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M. TOBIN.

St. Martin of Tours. The wintry wind blowscold and keen, The leafless woods among, And to escape the death of its cruel breath The herds to shelter throng.

And stiff in ice the swift brook lay, Nestled the hare in anow; The raven shriek'd o'er the ionely roads, Where no foot of man might go.

Three riders, all of blithesome cheer, Spurr'd through the wind and sleet; They rode in the warmth of youthful blood, And their horses were good and fleet. And they had ridden o'er icy brook, And over snowy wold, Until they came to the portal high Of Amiens city old.

"Ah! horsemen gay, and horsemen good, This winter wind is bleak; Oh, noble horsemen, look on me, A man both old and weak.

"Grief was, in sooth, my father's name, My mother's it was Need; Then for the love of Him above, Do me some small almsdeed!"

The first rider he looked not down; The second, he rode by; But the third rein'd up his gallant steed, As he came the beggar nigh. "Oh, had I alms in gold," he said,
"So I would give it free;
But for the love of Him above,
That I have, take to thee,"

Then forth he drew his keen sword blade, His mantle shore in twain, And he gave the half with a loving will, And rode on his way again.

At Martin's rein the begger ran, With thanks and blessings loud, But some with scorn, eyed the mantle torn, As they passed the city crowd.

That night as Martin wearled lay In slumber deep and sweet; A beam more bright than sunny light, His closed eyes did greet. The Heavens high, the Heavens wide,

Opened in vision clear; ▲nd dazzling bands of Angels there Unto his gaze appear. All the bright Hosts of Heaven above Our Saviour Christ he knew, And him thought around His Form Divine, He a rent mantle threw.

And then mid all the songs of Heaven He seemed to hear a voice, "This unto Me hath a heathen given! Behold it, and rejoice!"

Martin the precious words bath heard— He heard them and was glad: And the heathen was turned to a Christian saint; Such guerdon almsgiving had. Now to God and to St. Martin, Let us devoutly pray, And may each and all such a saintly pall Find at the Judgment Day. Rlustrated Catholic American. M. P. M

## THE POPE ON THE OBSERVANCE OF SUNDAY.

Rome, March 21st.—Yesterday morning the Pope granted audience to the Catholic Society for the Observance of Sunday and Religious Festivals, and, in reply to an address read to him, delivered a discourse on

the want of respect prevailing amongst the authorities for this day. Amongst other things he said:—
"In the shadow of a great liberty, it is very difficult indeed to distinguish the days consecrated to the Lord from those distinguish to work. The shops and stores destined to work. The shops and stores are opened: manual labor, public and private, is protracted to a late hour. It seems as if the proposals of the impious to wipe out from the earth the Lord's day to whe out from the earth the Lord says had revived. As the observance was willed by God from the first origin of man, so is it demanded by the absolute depend-ence of the creature on the Creator. And this law, which so admirably responds to the honor of God, regards not only in-dividuals, but the peoples and the nations, who are debtors to Divine Providence for who are debtors to Drivine Providence to their well-being. Through that fatal ten-dency, which prevails to-day, of leading man away from God and of organizing the nations without the idea of God, is it owing that the Lord's day is being lost. It is said that thus it is intended to promote industries and to procure prosperity. Foolish and false words. It is sought instead, to take from the people the cor-solations of religion; it is desired to weaken the sentiment of faith; and they weaken the sentiment of faith; and they call down upon their heads the most tremendous chastisements of God, justly irritated. That which renders still more deplorable such an excess is that it happens in the midst of the Catholic nations upon which God has shed His benefits,—in Rome, the centre of Catholicity, at the year time when anti-Catholic nations feel very time when anti-Catholic nations feel the need of returning to the observance of the days sacred to the Lord. Hence it is that we cannot, without sorrow, see that the faithful of the whole world, instead of finding motives of edification, find motives of scandal. Our grief becomes still deeper, since We, being reduced to this state, find

it impossible to repair the evil and to vin-dicate the outraged honor of God." The Pope then recommends these Cath-The Pope then recommends these Catholic associations to use every effort to bring a remedy to this crying evil. It is indeed too true that the aspect of Rome on Sundays is shocking to the ideas of Christianity. Paris seems to be the model adopted by the new Government, and public works proceed with more thereby public works proceed with more energy on this than on other days.

## TIMELY REFLECTIONS.

If our Catholic youth would only reflect for a few moments on the sanctity of our churches, in which our Divine Lord is really churches, in which our Divine Lord is really present on the altar, and try to exercise their faith in his holy presence in the Blessed Eucharist, they would most assuredly permit no distracting thought to occupy their minds, neither would they be guilty of any unbecoming levity in the presence of their Lord, who has said: "My delights are to be with the children of men." It is deeply to be regretted that quite a large number of our Catholic youth are, perhaps unconsciously, guilty of grave quite a large number of our Cathone youth are, perhaps unconsciously, guilty of grave faults in church, particularly during the holy sacrifice of the Mass. They seem to forget that this sacrifice is the same as that of Mount Calvary, offered in a mystic manner without the shedding of blood; and thus they frequently scandalize our non-Catholic brethren who sometimes as ist at Catholic brethren who sometimes as ist at our august ceremonies, and thus by their actions appear to deny their faith; or with the scribes and Pharisees cry out: "We will not have this man to reign over us; away with him! crucify him!" We read that the Buddhists when entering their temples prostrate themselves in the most lowly adoration and would permit themselves to be severely scourged—nay, even killed—before they would nove a limb until their blind adoration was completed, and, that over, they would retire with the and, that over, they would retire with the greatest modesty and recollection. The Mohammedans also are said to be most

careful to act reverently in their mosques. Let, then, our youth, before entering the church to assist at the august sacrifice of the Mara, dismiss all distracting thoughts from their minds and most carefully guard their senses, keeping their attention fixed on the priest, and uniting their intention with his, and thus they will not only give edification but will draw down upon themselves many graces and blessings.—Notre Dame Scholastic.

### THE CLEAN NEWSPAPERS.

There is a growing feeling in every healthy community against the journals who make it their special object to minister to perverted taste by seeking out and serving up in a seductive form disgusting scandals and licentious revelations. There is good reason to believe that the clean newspaper is more highly prized to-day than it was four or five years ago. It is also safe to predict that, as people in all ranks of life, who wish to protect their own at least from contamination, become more conscious of the pernicious influence own at least from contamination, become more conscious of the permicious influence of the certain class of journals, called "enterprising" because they are ambitious to serve up dirty scandals, they will be careful to see that the journals they permit to be read in the family circle are of the class that never forget the proprieties of life. Already men and women of refinement that never forget the proprieties of life. Already men and women of refinement and healthy morals have had their attention called to the pernicious influence of bad literature, and have made commendable efforts to counteract the same by causing the sound literature to be published and sold at popular prices. These efforts are working a silent but sure revolution. The best authors are more generally read to-day than at any previous time. ally read to-day than at any previous time. The sickly sentimental story paper, and wild ranger and pirate story book, are slowly yielding the field to worthier claimants. To the praise of the decent newspapers it may be said, that where it newspapers it may be said, that where it has a place in the family and has been read for years by young and old, it has developed such a healthy tone and such a discriminating taste that the literature of the slums has no admirers. Fortunately, the number of such families is increasing in the land, and as they increase the journa that devotes itself to sickening revolutions of impropriety will be convenient. velations of immorality will be compelled to find its supporters solely among those classes that practice vice or crime, or are ambitious to learn to follow such ways.— Boston Herald.

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rered to men of small means to secure a good farm, and intending purchasers will be wise by availing themselves of this chance before prices advance, as the lands are being rapidly taken and settled upon.

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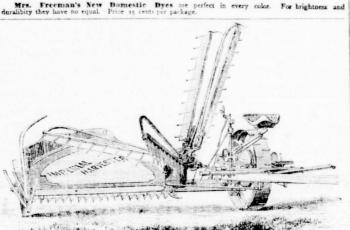
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