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Current Comment

As the great closing week of Lent is only eight days ahead it may be as well to remind our readers that the best way to enter into the spirit of that period of grace is to be present at all the offices of those eight precious days and to read one's Holy Week book. M. E. Keroack, corner of Water and Main streets, has a large supply of Holy Week books at 35 cents each.

The most valuable feature of the Holy Week book is the history of the Passion in Latin and English by the four Evangelists. This is truly the story that transformed the world, the most wonderful story that was ever told, related in the simplest and most matter-of-fact way. If a Catholic was familiar with no other parts of Holy Writ he would yet know what is best in the Bible. A non-Catholic who is not familiar with the four-fold Passion story, even if he has read the Bible half a dozen times from cover to cover, does not really know the spirit of the Written Word, for he misses its culminating point. This is simply an application of the well known principle, so well developed by Cardinal Newman in his "Idea of a University" (University Teaching, Discourse VII.), that a well trained judgement seizes the strong point in every thing. Ill trained minds lose themselves in a multitude of confused details. They have no mental perspective. To them insignificant facts or third-rate passages of a great author are on the same plane as the most vital facts and the masterpieces of literature. But a well trained judgment realizes that masterpieces are rare even in the writings of the best authors, and that a very few facts in the history of mankind are supremely important. So in our knowledge of the Bible the New Testament is vastly more important than the Old, and in the New Testament the concluding chapters of the four Evangelists are the most important of all, because they relate the death and resurrection of the Saviour of the world.

Rev. John J. Wynne, S.J., one of the five editors of the Catholic Encyclopedia, writes to us that there is absolutely no foundation for the rumor, lately circulated, that he had withdrawn from the editorship of the Catholic Encyclopedia. The rumor, he adds, probably arose from a confusion of names. He has, for good reasons, withdrawn from collaboration in the Encyclopedia Americana; but he has not the slightest intention of severing his connection with the great Catholic Encyclopedia, the first volume of which will appear in the course of this year. This denial on the part of Father Wynne will be a great relief to the anxiety caused by that false rumor, for his name carries with it the guarantee of orthodoxy, great practical experience and remarkable success in editorial work.

The specimen sheets of the forthcoming Catholic Encyclopedia show that it will be in every respect a splendid publication. The letter press and illustrations are the best that can be found anywhere. The articles are learned, original and full of unusual interest. Catholics who read these pages will recognize that this eagerly expected treasure-house of Catholic lore is to be no dry-as-dust collection of colorless biographies, but a living reflex of Catholic opinion on men and things.

The venerable missionary, Father Lacombe, has lost none of the hopefulness and enthusiasm of his early years. It will be remembered that some ten years ago, viewing with sorrow the wretched condition of many of those French half-breeds who had been at one time the firmest supporters and most zealous helpers of the first Catholic missionaries in the Northwest, he determined to offer them a comfortable home. Thanks to his indomitable energy and persuasive eloquence he

obtained from the Federal Government at Ottawa a concession of fifteen square miles on the north bank of the Saskatchewan, 120 miles east of Edmonton. This territory, which he called the colony of St. Paul des Metis, was reserved to French half-breeds, who were invited to come and settle therein. Each family was entitled to eighty acres, which they could till and use as their own and then hand down to their children, but which they could not transfer by sale or gift to anyone else. When we consider the shiftless, nomadic life led by so many of these half-breeds, who have not even the advantage which the Indians have of being kept together as wards of the Government, this offer was a godsend that ought to have been eagerly accepted by the majority of the ten or twelve thousand French half-breeds scattered over Manitoba and the new provinces. And indeed a goodly number of these poor people did close with the offer and came with their horses and other belongings to settle at St. Paul des Metis. Father Lacombe begged for them with such success that he was enabled to build for them a five-thousand dollar church, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Rodolphe Forget, and a large convent in which the Nicolet Sisters of the Assumption educated the Metis children and taught them trades and especially agriculture. Generous donations made the colony prosper. We shall never forget Father Lacombe's tears of joy when he received a two-thousand dollar cheque from his old friend, Lord Mountstephen. This, the dearest project of Father Lacombe's generous heart, the monument of his affection for the Metis and of his gratitude for the services they had rendered to the missionaries in the past, was taking more lasting shape every day when, a little more than a year ago, in the depth of winter and in the middle of the night the fine industrial school was burnt to the ground. What added fresh horror to this total loss, for there was no insurance, was the death of one of the Metis girls, who perished in the flames. But there was worse to come. After the building had been reduced to ashes it was discovered that the conflagration was planned by some of the Metis boys, who avowed their incendiaryism and were released by the local courts on the plea that they did not realize their guilt. This cruel blow almost broke Father Lacombe's great heart. For some months he was desolate and no one could comfort him. But he forgives the authors of that ruin and now he is at work once more rebuilding the industrial school on a smaller scale. He appeals to his friends to help him in this noble work, although he now hopes to make the colony, to a certain extent, self-supporting. The better to secure the realization of this hope he again invites all those French half-breeds who are in want to come and settle in the colony of St. Paul des Metis. Surely, such dauntless energy in the venerable octogenarian missionary deserves to meet with lasting success.

The "Etudes," the learned organ of the French Jesuits, in its issue of March 5, under the form of an editor's note headed "Lex Orandi, par le P. Tyrrell," says that this now notorious publication of the then celebrated English Jesuit, which appeared early in 1904, has unfortunately been praised by certain Catholic reviews, although it attacks the very substance of dogma and cuts at the root of all Christian faith. One sentence of the "Etudes" article deserves a literal translation, which we here give. "We were not unaware that the 'imprimatur' obtained in England was due solely to a regrettable error and that the ecclesiastical authority had never been asked to examine the different pamphlets or confidential letters circulating secretly, which, giving the key to the system adopted by the author, flung an unfortunate but dazzling light on the very grave errors hitherto enveloped

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TRIBUTE TO HIS GRACE ARCH-BISHOP LANGEVIN

Written by Miss K. Sullivan and recited by Miss K. McCusker at St. Mary's Academy, March 20, 1906

(Published by Request)

Like water gently flowing ever onward to the ocean
With its rushing, foaming billows to the great expansive seas,
So, into time, our years do glide with gentle onward motion,
Leaving nought behind to mark their course, but fleeting memories.

Of all the days of happiness, of gladness and of pleasure,
Those little flowers of memory that deck our pathway drear,
There's none more fondly cherished as a golden, priceless treasure
Than the one on which we gladly greet our own Archbishop dear.

We watch the hours rolling by; we watch their slow declining
Which heralds in the dawn of this most glorious festal day,
When we do bid adieu to grief, to care, and vain repining.
O joy of this blest moment, o'er each thought and deed hold sway!

Upon this evening's stillness, now in happy union gathered
Beneath the kindly roof, which shelters us from harm and fear,
There come to us sweet hearsays of by-gones long since severed,
Of days that have departed, replete with gladness and with cheer.

And dearer impress there is wrought when you, my Lord Archbishop,
Did minister your deeds divine as priest and chaplain dear,
Did train those favored minds and hearts to love, to serve to worship
The One whose Name grows sweeter and more honored year by year.

But now that time has long since fled, your duties grow more pressing
Which ban from us your presence bright so full of hope and cheer;
We long to welcome you more oft, to hear your words of blessing,
And so with love and pride do watch this festal day draw near.

And though within those golden days which time has hidden from us,
When other hearts did faithful prove 'neath your firm but gentle care,
The flowers of love and gratitude did bloom with perfect fullness,
Yet, may not ours in sweetest truth full well with theirs compare?

Full oft new faces greet you here, new voices cheer your coming,
Of former friends and teachers, there now remain but few;
But others fill the void they left, and join with us this evening
In offering heartfelt wishes, and congratulations true.

Oh! may your works rewarded be; Oh! may rich blessings hover
Upon your future pathway, God's beacon light to cheer;
Unfaltering faith and trust, with a strength that ne'er can waver,
We wish for you our Father, Friend, and kind Archbishop dear.

Then may our sweetest Jesus from His glorious throne in heaven,
Bless your noble works of zeal, your hours of sorrow and of care,
Bless your children of St. Mary's who to honor you have striven,
And may they worthy be of His great blessing and your prayer.
Mar. 20, 1906.

Wanted: Two men in each county to represent and advertise Hardware Department, put out samples of our goods, etc. Travelling Position of Office Manager. Salary \$90.00 per month, cash weekly, with all expenses paid in advance. We furnish everything.

THE COLUMBIA HOUSE.
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Persons and Facts

Like our Archbishop Bruchesi, on the eve of the appearance of Sarah Bernhardt in "Camille" in Omaha lately, Rt. Rev. Bishop Scannel issued a pastoral against certain plays and called on Catholics to be very careful of the theatrical performances they witness.

Rev. David N. Burke, who has been appointed assistant at St. Patrick's church, Watertown, N.Y., was formerly in the diplomatic service as Consul General to Morocco during Cleveland's first administration. He also held positions in the foreign service during Cleveland's second term.

Archbishop Ireland of St. Paul, lecturing in Kansas City recently, addressed 15,000 persons in Convention Hall on "The Republic of Washington." United States Senator Warner was chairman.

A farm said to be worth \$15,000, and located in the beautiful Chester Valley, with an abundance of good water and a fine house has been given to the St. Vincent de Paul society, Philadelphia, by a non-Catholic lady in memory of her deceased husband, the gift being inspired by an example of true Catholic charity which came under her observation. It is supposed that the farm will be the scene in the summer of the outings for poor children and at other seasons of a convalescents' home for women.

At Ulupa, Mexico, there died recently Nicholas Diaz, aged 112 years. For eighty years he was a resident of the city and was a practical Catholic. In boyhood he knew Padre Hidalgo, the Mexican Washington.

The press of Pampelona, Spain, says El Ideal Catolico, chronicles the contrite repentance and Christian death of Don Jenaro Berroaonda, famous as an infidel writer in Spain and for his hostility to religion in all its phases. One of his books was the nauseous and blasphemous "El Herrero de Mirafuertes." At the last hour he saw the truth and abjured his errors.

The recent reception into the Catholic Church of Sir Cyril Stanley Rose, is of peculiar interest from the fact that the young baronet—he is not much over thirty—is a direct descendant of Thomas Addis Emmet, one of the patriots of 1798. His grandmother was a Temple Emmet, the wife of his grandfather, the first baronet, who was an eminent Canadian lawyer.

St. Peter's Church at Rome is the largest church in the world, seating 60,000 people. The distance from the floor to the top of the cross is 485 feet and the length of the base is 613 feet. Its colonnade consists of 284 Doric columns, with 192 statues. It was 500 years in building.

Madame Eugenia Turina Costamagna of Turin, Italy, whose life was devoted to works of charity, has, on her death, which took place recently, left property valued at about three million francs to the Rev. Dom Rau, successor of Dom Bosco, supervisor general of the Salesians.

Mgr. Vay de Vaya, the noted Hungarian priest and nobleman, who visited Winnipeg and the Canadian Northwest last year, is about to start for Manchuria where he will lay the cornerstone of an agricultural college.

Prince Rainer of Bourbon, son of the claimant to the throne of Naples and nephew of the late King of the Two Sicilies, has joined the order of Jesuits and entered upon his novitiate. He is a brother of the Infant Charles of Spain, and like him received his education in Spain being brought up, in fact at the expense and under the direction of the Queen Mother Christina. Prince

Rainer is now twenty-three years of age, and holds a commission as cavalry officer in the Spanish army.

Rev. Father John McHale of Cleveland, is editing a volume of Irish ballads with the purpose of spreading a knowledge of Ireland and its people. Histories, he says, are too long, too dry and contain an excess of detail difficult of mastery; he has collected the standard Irish ballads and is arranging them chronologically, that is in the order of the periods to which they relate.

A French Catholic paper, the Gazette de France, has received from a number of friends a "propagation fund" amounting to no less than two hundred thousand francs. From the interest of this sum the management will be enabled to send the paper daily, gratis, to ten thousand persons.

Vicar General Meunier, of Windsor, Ont., was presented on March 11 by Bishop McEvoy with the document from the Holy Father appointing the zealous priest Domestic Prelate to His Holiness. May he long live to wear the purple.

Miss Kathleen O'Connell of Darrynane Abbey, great-granddaughter of the Liberator, is a probationary nurse in Richmond hospital, Dublin. She has just won a gold medal for the highest aggregate of marks in three competitive examinations in anatomy, physiology and hygiene, against a number of competitors from three hospitals.

The National Alumni Society of the Christian Brothers Schools and Colleges is to meet in Baltimore, April 3rd.

Gov. S. W. Pennypacker who presided over the uniform divorce law congress at Washington, which adjourned recently, says that the outcome of that gathering was highly encouraging. Its object, he said, was the establishing of a common basis upon which the different States could adopt uniform legislation on the subject of divorce and this, he thinks, was accomplished in the resolutions adopted at the closing session.

According to the last census, the kingdom of Bavaria contains 4,000,000 Catholics. The balance of the population, 1,800,000, is Protestant.

The High Church Episcopalians of the United States are introducing the Gregorian chant in their services since the Pope recommended its adoption in Catholic Churches.

The Congregation of the Propaganda has lately endeavored to compute the exact number of Catholics. They amount to about 230 millions, we are told, and they are thus distributed among the different nations of the world: Italy numbers 80 millions; Austria-Hungary, 36; France, 38; Germany, 22; Russia, 14; Spain and Portugal, 19; Belgium and Holland, 6; Switzerland and Turkey, 2; Northern Africa, 4; other parts of Africa, 2; the United States of America, 15; Central and South America, 30; Asia, 2; other parts of the world, 10.

The recent municipal elections in Turin, Italy, proved a great victory for the Catholic voters, allied, as they were, with the Liberal Moderate party. All the sixty-four candidates agreed upon were elected, and the Socialists, who were previously represented in the municipal council by thirty members had their numbers reduced to sixteen. Naturally this victory for the Catholic element in the liberal former capital of the kingdom has greatly pleased the Church authorities, and similar efforts will be made in future municipal elections in other cities.

About 3,000 Frenchmen, including several Bishops, arrived in Rome Saturday, February 24, to assist in the

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