

GENERAL INTENTION FOR MAY.

DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN.

The world outside of the Catholic church does not look on Mary as it once did. Formerly it accused Catholics of showing her too much honor, and it endeavored to restore the balance by coming to the very verge of dishonor. To-day there are fewer accusations against us and more respect for her.

Excited and inflamed passions are growing cool. It is only the veterans of many battles, to whom fighting has become a habit and weapons almost as necessary as wearing apparel, that still cherish the keen feelings which have lost their edge in newer recruits.

Art has shown itself the ally of truth, and has helped to win a greater respect for Mary. Thanks to the painters of Italy and their imitators, the Madonna has been a favorite subject for brush and canvas.

The title Mother of Grace is no doubt startling and perhaps sounds strange to some Catholic ears. How early it appeared in the church cannot be stated exactly, but it was the natural expression of the earliest devotion of God.

Mary, in the joy of the Incarnation, with the song of her thanksgiving taking words in her heart, visited her cousin, Elizabeth. The sound of her voice had brought God from heaven; the sound of her voice came to the ears of John the Baptist, as yet unborn, sanctifying him and congratulating him.

Even if the title were new, the fact that it expresses an old and well established idea of the word, "Mother of Divine Grace," "Mother of God," come those other "Mothers of Divine Grace." The titles belong to each other; they cannot be separated. If Mary is the Mother of grace she is so because she is the Mother of Christ.

Such was Mary's share in the fact and the accomplishment of our redemption. She has her share in the application of its fruits. As Christ redeemed her with his help, so it is his good pleasure to sanctify us through her help.

it, bring that Spirit of love into this selfish world and flood it with the light and charity of God! -- Messenger of the Sacred Heart.

CHRISTIAN UNITY

ALL SIGNS POINT TO GREATER AMITY AMONG CHRISTIAN BODIES.

The Rev. Morgan M. Sheedy of Altoona, Pa. is one of the scholarly men of the church whose words on any subject are always worthy of attention and consideration.

He began by telling a conversation he had a little over two years ago with one of the most scholarly and earnest of American ecclesiastics on board an Atlantic liner on this subject. He was a man who had evidently thought long and deeply on religious matters.

His words made a profound impression upon me, for they echoed my own thoughts and desires, as, indeed, they do those of all earnest Christians.

These are signs that point in the right direction. They indicate that the drift is toward a clearer understanding of what our Christianity really means.

These are healthy signs of that better understanding of what religion means and plainly indicate the drift toward that unity of faith for which the dying Christians everywhere are growing tired of dissensions. They want peace. In the assemblies of the different denominations held during the last few years the subject of re-union has been warmly discussed.

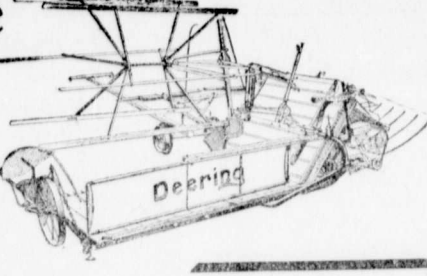
These are healthy signs of that better understanding of what religion means and plainly indicate the drift toward that unity of faith for which the dying Christians everywhere are growing tired of dissensions.

Accordingly from many quarters today are heard sweet sounds set to music of heaven, that tell of this universal desire for unity and peace. That desire finds expression in the tone of the denominational press and pulpit; in the action of various church bodies looking to Christian unity; in the earnest discussions of the subject carried on in conference and synods; in the cooperation of Catholics and Protestants in temperance, social and charitable work.

The thing that must be reckoned with by Catholics, if we are to justify our appeal to non-Catholics is, a public spirit that is apt to test the profession of a religious conviction, and to brand as sentimental cant or make-believe when it is not based on the air of morality or religion without having either the quality or influence of true virtue, whether it be natural or supernatural.

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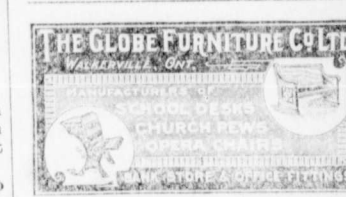
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Among the Archbishop's hearers was Bishop Abraham Grant, of the Methodist body, who has written to His Grace to express his gratitude for the sentiments he expressed.

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lies, whether hereditary or convert, is not criticism, offensive patronage, insistent argument, but charity, zeal, sympathy, and above all prayer.

A GOOD CONSCIENCE THE BEST LAW.

In these days of quibbling and legal technicalities, we hear much about conscience, and hence there is clamor for more legislation. We have a law—the seventh commandment: "Thou shalt not steal"—which needs no supplement, as if for'd's every species of dishonesty.

The Catholic church alone supernaturalizes motives and has the means at her command of fostering honesty in enforcing restitution. Let us have more Christian conscience, and we will have less need of statutory law for specific purposes.—Catholic Union and Times.

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A NEGRO METHODIST BISHOP TO ARCHBISHOP IRELAND.

In Archbishop Ireland's recent speech in Kansas City, to an audience of ten thousand, His grace made an eloquent plea for justice to the Negro, contending that the solution of the Negro problem lies along the lines of charity and patience both on the part of the white man and on the part of the black man.

Among the Archbishop's hearers was Bishop Abraham Grant, of the Methodist body, who has written to His Grace to express his gratitude for the sentiments he expressed.

"When," writes the Negro Bishop, "such men as Rev. Thomas Dixon, Governor Vandaman of Mississippi; Governor Davis, of Arkansas; and Senator Tillman, of South Carolina, are making strenuous efforts to convince the world of the unworthiness of the Negro and his inability to accept and appreciate a higher civilization, your plea to an audience of ten thousand for justice and fair treatment to him came to my ear as a cooling spring to a thirsty soul."

Eternity alone will make known the good you are doing along the lines above indicated, and on behalf of a grateful people I thank you.

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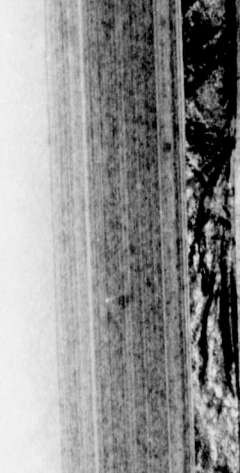
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