

YOUTHS' DEPARTMENT.

HEROISM OF A PRIEST.

[WRITTEN FOR THE TRUE WITNESS]

A peasant had been accused of horrible crimes. He was arrested, and condemned to die: though he steadfastly maintained he had no complicity in any of the imputed crimes. As is ordinary on the occasion of a man being condemned to die, the priest came to see the man and prepare him for death. Notwithstanding the arguments the priest used, the prisoner refused to be reconciled to the Church: he even became so enraged with the tireless efforts of the priest in his behalf, that he insulted the minister of God. The day of execution at length arrived; but the culprit made no confession, nor showed any signs of repentance for the heinous crimes he was guilty of. The condemned man was possessed of herculean strength. He marched to the scaffold blaspheming, and repulsing the gentle entreaties of the venerable priest who never despaired of converting the murderer. When the death procession halted at the place of execution, the condemned man's bravado vanished. He turned towards his confessor, implored his pardon, murmured a prayer, and desired the priest's embrace. The holy man complied with his request. At the same instant the priest uttered a heart-rending cry, and pressed his hand to his face, which was streaming with blood. With his diabolical teeth, the assassin attempted to tear the skin off the chaplain's face. The throng became terrific, indignation was manifested on all countenances. The executioners rushed on the monster, and would have dealt summary punishment to him had not the priest, arrested their upraised hands. Wiping away the blood, which flowed freely from his wound, the disciple of Christ presented his other cheek to be embraced by the criminal. Stupefied the murderer made a step backward, and then fell on his knees. All the while tears were coursing down his cheeks. At last the unhappy man confessed his crime, and implored the chaplain's pardon. Pale, trembling, and bowed, he humbled himself before the apostle and martyr, and received in the name of God pardon for all his sins. One minute later, and the soul of the condemned man departed from his body. The priest slowly retired, calm and thoughtful.

In three days time the priest was dead. Before his spirit fled he pronounced the following words: "He who loves not his fellowmen knows not God, because God is all love!"

How beautiful! How divine! is a religion capable of inspiring such love, and imbuing its ministers with such heroism.

JULIAN PARR.

OUR NATIONAL DAY.

DEAR EDITOR,—This year we have had two St. Patrick's days. On the 17th, Sunday, we all attended 9 o'clock Mass, which is only for the children. Our Mass was a St. Patrick's day one, the choir sang several hymns to Irish airs, the organ playing St. Patrick's Day, and every one, young and old, wearing the "chosen leaf of hard and chief." On Monday, the day was celebrated by a grand procession, the various societies looking well and marching in good step to the music of several bands. The day was bitter cold, a high wind blowing, so that several of the banners could not be unfurled. In the afternoon there was a matinee in St. Ann's Hall, and in the evening "Fitzgerald, the Irish Outlaw," was played to a crowded house. The day passed off well, everyone praying that next St. Patrick's day will be a brighter one for the dear land of our fathers.

"SNOWBALL."

"THE FIRST FRIDAY."

DEAR CHARLIE,—It affords me much pleasure to reply to your request, that is, "How do the boys of St. Ann's spend the first Friday of the month?"

Well, dear friend, as we have to celebrate this feast so often, it is easy for me to comply with your request? When the boys first gather together they hear a short instruction from the Rev. Director or teacher, on the subject of a good confession and communion, and how pleasing it is to the Sacred heart. Then they leave the school in ranks for the church, where they recite their prayers



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and perform the duties necessary to make a good confession. After receiving absolution they again assemble and return thanks to their Benefactor; they then depart.

The next assemblage is on a more solemn occasion; that is on the morning of the first Friday, which presents a striking scene in our church. The boys in turn advance slowly to the altar rails, where they are relieved and refreshed by the sweet presence of Our Lord. The remainder of the day is spent in class with a strict sincerity all day, and daily tasks are from time to time lightened by a glimpse on a lamp of the Sacred Heart, which continually sends up a little flame as if praying for the happy class. This beautiful lamp is adorned with four beautiful white lilies emerging from each of the four corners of a red cross in glass diamonds which surround the lamp in the shape of a heart. The day goes by till three o'clock p.m., when, in a body, we return to the church to assist at Benediction. Thus the boys of St. Ann's pass that great feast with pomp and reverence.

Well, now, dear Charlie, you will excuse me for this long and tedious description, which I hope will not trespass on your time.

I will be expecting a letter from you in a few days. It would please me very much to get a description of how you spend the same feast.

R. HITS.

Adolphus: What a cheerful way you must have of refusing a man. You seem to send them away supremely happy. Beatrice: I tell them that the report that I am a great heiress is a mistake.

"This confounded thermometer isn't worth retaining any longer," said Uncle Peter. "What is wrong with it?" "Why, one day it says one thing, and the very next it is something altogether different."

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