

our families : a great respect and solid piety for the dead, a generous support of the indigent, a cordial hospitality for travellers and the shelterless poor and above all a great anxiety to procure the dying the aid of the last sacraments. Ah, in order to render that service nothing deters them ; neither cold nor rain, wind nor snow, fatigue nor danger. And as soon as the bell which is always rung before the Blessed Sacrament in our country places, is heard, all hasten religiously and with profound respect to where it passes ; men, women and children, prostrate and with head bared, in all weathers, piously recite the *Pater* and *Ave* recommended for obtaining the indulgence. Oh, may we ever be faithful to these practices that work out salvation. P. GIRARD, C. SS. R.



Every day Mistakes

Besides the larger errors which have been embalmed in literature, there are many homelier ones which freely enter into our domestic life. That pipes are burst in a thaw, for instance, is a harmless yet plausible error. Pipes are really burst during the cold spell, but the leak of course, can not be discovered until the frozen water thaws. Another exemplification of the *post hoc propter hoc* fallacy is the common superstition that bones are more brittle in twinter than in summer. More bones, indeed, are broken during the cold months, but that is simply because there is then more liability to accidents from slipping and falling. People who trust too much to the evidence of their sense believe that sunlight puts out a fire, whereas it merely pales its apparent brilliancy just as it pales the light of the stars. The eyesight is again deluded by sleeping birds ; they seem to sleep with the head under the wing ; in reality, the head is turned round and laid upon the soft yielding feathers of the back, which frequently hide it entirely from sight. And as to that superstition common to both England and America, that when a snake is killed its tail will not die until sunset, it is a mere hasty generalization from the fact that a snake is endowed with great muscular irritability, so that its heart will contract after removal from the body, and the tail will move after the reptile is dead. But the continuance of this motion has nothing to do with the setting of the sun. Frederick Werne, in his "Campaign in Taka," gives an account of the killing of a large water-snake, which after being partly skinned, he left hanging on the front beam of the hut until morning. "In the early morning hours," he says, "I thought I had been struck over the shin with a club. The dead snake had given me a wipe with its tail through the open door."