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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1901.

LENT AND FASTING.

Yesterday began the annual lenten time of fasting, and of preparation for the Easter time. It is not necessary to remind Catholics that we are now in the season of mourning—a season set apart by the Church as a preparation for the glad time of Easter.

really we are given two full meals a day. The law is one commanding abstinence rather than fasting, and no one should seek to relieve himself of the inconveniences of fasting unless the observance of the law might endanger his health or his efficiency.

WHAT WE CONTRIBUTE.

There is a law in the Church providing for the support of pastors. We believe that most of Catholics do their best in this matter, but we cannot pass by without remarking that there are hundreds of young men and young women who are working and who have not yet come to the realization of the fact that they have attained to that physical growth which makes them liable to this law.

but they are not called upon to exercise their generosity with anything like the frequency that their neighbors are.

For instance it cost last year nearly four million dollars to maintain the Protestant churches in the boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx, New York City, and nearly a million and a half to maintain the Roman Catholic churches.

This, however, is but one third of the sum spent in Christian effort. "The largest single item, on a complete list, is," according to The Herald, "eight million dollars for new structures and repairs, followed by four and a half millions for education, three millions for hospital support, and nearly two millions for Christian literature.

In its analysis of the different Protestant denominations in the metropolis, the Episcopalian are credited with spending almost twice as much as any other. The Presbyterians come second, then the Baptist, Methodist, Lutherans, Reformed, and Congregationalists.

THE TEMPORAL POWER.

At the time the English Pilgrimage paid their respects to the Holy Father the Duke of Norfolk made reference to the temporal power, and expressed the hope that this century would see the Pope in possession of such temporal power as was necessary for his high position.

Lord Brougham, as early as 1817, said of the Pope: "Stripped of his secular dominion the Pope would become the slave, now of one power then of another; one day the slave of Spain, another of Austria, another of France, or worst of all, the slave of his own factions and rebellious subjects."

LIBERAL CATHOLICISM.

Continuing our synopsis of the Pastoral issued by the Bishops of England, we find them explaining the aspect of mind which every son of the Church is bound to yield "in whatever she presents for acceptance."

spirit. From such sources have sprung the most noxious dangers to the Church in other lands. From men who have won a position in literature or science, simple children of the faith have lost their holy dread of "erroneous doctrines and false principles."

A DIVIDED HOUSE.

The two Presbyterian ministers, the Rev. Drs. Milligan and Black, are divided upon this question of racial troubles. Dr. Black asserts that national life must receive a baptism of blood, to be had only through religious, racial or Old World strife.

Spain is experiencing an uprising of labor that is seeking a vent in riot and uproar. We see reports in the daily papers every day chronicling the storming of religious houses. These reports need cause Catholics no alarm.

ment forbids all that works ill to one's neighbor by any reports we make concerning him. Now could any word work more ill to Dr. Milligan's Catholic neighbors than that he should speak of them as idolators, and worshippers of colored lights—that he should report to his flock of old St. Andrews' that the Catholic congregation attending St. Michael's Cathedral, with some of whom his hearers were on friendly terms, were not Christians but worshippers of material electric lights?

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Lent began yesterday. Catholics should give good example and observe the rules and regulations of the Church to the letter.

If our Catholic people observed Lent as they should, this season would be a series of sermons; a forty days' retreat; a continual period of missions to non-Catholics.

Let every Catholic in Canada go on retreat during this Holy Season; let every one enter within himself and prepare for the Easter resurrection from sin and his old self.

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Another case illustrating the evils of divorce comes from Milwaukee. Over two hundred people in that city have secured divorces, and many of them have married again.