky;
Vain 'tis to ask me—I cannot die!

ANGEL.

But, my dear, list, in realms above,
That happy home of eternal love,
Are flowers more fair, sunshine more clear,
Than those thou cling'st to so fondly here.

SOUL.

If so, still, to reach that home of light,
I must part the fearful vale of night;
From that, my soul doth shuddering fly;
Angel, I tell thee, I dare not die.

ANGEL.

Ah! mortal loved, in that path untried
Will I be forever at thy side,
Through its gloom to guide, till thou dost bend,
Before the throne of thy Heavenly Friend.

SOUL.

Alas! too many close ties of love
Around my wavering heart are wove,
Voices fond, tender, pray me to stay,
Think'st thou, from them I would pass away,
Dally my mother, with angelic wild,
Bonds o'er the couch of her dying child,
Whilst one dearer still, in silent tears,
Retracts his anguish, his wild deep fears,
Yes, even now, whilst to thee I speak,
Do those burning drops fall on my cheek,
Think ye, I'd break from so close a tie?
No; angel away, I will not die!

ANGEL.

Poor child of earth! too closely cling'st
Thy heart to earth and earthly things;
Wilt still revolt I, I but whisper low,
Thy Father in Heaven wills it so;
Wills that wilt Him at once thou should'st dwell,
To pray for those thou lovest so well,
Till a time shall come ye'll meet again,
To know no more life a grief or pain.

SOUL.

Spirit, thy words have a potent power
That reaches my soul in this awful hour;
And thy soft breath d' hopes, with magic night,
Have chased from my soul the shades of night,
Console the dear ones I part from now,
Who hang o'er my couch with pallid brow;
Tell them we'll meet in yon shining sky,
And, Angel Guardian, I now will die.

RT. REV. BISHOP O'HARA.

Impressive Ceremonies at His Silver and Golden Jubilee.

A despatch from Scranton, Pa., dated Dec. 21st, says: One of the prettiest of all church ceremonies was the pontifical mass with which Right Rev. Bishop William O'Hara this morning celebrated his silver and golden jubilee. The mass was celebrated at 10.30 o'clock at St. Peter's Cathedral, in the presence of the most distinguished of all the Catholic clergy of this section of the country, Cardinal Gibbons and Archbishop Ryan, of Philadelphia, assisted in the ceremony.

One of the most impressive events of the celebration was the presentation to the Bishop by the clergy of the diocese of an address, setting forth their love and respect for him, and a check for \$15,000 as a further indication of their esteem. The voice of the Bishop faltered as he responded with thanks.

Features of the mass were the singing by an immense choir, which included distinguished soloists, and the jubilee address by Archbishop Ryan, which was exceedingly eloquent. In concluding, he said: "And now it remains for me to announce to you, my dear people, that our Holy Father, the Pope, crowns this event by his benediction. There has been received by cablegram the hearty congratulations of His Holiness in St. Peter's chair. And now it remains for me, dear Bishop, in behalf of His Holiness, Leo XIII., in behalf of His Eminence the Cardinal, in behalf of the venerable Bishops here assembled, in behalf of the priests and the faithful people here to-day, in behalf of your beloved old parish of St. Patrick's, of Philadelphia, where you spent twenty-four years of your life, to congratulate you on this, your golden jubilee, and to hope that your days may be spent in holy peace,

and that in the end, the Divine Master, whom you have served so long, so faithfully and so well, may transfer the mitre of your episcopacy into a crown of eternal glory."

At the conclusion of the mass, Cardinal Gibbons spoke briefly, expressing his deep regard and respect for the venerable Prelate, in whose honor all had assembled.

After the Mass came the dinner of the clergy, which was private. Brief remarks were made by Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop Ryan, and Bishops Keane, Horstmann, McGovern, Ryan, O'Hara, Phelan and O'Donnell.

At College Hall this evening a reception was given by the Bishop to guests from a distance, his parishioners, and the people of the city. From 8 to 10 o'clock the reception was for the visitors and the non-Catholics. After 10 the Bishop received thousands of Catholics of Scranton and surrounding towns.

In all its history Scranton never saw such a procession as that which moved along the principal avenues on Thursday in honor of Right Rev. William O'Hara. Over 14,000 people, coming from every town and hamlet in the valley, turning out to do honor to the venerable prelate, who for twenty-five years has with great piety and signal ability presided over the destinies of this diocese.

The great pageant was reviewed from a point near St. Peter's Cathedral by Cardinal Gibbons, Bishop O'Hara, Archbishop Ryan and five other bishops. The skies were clear, even though the air was cold and active exercise in the marching line was a pleasure. Along all the principal streets were thousands of people, coming from all parts of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Special trains were upon all the railroads and their capacity was strained. For over two hours the procession was in motion, the parade ending a little after two o'clock.

Four hundred people attended the banquet at College Hall this evening. It was a most delightful event, though marred somewhat by the absence of two of the announced speakers, Cardinal Gibbons and Governor Pattison. The Cardinal was compelled to leave for home in the afternoon in a special car. Governor Pattison, after agreeing to come, broke his engagement at the eleventh hour.

Judge F. W. Gunster presided over the feast and made the opening address. One of the principal features of the night was the address of the laity to the bishop, which was delivered by Chairman P. F. Smith, of the committee of arrangements. At the conclusion of this address the bishop was presented with a check for \$15,000, the second for that amount given him.

The other speakers of the evening included Archbishop Ryan, Judge Lynch and John T. Lenahan, of Luzerne; Editor E. J. Lynett, Editor John E. Barrett and Joseph O'Brien, of this city, and James J. O'Neill, of Carbondale.

Governor Pattison's place at the banquet was taken by Lieutenant-Governor Waters, who responded to the toast, "The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

The Queen Regent of Spain has sent Padre Brudignon, rector of the new church of St. Gioachino (to be offered to the Pope for his jubilee), 25,000 francs as her personal gift, and 5000 francs on the part of the ladies of Madrid.

Archbishop Janssens, who recently celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination, is a Hollander by birth, and began his American ministry in the Richmond diocese, whence he went to Natchez in 1881; and he was transferred to New Orleans four years ago. Dr. Janssens has made an enviable reputation for himself in every locality where he has labored, and he is especially beloved in the Crescent City, despite the short time that he has resided there.

Towards the End of the Year.

M. F. Egan in the Ave Maria.

The intellectual and the æsthetic are great helps to the religious. The simple faith that asks nothing, knows nothing, only believes, is beautiful and rare. But so careful is the Church that all powers should lead to faith as her handmaids, that she insists on the exercise of reason. Whoever denies that the existence of God can be proved by reason is condemned; this is the meaning of the sylabus and of the Vatican Council.

One observes among some really good and devout people a desire to underrate both the intellectual and the æsthetic. The catechism, they cry—the catechism; that is enough. "If the catechism will not keep a young man or young woman in the right track, nothing will." And, consequently, there is a supreme indifference or a contemptuous tolerance shown when there is a question of higher education for young Catholics. This is true especially of the education of women. "Dear me!" says Mr. Oldboy, "what does a woman want with books and studies? Can she sew? Can she make me comfortable? That's the question." The question for him, and many like him, but not an answer to the main question, which is: How can all the powers of men's and women's mind be brought to the service of Christianity? How can such logical qualities as they possess and such æsthetic tastes be all turned to the greater glory of God and to the betterment of their own peace?

Catholic education stops, as a rule, on the day the young people leave school. One may say that the environment of the young Catholic after he leaves school is an education in itself, as life is the best educator. He learns new lessons each Sunday from the symbolism of the Mass; he learns of the greatness and glory of the Church from her music and her pictures; and each holiday or anniversary strengthens his love and admiration for the Spouse of Christ, who is the regenerator of the world. But to get even a small portion of the meaning of the Church, we must be prepared for it.

No man can read a great poet well unless he brings to the reading something more than a knowledge of grammar. We all know that it is better to read Homer in a translation than to read the Iliad only for its technical value. The scholar who had devoted his life to the study of the genitive case and died lamenting that he had not given it to the dative, is a type of the men who narrow themselves and neglect the talents God has given them. That all intellectual narrowing is bad, we see every day. It is a false reaction against intellectual narrowness which gives Mr. Ingersoll his audiences.

It is not true that the environment of the Catholic young man or woman will educate him or her in the right direction after he or she leaves school; for the atmosphere of our social environment is full of miasma. Who can help breathing it? Why is it that vocations for the religious state are fewer among men in our country than in Catholic countries? It is because the boy after he leaves school ceases to be educated in the right way.

A stupid man may be a good Christian. The legend of the lily growing out of the heart of the poor idiot who loved Our Lady is doubtless true. It ought to be; the whole life of St. Francis of Assisi shows us how true it is that simple-minded men bear the lilies of Christ in their heart of hearts. Our Lord did not die only for the clever people; He did not come on earth to spread culture. The old French Jansenist crucifixes represented Him with His arms nailed aloft, to symbolize the assumption that He

died only for a few. The attitude of the Jansenist is the attitude of some of our modern intellectual people. It is unconscious, but it is absurd. Nevertheless, the other extreme—that Christianity is only for the lowly and the ignorant—is just as bad. It takes all the forces of a Christian to corroborate with divine grace; and the more truly intellectual he is, the more really æsthetic development must go in the right way.

"In my time," says an old man, in one of Augier's plays, "there was God." There always was and always will be God, and the people are coming more and more to recognize this truth; but is not the knowledge of the ways that lead to God worth as much attention as the knowledge of practical things? Must one be content with the rudiments? There are the Catholic school should not give the pupil the idea that he is "finished," but the idea that he is only beginning; not the idea that he is to be like the world around him, but that, if he can not lead the world around him, he is to be different from it. "In some communities," Emerson says, "it is our duty to be eccentric." St. Bernard expresses a like thought.

If to love the things of the soul and the mind, if to prefer the beautiful and fine, rather than money and luxury and feverish excitement, is eccentricity, the Catholic, who surrounds himself with the atmosphere of his faith ought to be glad to be different from the rest of the world. It must come to him: he need not go to it. His atmosphere will be like steam, which, surrounding a man in a fire, keeps the flames from touching him. His differença is like the wet handkerchief that saves his life in the smoke.

Separate School Board.

The separate school board held a special meeting at the De La Salle institute last night to consider the annual financial report and discuss the plans of the new high school which it is proposed to erect on Bond street. Vicar-General Rooney took the chair, and there were present Very Rev. J. J. McCann, V. G., Jas. Ryan, Thos. O'Connor, Very Rev. Dean Cassidy, M. Walsh, John O'Connor, C. Burns, Father Rohleder, and Rev. Father McCarthy, C. S. S. R.

Before the business of the evening was taken up the meeting was addressed by Mr. J. J. Murphy, representing the St. Vincent de Paul society. Mr. Murphy was introduced by Vicar-General Rooney, and gave a most interesting and encouraging report of the work that the society is doing amongst the Italians of the city. The number of applicants for the classes of the night school had increased very largely, especially amongst the English speaking children. So much so, that the society has been unable to provide the necessary accommodation for them, and had in consequence of a suggestion by his grace the archbishop resolved to ask the assistance of the school board. It was decided to appoint a committee to consider and report on the matter.

The secretary, Mr. J. S. Hall, was now called upon to present the financial statement of the treasurer, Rev. Father McCann, which was a bulky document, giving an itemized account of the receipts and disbursements. The total receipts were \$36,048, made up of government grant, \$2,290; municipal assessment, \$33,090; street railway income, \$325 25; taxes, West Toronto Junction, \$331 17; rent of fence, \$12; total, \$36,048 42. The financial items of the disbursements were:—Salaries, \$18,710; general purposes, \$4,082; capital account, \$10,465. The disbursements exceeded the receipts by \$77. The report was adopted on the motion of Trustee Burns, seconded by Trustee Walsh.

The report of the sites and building committee stated that they had received plans for the new school on Bond street from the architects, Messrs. Post and Holmes, and recommended that the plans should be accepted. The committee also recommended that the architect be directed to prepare specifications and advertise for tenders for the building. The report was adopted, with certain modifications regarding the tower. The meeting then adjourned.—Globe, Dec. 31.

Bishop Bronnan, of Dallas, Texas, has resigned his See. Bishop Fitzgerald, of Little Rock, has been appointed administrator, and has named Father J. Blum as his vicar-general.