

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

All souls day! What a flood of thoughts today, starting from the sea of our minds, have the shores of eternity; thoughts interwoven in memories; thoughts shot through with regrets; thoughts that are prayers for pity for those that have trod their airy pathway to God's judgment; thoughts that are a comfort to ourselves as well, let us hope, as a benediction for the departed.

We have thoughts too profound for "the touch of a word" and thoughts that show us our dead, through watery eyes; hopeful thoughts that rob them in the lustre of immortality.

Thoughts of those who once lived are such corrective forces for the present living! At the grave we must be serious as well as prayerful. There we make a proper estimate of life. There is enhanced the beauty of virtue and there the grossness of vice becomes more repulsive. The feelings are not only purified by the baptism of tears, but our mind's eye is washed to a better vision.

How comforting is prayer for the dead! How much satisfaction hereby has lost and how it has pushed itself in eschewing prayer for the friends that live lonely. The Catholic in prayer holds converse with the absent one; the "washed hand" is again grasped with the thrill of love and friendship; the empty chair is filled again; a fond good-night is bestowed and a cheery salutation is given in the morning; the grave loses its coldness, and the chasm that separates time from eternity is bridged. We commune with our silent ones only in silence. Their voices are not heard in the busy marts of the world.

The tooing vacillates of life are not the accompaniments of the wisperings of our deceased. In prayer we reach them just as truly as did Jacob's ladder bear the angels to the gateways of the skies. And prayer in its best form is the silent, solemn movement of a devoted heart that is too heavy to be borne on human speech, but to which ministering angels wing their flight with joy and promise.

Prayer for the dead is the sweetest form of blessing. When we do a kindness for the living, the glowing cheek proudly responds, the brightening eyes make answer before thankfulness is formulated by the lip, and we have, in a measure, all this as our reward. When we are kind to the dead, the eye contained in the dust does not thank, the mouth filled with clay has no kiss for our goodness, the white chess keeps its snow, and our act is the more devoted, because in no way gratified by a recognition.

Prayer for the dead, then, is in its unqualified generosity, a near approach to sacrifice, and sacrifice is an heroic expression of faith. The improvement of our faith follows as a necessary sequence to our fidelity to the faithful departed and we all can say, "I believe, O Lord! help my unbelief."

The remembrance of our departed is a piece with wisdom. These noble souls who are cleansed by purgatorial fires will not forget the friends who shortened through prayer their punishments. Gratitude to us will mark the first expressions of heavenly joy, for the noble never forget gifts; it is the unprincipled that do not remember benefactions.

Dear ones, who prize prayer so much, as Holy Writ tells us, you yourselves pray so fervently not only to your Master, but to your old earthly associates! At least you, my friends, have pity on me! I am a voice shared with faith and a truly human that our hearts would be headstones did they not respond to your entreaty. May the just hand of God be quickly brightened with mercy and lift from out the flames to the splendor of the eternal court the souls whose every breath is a sigh and every sigh a prayer to God to give them that heaven for which here they bravely strove.—Catholic Union and Times.

POPE SAYS FREEMASONRY IS ENEMY OF CHURCH

Pope Benedict XV, has, through the Cardinal Secretary of State, sent a communication to Mgr. Joulin, in which he refers to the danger of Freemasonry, and he points out some of its present day tendencies. In the course of this letter, Cardinal Gasparri says:

"The Pope has been pleased, with paternal good will, to acknowledge the receipt of your book, 'La Guerre Maconique'."

"In this book, you have applied the utmost skill and attention to tracing out and making clear what are the subtleties and the essentially anti-Catholic theories of Freemasonry, which theories, being originally in Deism and finding a new impetus in the revolt of the Reformation, have wrought such havoc as we, alas, know only too well! By the denial of the Being of God, by Atheism, and the movement known as Laicism, which is the present-day form of this infidelity, the greatest harm has been wrought among the people, against which the Church has never ceased to protest."

"You have, moreover, carefully brought out the true aims of Freemasonry, which is always and everywhere the confusion of Catholic truth; and you have demonstrated also the unbroken connection in the designs of this organization, the end of which

is the ruin of the Catholic Church. His Holiness is pleased, therefore, to bless you and to encourage you in your work, the influence of which cannot fail to be productive of the highest good, and which will sustain the faithful, and effectually arm them in the struggle, no matter how strenuously the opponents of truth may strive to destroy religion."

OBITUARY

REV. MOTHER LADDIGAN

On October 18th, at the Sacred Heart Convent, Maryville, St. Louis, deepest regret and heartfelt sorrow came to all in the death of a loved member of the Community, Mother Laddigan having been called to her well-earned reward.

This cherished religious was for years a devoted teacher and an earnest, painstaking worker in the Sacred Heart Convent in this City. Her death will bring grief and sincere regret to the many former pupils of that institution in London as well as elsewhere. How constantly the kind, loving and sympathetic Mother Laddigan helped and encouraged the children under her care. She worked assiduously for the love of that dear Sacred Heart of Our Lord who has ever taken her to Himself and we beg that those who loved her here on earth and who owe her every remembrance in death will breathe a prayer for her soul, that pure, good, noble soul that has gone before us, that gave naught but good deeds and a life of faithfulness and usefulness to us all.

When such time as we, her loved children, may be called to the Great Beyond, may she meet us, welcome us and direct us to the dear Sacred Heart.

We owe her love and gratitude in life, let us not forget the devoted Religious in death. M. A. B.

REV. CHRISTOPHER O'BYRNE

While Reverend Father O'Byrne's death has caused grief and sorrow in Buffalo his passing away to a well earned reward has brought regret to many of his devoted friends in Canada. His loving, generous big heart made for him a place in the memory and love of all who knew him and now that he has gone from us the remembrance of his devotedness, his unselfish goodness at all times will bring no doubt many a fervent prayer from all who here in the zealous prelate every remembrance in death as they were loyal and true to him in life.

We clip the following death notice from the Buffalo Union and Times of October 9:

Father "Chris" O'Byrne is dead. When this announcement was made on last Sunday morning, it brought a pang of grief to many a heart in Buffalo. And the wave of sorrow which reaches his many friends both here in the land that he loved so well and in his native Ireland. Father O'Byrne is dead, but his memory will survive for many a year in the hearts of those who knew him.

Father O'Byrne was a man of sterling priestly qualities. When this is said, perhaps it is praise enough. His blameless integrity of life, his love for the altar and the priesthood, his loyal attachment to his friends, his admiration of candor and nobility of character and his detestation of duplicity and deceit—these qualities shone out from his character with edifying splendor. Nothing vile or mean could possibly find lodgment in the great heart of the deceased pastor of St. Nicholas'. A thorough priest he was, finding his greatest comfort and enjoyment in the company of his fellow-priests. The noted hospitality of his home was an index to his own personality; he had ingrained in his nature the characteristic hospitality of his race. So detached was he from all selfish instincts that the joys of a brother priest were his joys, the illness of a brother priest found him quickly at the bedside, and the death of a brother priest invariably found him among the mourners. It is no wonder, then, that he was so well loved, especially by the priests among whom he labored.

It is almost half a century since Father O'Byrne left his ancestral home in distant Donegal to assume the burdens of life in this western land where so many of the children of the Gael have found a home and freedom. He was then a young man of twenty-one years. Called by God to the priesthood, he began here the course of study which he completed in 1879 at the famous University of Innsbruck. Soon after ordination he returned to this diocese, and here he has labored with edifying zeal and consummate success in the different parishes to which his bishop assigned him. During a long period of thirty-four years, he has been the pastor of St. Nicholas' Church in this city, and the splendid buildings that now grace the site which he bought when he went there to found the parish testify to his administrative ability and to the zeal with which he labored for his people.

But Father O'Byrne's interest and labors extended beyond the bounds of his parish. His bishop often looked to him for counsel and assistance in diocesan work, and these he freely gave with rare judgment and untiring devotion. He was also a member of the board of directors of this public institution, and his faithful services here have contributed much to the prosperity which it enjoys.

To the surviving relatives of Father O'Byrne and to his widowed parish we offer the condolence of one who loved him for the nobility of his character and the sterling integrity of his life. May he rest in peace.

THE FINANCE MINISTER'S WARNING

The new Minister of Finance, Sir Henry Drayton, speaking recently on the subject of the 1919 Victory Loan emphasized the very important fact that the late War had not only been a fighter's war but a producer's war. The soldier had been indispensable to the producer; but the producer had also been indispensable to the soldier. "The writers have finished their work, and written the name of Canada most high," he said, "but the work of the rest of the community is not finished; they are the last of the participants to be discharged. The War will not be won until we all make good the pledge to clean up the War mess, honestly, fully and fairly."

Everyone should understand that if these pledges are to be fulfilled, the 1919 Victory Loan must be pressed through to success. The Finance Minister also dwelt on the absolute necessity of a heavy subscription if Canada's markets are to be maintained and built up abroad. The importance to the Canadian producer of the overseas credits, which depend wholly on the success of the loan, cannot be too frequently insisted on, for the matter is one of vital concern to every Canadian who can only seize her present trade opportunities in Europe, and face the future with confidence, if these credits are continued; and the only way to assure that result is to pile up big subscriptions for the Victory Loan.

AT THE THRESHOLD OF A DISCOVERY?

Not only the heavens announce the glory of God. The wonderful power of the Creator shines forth with equal splendor from the tiniest part of creation. The big sea monsters are not more marvelous than the myriads of animalcules to which the drop of water serves as ocean. Nor is the power of gravitation that holds the universe in balance more stupendous than the energy locked up in the microscopic atom.

Just at present the scientific world is stirred up by impending revelations about the power of the atom. The investigations of Professors Rutherford and Ramsay and Thomson in England, and of such American scientists as Noyes, Harkins and Langmuir, show the same trend, viz.: that the utilization of atomic force is almost within reach. According to Sir Oliver Lodge the energy within matter is so great that an ounce of substance has within it the potency which would lift a fleet from the bottom of the sea to the dim mountain tops. So far science has succeeded in getting apart, for instance the molecules of water and in harnessing them, in the shape of steam, to wheel-moving engines. The problem under discussion would consist in breaking down the walls of the atoms, the smaller component parts of the molecule, to unloose the still mightier force locked up within.

If we reflect that tremendous forces placed in the hands of man may as well be abused as used rightly, the prospect of the new discovery does not fill us with unalloyed joy. We join, therefore in the hope of Sir Oliver Lodge (we quote from the Sunday Sun of September 20) "that men may not receive the mastery of the unutilized power until they are morally fit to use it." But what will that be? Are there any signs of a moral improvement going on in the world?

Supposing, however, that men would agree to waive the use of atomic force for purposes of destruction, what might be its beneficent uses? Atomic energy could take the place of fuel and serve all the purposes thereof with infinitely augmented efficiency—all the longest trains across the country, move the biggest airships with ease, set in motion the wheels of the largest factories, save a huge amount of labor. Only should there be a means to prevent "Atomic Energy Trusts," lest its benefits redound to the advantage of the few instead of its being a blessing to all the people!

A solicitude has sometimes been expressed about the fate of coming generations when the stores of coal and other natural supplies will have been exhausted. "O ye of little faith!" may apply also here. As long as God wishes mankind to continue on earth, so long will there be means for its subsistence. Nor do we need any Malthusian theories! The prospect of making atomic energy available opens a vista how there may be compensation, illimitable, for the failure of known fuel supplies. Likewise the inventive genius of man may discover a means to immeasurably increase the food producing capacity of the earth. "For your Father knoweth that you have need of all these things."—S., in The Guardian.

DEVLIN ON ULSTER

OUTSIDERS ARE THE CHIEF CAUSE OF DISSENSION AND DISUNION

Joseph Devlin, M. P., addressed a large meeting in Belfast a short time ago. Among other things he said: "Sir Edward Carson has said that all Ulster wants is to be let alone. Then the best thing for him to do is to let Ulster alone. If he did this, then our present difficulties could be easily settled, and the men who have to live out their lives in Ulster would soon come together and realize that in the common task of securing a noble peace they would find the same spirit of union which inspired and

moved them in the time of the War. The Curse of Ulster is that outsiders who are not Ulstermen are the chief cause of dissension and disunion amongst our people whose interests and aims are and ought to be identical. Ulster does want to be let alone, and that also is what Ireland wants. We want Ireland for all her people of every race and creed and class, working in harmony for that peace and progress which alone can spring from free institutions, broad-based upon the people's will. Ireland is not only a nation, but at heart she is an undivided nation and it is for this undivided nation and indivisible Irish nation that we claim the fullest measure of self-government and freedom."

NEW BOOKS

"Facing Danger." By Father Finn. Like all of Father Finn's books, this new one will have a big sale—for certain reasons it will have a larger sale than any of this author's books since "Tom Playfair" was published. (When you read the story you will know why.) Published by Benziger Brothers, New York, price \$1.25.

"St. Joan of Arc. The Life Story of the Maid of Orleans." By Rev. Denis Lynch, S. J., author of the "Story of the Acts of the Apostles." Produced in a superior manner. With twelve full page illustrations, bound in cloth and gold. Price, net \$2.50; postage 25 cents extra. Published by Benziger Brothers, New York. The story of the career of Joan of Arc is one of the marvelous episodes in history. Joan came with powers and genius, which will be the marvel of the world while the world stands. She redeemed a nation; she wrought such works as seemed to her people, and well might seem, miraculous.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of my dear brother, Pte. John English, of Douglas, Ont., who was killed in action November 4, 1917.

—HIS SISTER MARY

DIED

McGRADY.—At Port Arthur, Ont., on October 28, 1919, James McGrady, formerly of London, Ont. Interment at St. Peter's Cemetery, London. May his soul rest in peace.

McINTYRE.—At his late residence in North Dorchester, on Sunday, Oct. 19th, 1919, Daniel McIntyre, aged sixty-five years. May his soul rest in peace.

JOYCE.—At her late residence, 111 Percy Street, Ottawa, on October 28, 1919, Isabella Strong, wife of Lark Joyce, in her seventieth year. May her soul rest in peace.

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EXPERIENCED CATHOLIC TEACHER wanted for S. S. No. 6, Huntley, holding a 2nd class professional certificate. Duties to be the general charge of the school. Apply stating salary and experience to Rev. A. Stanton P. P. Corkey, P. O., Ont. 2143-3.

EXPERIENCED CATHOLIC TEACHER wanted for S. S. 1, Rutherford, second class professional certificate. Salary \$700 per annum. Duties to be the general charge of the school. Apply to P. R. de Lamour, Ont. 2143-3.

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