



## Current Comment

Lent is more than half over. Have we entered into its chastening spirit of self-denial? If we do not we shall certainly not rise to a new life at Easter.

By a curious and unusual coincidence the feast of the Annunciation, Lady Day, falls this year on Laetare Sunday, the only Sunday in Lent on which the altar may be decked with flowers because the season of penance is half over. Thus the day becomes doubly a day of joy. But of course the joy of the Incarnation overtops the other, for the gladness of Christ's coming is abiding, not limited to any season, but pervading our whole lives. When the Word was made flesh—and this stupendous miracle was wrought directly after Mary had said: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to Thy word"—the redemption of mankind was begun, the sadness and despair of heathendom was no longer the general lot of the human race, the "tidings of great joy that shall be to all the people" were already on their way, peace to men of good will, that peace that surpasseth all understanding, was soon to be spread abroad and convert the world.

Nothing is more unlike Christian joy than the feverish thrill of guilty passion. The one gives real, solid, lasting, eternal delight; the other darkens the intellect, weakens the will, bestializes the whole character. Here is a sample of that sensational caricature of joy which a vitiated taste alone delights in. It is taken from the Boston "Republic" in its masterly criticism of an actress whom some supposedly respectable persons not only tolerate but patronize:

The sensation of the moment in Boston is Sarah Bernhardt—the Sarah of the golden voice, the athletic contortions and the vulgar exploitation of the more noxious forms of the drama. She is without principle—the mere slave of the conditions of the time, and the dreary drip, drip, of the sickly sentiment which is smeared over her plays render them unfit for the Catholic theatre-goer.

It would seem that the serpentine Sarah might have selected a play which would reveal her abilities without shocking the sensibilities of Catholics.

The latter she has done in the most offensive manner in "La Sorciere," which was produced on last Monday night at the Boston Theatre, and which, we believe, is to be repeated.

Its author, Sardou, is one of the cleverest and most brilliant play wrights of the day. He is the Parisian wizard—the meteor of Marry—who has created more effective plays than any other author before the public. He is as much of a mocker as Voltaire was, with no bitterness, but the desire to create theatrical effect that is a consuming passion. He has the supreme technician's love of form and symmetry, and all that lavish audacity and recklessness which makes the usual brilliant Parisian—unleashed from Catholic restraints—the most dangerous of rebels against religion and society. He exalts an ideal that is infamous, satanic. In "Dante" he placed his slimy hand upon the "spotless lover of Beatrice." In "La Sorciere" he teaches a view of history that would be amusing were it not tragical in its consequences. He has beauty at his command, but it is the beauty of serpents and of panthers, of sinister, cruel passions that writhe and crouch in the dark recesses of human nature—that is, human nature as seen in the green absinthe of the "boulevardier." He is shocking and shameless. He is the avant-courier of the prostitute and the arch glorifier of lustful love. Purity with him would seem to be a jocular expression, obsolete in the serious speech which he has invented for the bestial Bernhardt.

Sardou has invented his own history for dramatic purposes. His pictures of the period are false, his reading of Cardinal Ximenes' character totally untrue to history, his characters untypical and his incidents non-representative. One is rather lenient to the interpretation of religion given by authors who are nurtured on the traditions of anti-Catholic hostility in France. The atmosphere they breathe is bad. It is morally malarial. Yet Sardou, who, morally he does not find history to his liking, deliberately falsified it to suit his purpose, goes beyond the limits of indulgence. In one scene

## FESTIVAL DAY OF IRISHMEN

St. Patrick's Day Marked with Elaborate Religious and National Celebration in Winnipeg.

The local St. Patrick's Day celebration will long remain fresh in the memory of every ardent Irishman who assisted at it. The glorious festival day of Ireland's Apostle was commemorated with religious and national observances, worthy of the great man and the great things they honored. The chief religious celebration took place at St. Mary's church; His Grace Archbishop Langevin and Mgr. Dugas, P.A., were within the sanctuary; the grand ceremonies of Pontifical High Mass

Ald. (Capt.) Wynne and Mrs. Wynne arrived home on Saturday from their two months' visit in the east. During their absence they spent considerable time in Montreal and New York and also visited other cities, and ward two's representative reports that he took advantage of the opportunity to study many matters of municipal government and gain experience that will be of great advantage in connection with the discharge of his municipal duties in Winnipeg.—Free Press, March 19.

The local press announce a farewell tour of Mme. Albani through the Can-

Recently the Brazilian Parliament tried to introduce divorce, but the Catholics raised such an outcry that the bill was rejected.

The Rev. John J. Collins, S.J., president of Fordham university has been assigned by the Jesuit Provincial to do episcopal work in Jamaica, Bishop Gordon having gone to Rome because of poor health. Rev. Daniel J. Quinn, S.J., will succeed Father Collins as president of Fordham.

Father Pius Mayer, superior general of the order of Carmelites, has arrived in this country to begin a 30,000 miles journey of inspection of the various branches of the Order in the United States, Canada, South America and Europe, which is made every year.

A mission for non-Catholics given this year by Father Younan, C.S.P., in the Paulist church, New York, has borne fruit already to the extent of 59 converts introduced into the church.

More divorces are granted annually in the United States than in Europe, Canada and Australia combined.

Most Rev. William H. O'Connell, recently appointed coadjutor Archbishop of Boston, arrived in that city on Tuesday of this week on the steamer Romanic from Naples. At the pier to greet the Archbishop were many clergymen and laymen from Maine and Massachusetts. He expressed himself as charmed with the Japanese and their country, and said that his sojourn was most delightful. "People have read of the progress made by the Japanese in the last few years," he said, "but those who have not been in Japan cannot begin to realize the great intelligence and strength of that nation."

A unique and unusual nuptial ceremony was performed in St. Joseph's church, in Washington, recently, when Dominic J. Sonayama, of Japan, and Miss Margaret Cherry, of that city, were married. Mr. Sonayama comes of one of the best families in Japan. He is, first of all a Christian, and in this connection he had declared to friends that his family had been numbered among the Christians for very nearly 300 years. It is a matter of pride with Sonayama that his family was converted by St. Francis Xavier, and fifty years after the advent of St. Francis, when thousands of Christians were slaughtered at the hands of the Buddhists, a number of his family survived and fled to the mountains. Here the refugees formed a colony and lived for many years. Mr. Sonayama has an uncle in the priesthood, Father Kukahori, in Nagasaki.

It is quite probable that the regular Consistory of the spring session will be held soon after Easter, when, it is likely, four new foreign Cardinals will be nominated, one each for Belgium, Spain, Portugal and England, the latter nominee being Mgr. Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster.

That was a rare honor which Cardinal Satoli as Prefect of the Congregation of Studies, conferred recently upon Krogh-Tonning, the celebrated writer and pulpit orator of Christiania, Norway, when he declared him a Doctor of Divinity. In Rome the theological attainments of this Norwegian convert are spoken of much as were those of John Henry Newman when he entered the Church. The distinction that has come to Dr. Krogh-Tonning is unique, inasmuch as he is a layman and neophyte in the faith.

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## AD MULTOS ANNOS!



**MOST REV. L. P. A. LANGEVIN, O.M.I., D.D.,**  
Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of St. Boniface,  
Whose Eleventh Anniversary of Consecration was widely celebrated by Western Catholics during the past week. Floreat!

we see a governor's palace. Zoraya taunts her lover, cajoles him, overcomes him and sweeps him into flight. We view the subterranean chamber where she faces the inquisitors and the cruel, relentless purposes of the Cardinal dominating the scene. She explains, endures, lies, retracts, and lies again to save her lover. Then in the public square, near the waiting stake, before the snarling mob, takes poison from a secret vial and escapes from the flames. The lurid figure of the Cardinal is supreme—and such a figure. He is as close a portraiture as a grisly caricature of Roosevelt is unto the President. The intellectual power, moral passion, flight of the imperial imagination which marks the character of Cardinal Ximenes is not hinted at. He is the Grand Inquisitor, who, in the name of the Pope himself, projects the tragic and cruel catastrophe. The portrait of Ximenes as rendered by de Max is nothing less than perversion and prostitution of history.

In a recent issue of this journal we expressed our dissent from the "West- (Continued on page 6)

were participated in by the several officers of the Mass in their resplendent golden vestments, His Grace being celebrant; Rev. Gregory O'Brien, C.P., of St. Louis, one of the two Passionist Fathers now conducting the mission at St. Mary's, preached the sermon of the day, a discourse of the loftiest conceptions of the great festival and its significance, delivered with vigor and dramatic eloquence. Celtic songs and interludes by the choir and organ enhanced the moving effect of the splendid service.

At Immaculate Conception church High Mass was celebrated at 9 o'clock by Rev. Father Chretien, pastor.

The national celebration took the form of the annual St. Patrick's Day concert in the Y.M.C.A. auditorium, arranged under the auspices of the Catholic Club. The evening was representative in point of audience, of selections and of the artists assisting, through whose veins, in every case, flows Celtic blood.

A complete report of the principal portions of the discourse of the eloquent Passionist will be found on page 2.

The life that would be faithful seeks showers as well as sunshine.

adian West in the near future. The greatest Canadian prima donna will be heard in Winnipeg towards the latter part of April.

The rumor that the queen-mother of Spain will take the veil after the marriage of King Alfonso calls to mind the fact that the widow of an ex-king is at the present moment in a convent in the Isle of Wight.

The royal nun was born Princess Adelaide of Lowenstein-Wertheim-rosenberg. She married in 1831 Miguel, Duke of Braganza, who occupied the throne of Portugal from 1828 to 1834. In the latter year he abdicated under compulsion and died in 1886. His widow entered the Benedictine convent in Solesmes, France, in 1897, and when the community was banished from France she went with the rest of the Sisters to Northwood in the Isle of Wight.

Another but younger member of the same family of Lowenstein-Wertheim-rosenberg is also a nun in the same Isle of Wight convent, and the third is one of the Poor Sisters of St. Francis.

Six thousand women were present at the opening service of a Paulist mission held in Boston this month.