

The Catholic Register

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JOSEPH COOLAHAN is authorized to collect for our Toronto subscribers.

THURSDAY, JAN. 9TH, 1908.

THE EPIPHANY.

The beautiful and appropriate name of the last of the Christmas holy days shows how very infelicitous is the appellation of "Little Christmas" by which it is generally known amongst us.

Nor is the event commemorated unworthy of the splendor of the name and Office of the Epiphany. On this day the Gentiles were called to the Faith by a star which St. Augustine beautifully terms "the tongue of the heavens," and they responded in the persons of the Magi, to the invitation.

Worthy pioneers were those Eastern kings, who recognizing in the star which appeared to them the finger of God pointing out the way to the Saviour, braved the dangers of robber-infested deserts and the greater peril of the jealous cruelty of Herod, in order to adore the Messiah of Whose birth that star was to them a certain indication—worthy pioneers were they of the intrepid missionaries "who brought to our mountains the gift of God's faith, the sweet light of His love."

MISSIONARY ZEAL. No more suitable opportunity than the Octave of the Feast of the Epiphany could present itself for the consideration of what we are doing, and what we ought to do, for foreign missions.

THE LITURGY.

Some one said to us the other day: Why does not the Catholic Register give us something about the services and offices of the Church? That was a pleasant request when Christmas cheer was going on all round us.

years. From the simple ceremonies of Low Mass to the grandeur and pomp of Pontifical Mass in some historic cathedral—from the ordinary administration of baptism to the solemn rite of Holy Orders—from the solitary recitation of his breviary by some lonely missionary to the sweet cadence of chant by the cowered monks in Benedictine or other monasteries—from all the Church there is the sound of many waters—praise and prayer, every word and motion and sign. To trace its history, to explain its meaning, to indicate the harmony of it all and the completeness of its parts, to instill a deeper reverence for what is all reverent, overpowers as at the very thought of it.

We speak of it as public piety, for whilst it may be the nourishing sweetness of a great deal of private devotion, it is the worship of the whole Church, the administration by the whole Church. That means so much that we do not take it in at a glance. It may be a simple priest reading and expounding the Sunday Gospel to a handful of faithful people. That is one thing, but the Mass which that priest is celebrating is quite another thing.

If we look at the liturgical year it is a cycle of mystery and praise. There are the mysteries and feasts of our Blessed Lord, from birth to death and resurrection. His Holy Name, His Sacred Heart, His triumph of Corpus Christi—the feasts of Our Blessed Lady scattered through the year like stars in the firmament, and the saints whose lives bespeak the triumph of God's grace—first the apostles, then the ruby martyrs, and the Confessors, and virgins with their lilies. The year is but one continued feast.

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COMPOUND INTEREST The earning power of compound interest is not as generally understood and appreciated as it should be. It may be illustrated by the following news item which recently appeared in the press: A FIVE-DOLLAR BILL AT INTEREST (From the Philadelphia Star) Mr. L. C. St. John of this city has a curiosity in his possession in a five-dollar bill which is 125 years old. He has just gained possession of it, although it was left to him by his mother, who died some twelve years ago. The bill was given her when a child by a relative. It was issued under the Act of July 2, 1770, by the State of Rhode Island, drawing five per cent. interest per annum, and signed by John Arnold. Figuring compound interest, it is now worth \$2500. We pay interest at Three and One-half per cent. per annum, compounded four times each year. CANADA PERMANENT MORTGAGE CORPORATION Toronto Street, Toronto

those still in darkness the blessings they enjoy. We know the result of that invitation. A few dollars are contributed, and perhaps this paltry contribution is the sum total of the yearly assistance given by many a prosperous parish to the cause.

Nothing of this kind is to be found amongst our Catholics as a whole. We do not insinuate for a moment that the contributions given on the Epiphany for African Missions and on Good Friday for the maintenance of the Catholic centres in the Holy Land represent the total of Catholic aid to those who are laboring in far-off lands.

CHRISTIANITY IN CANADA.

Christianity is a term growing more indefinite every generation. This is chiefly due to the want of dogma. Outside the Catholic Church it is hard to find real Christianity; for each man frames his religion for himself. His creed he knows not, his profession is simply: "I am a Christian." Language serves two purposes. It is used to conceal as well as to reveal thought. If the country be Christian many citizens may deem it a matter of loyalty to subscribe themselves as Christians without attaching any further importance. Were they summoned before some Roman emperor who should give them their choice between sacrificing to the state gods and death by lions, we do not know but that they could reason themselves into saving their own lives. Rationalism can do a good deal nowadays, and the martyr spirit is not strong.

COMMUNICATION CHRISTMAS MUSIC AT ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL. Of recent times many and varied have been the discussions on the new famous encyclical of Pope Pius X., entitled "Motu Proprio," and many and varied have been the results in different countries attending the carrying out of the wishes of the Holy Father.

INEXCUSABLE DISRESPECT. The Mail and Empire has every morning a column which it has been pleased to regard as a semi-editorial. It treats of a great variety of subjects, historical, political and otherwise. In fact the ground covered is too wide to be well tilled, although as a general thing the articles are treated with calm moderation and very fair ability.

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TRULY A STRUGGLING MISSION. In the Diocese of Northampton, Fakenham, Norfolk. HELP! HELP! HELP! For the Love of the Sacred Heart and in Honor of St. Anthony of Padua, DO PLEASE send a mite for the erection of a more worthy Home for the Blessed Sacrament.

IT RESTS WITH YOU to say whether I am to succeed or fail, All my hopes of success are in your co-operation. Will you not then extend a co-operating hand? Surely you will not refuse? You may not be able to help much, indeed. But you can help a little, and a multitude of "littles" means a great deal.

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THE SUNDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS gave an opportunity for the rendering of a typical programme of appropriate music as allowed by Rome, and although, as has been hinted, some of the limitations of Church music must necessarily be against flesh and blood, I do not hesitate to say that no unprejudiced worshipper left St. Michael's on Sunday evening last without an appreciation of the work and its rendering.

THE HIGH MASS was a repetition of Christmas morning with the exception of the Plain Chant Proper of the Mass sung by the adult members of the west gallery choir led by Messrs. J. Dickinson and J. Lyons as cantors. The vespers in the evening were sung with that swing and precision which is to be expected from a Cathedral choir, the two divisions (sanctuary and west gallery) alternating in the verses of the psalms.

THE SERVICE CONCLUDED with the "Laudate Dominum" in Falso-Bordone. Organ preludes and postludes were improvisations and the Alleluia chorus. No greater tribute can be given to Mr. James Dickinson, Mus. Doc., the talented organist and choirmaster, than to say that, given the mere essentials as regards voices, with the rich storehouse of ecclesiastical music from which the Catholic Church can always draw, St. Michael's Cathedral will be in possession of a choir of its kind second to none in Toronto, and a choir able to render music not only befitting all occasions, but also worthy of the premier church of the archdiocese. ADMIRER.

THE POPE expressed himself as having enjoyed an unusual treat a few days ago, when the Abbe Perosi, the famous composer, went to the Vatican at the special invitation of Pius X., and played several selections from his new composition, the oratorio "Transitus Animae," or the Passage of the Soul.

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