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Note and Comment

Nov. 9 has been definitely selected as the date for Thanksgiving Day this year.

Rafael's "Transfiguration" has been removed from the Vatican Pinacoteca, where it was placed in 1815 by Pope Pius VII., to the magnificent gallery, 400 feet long, which Pope Pius X has allotted to works of art. Heretofore not more than fifty visitors were admitted at once to see the masterpiece in its small quarters. It is now in an excellent position. Its removal necessitated much care and skill. It was lowered 125 feet into the courtyard and then placed in a padded case and conveyed to its new quarters without accident.

Four Canadian Jesuits left for Alaska during the past month to work for the conversion of the Eskimo and Timneh tribes along the Bering coast and the Yukon, and two Julia and St. Hilaire, left Ottawa recently to labor among the Cree Indians near Hudson's Bay.

A meeting of the Parnell Monument Committee was held on August 20 at the Mansion House, Dublin. The Lord Mayor presided.

The architect, Mr. George Sheridan, reported that the foundation of the monument was now completed, and no time would be lost in proceeding with the work of building. He also mentioned that he had inspected the granite quarry and marble works of Galway and found a large quantity of the stone ready to be forwarded to Dublin.

It is stated that an effort will shortly be made in Scotland to form in the various districts ladies' branches of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. In Scotland the ban of the Church has not yet been removed from the society, and that fact alone will tell against the promoters of the new movement.

A Juvenile Catholic Congress was opened in Rome on the 16th inst. The members of the Congress were presented to His Holiness a gold chalice purchased with subscriptions given by the young Catholics of all nations.

The Dublin, Ireland, city council has decided that all its public notices should be printed in Irish as well as in English, and that all its official publications should be bilingual.

A remarkable fact with regard to the mental condition of the children of Irish Catholic parents is given prominence in the sixth volume of the report of the British Commission on the Care and Control of the Feeble-Minded. In the section dealing with Glasgow, which has a large Irish population, it is pointed out that "the race whose birthrate is not on the decline produces fewer defective children by half than the race whose birthrate is declining." In the Irish Catholic schools the mentally defective were 4 per 1000; in the public schools they were 8.2 per 1000.

The recent gift of a \$200,000 church to the city of Kilkenny by a wealthy Irish-Australian gentleman, Mr. Thomas O'Laughlin, who was born in the neighborhood of that city, indicates that Ireland will not want for new churches. This is not the first Irish church built in his native place by an expatriated Irishman.

After the lapse of fifteen years, London will again have in November a Catholic Lord Mayor in the person of Sir John Stuart Knill, Bart., alderman of the Bridge ward, who stands next in succession for the office. The last Catholic Lord Mayor was the coming Mayor's father, and it will be remembered that he paid an official visit to the Lord Mayor of Dublin during his year of office. The Knill family are of Belgian extraction, but two or three generations of them have been merchants in the city. The present Sir John Knill is held in wide respect, and he and Lady Knill are very active in Catholic charitable, educational and philanthropic work in London.

Cobweb Theory of Morality.

A strong and eloquent reiteration of the divinity of Christ and the unconquerable power of the Church which continues His work on earth, especially aimed at the modern spirit which would minimize both, was the notable discourse delivered by Archbishop Ireland at the recent laying of the corner stone of the Minneapolis cathedral.

"Like most sections of a country which was explored by missionaries, the preaching of Christianity is closely associated with the earliest history of the territory in Archbishop Ireland's jurisdiction. The first white man to tread the soil of Minnesota was Father Louis Hennepin, a Franciscan, and his announcement to the Indians of the wilderness of the reign of Christ has been re-echoed ever since in the upbuilding of Christ's Church.

"Since the days of Hennepin much has been done to uproot from the earth the worship of Christ," said Archbishop Ireland, "to convince man that God did not incarnate himself in the Saviour of Galilee, that He who for long centuries has been adored as the Son of God was only the son of man—man and nothing else. Has Christ receded before the forces of His divinity? Most assuredly not. God, as Creator, has indelibly impressed Himself upon nature, so that nothing can obliterate His footsteps, and so the Incarnate God, Christ, has indelibly impressed Himself upon the pages of human history, so that so long as history speaks Christ is revealed.

"The fact persists durable and irresistible as earth itself, that nineteen hundred years ago Jesus Christ lived, wrought and taught. He lived, the purest, the highest, the most perfect that the earth ever knew, and believed possible—rising in all the virtues of moral goodness to such altitudes above other children of men that plainly a stream of moral grace not sprung from the earth, coursed through His soul. He taught us the wisest never taught, revealing the things of God and the human soul, the things of the eternal and the immortal, which sanctify man and uplift him to the throne of the Creator, so that, plainly, the light of Heaven shone through His word. His wisdom was not of this world. He wrought miracles—crowning His other miracles with one which He put forth as the culminating event of the truth of His divine mission. His own resurrection from the dead—miracles so plainly supernatural that the divine element in them is undeniable—miracles authenticated by history, according to its most severe canons, written down by eyewitnesses and contemporaries, given out to the whole world, and gentle, as the compelling argument for belief, for an audience even unto death, an argument which won to His allegiance rich and poor, let alone unlettered, prince and peasant, until the world, Jewish, Grecian and Roman, united in forming a new world of thought and moral action, Christendom.

"The solemn fact persists that, during nineteen hundred years, ever since His voice was first heard in Galilee, Christ has lived and reigned in the world of men, and ever today, as yesterday, and tomorrow, He has lived and reigned through the heavenly graces poured through the power of His name, upon the moral and religious world, lifting humanity, so far as humanity accepted Him, to heights to which heretofore it had never soared, to which, of his own self, it never could hope to soar. Look out upon the world of men, as it has been, as it is, and will you not declare that wherever the sun of heaven has shed its brightest light, Christ was present, that where darkness prevailed, Christ was absent, that just as in proportion to the degree in which Christ was present and was accepted by souls the divine effulgence was the more radiant, humanity was the more God-like. The highest civilization has ever been the Christian—all the higher as it was the more Christian. The social organism that rose nearest to the ideal in purity of morals, in justice and in charity was that in which the religion of Christ penetrated deeply into the souls of its members, and the more Christian these were the more nearly perfect was the whole organism. Question your own selves: Is it not a fact that just so far as you identify yourselves with Christ in mind, in heart and in works, you rise in righteousness and moral grandeur, that just so far as you incline to the base and the sinful, you are going away from Christ and from His Kingdom? And, throughout this reign of Christ, as it is very web and wool, the teaching that Christ is divine, that He is the Son of God, that He is God, so that, if He were not really divine, it must be said that the best in the history and life of humanity is an illusion and the Creator has allowed that the highest moral triumphs of humanity be born of a deception and to have enhanced

Catholics and Public Libraries.

The current issue of the New World contains the near-publication of a pamphlet entitled "The Catholic Finding List," a guide to more than three thousand books by Catholic authors, these volumes now being in the Chicago Public Library. The list was compiled by the Catholic Writers' Guild of that city and will be published by the Knights of Columbus.

Think of it! more than 3,000 books by Catholics in one collection—probably one of the largest Catholic libraries in the country. One would think that Catholics would appreciate such a bid for their support—that they would rush in crowds to read those books. Yet what is it that actually does take place? We infer from the concluding part of the article that our people really do not seem to care whether these books by Catholics are taken out or whether they are not. The authors of the finding-list actually state that Catholics readers are few and far between.

The statement applies equally to other large cities of the country. Our people really seem to care little for books by their own people, whether these books are in large libraries or private ones. Some of us, ever now and then, raise a terrific clamor, asserting that public libraries ought to contain more Catholic books. We frankly ask what for? It is evident that they do not read those books already have. And this brings us to another point. Quite a number of well-meaning Catholics are incessantly trying to convince themselves that public libraries are veritable hotbeds of danger. They repeat this conviction day in and day out. Even a few clergymen, here and there, have been known to voice this statement. One result of this well-intentioned crusade is that thousands of Catholics keep away from public libraries altogether, and another result is that they fail to acquire the reading habit since they can neither be persuaded or driven to purchase books for the home.

All this is very regrettable. The simple truth is that, nowadays, in most of our American cities of 100,000 and upward, the authorities of the public libraries are disposed to treat Catholics fairly in selecting books and periodicals for purchase. Many of them go out of the way to please us, and we ought to show them that we appreciate their kindness in placing within our reach hundreds or thousands of Catholic books that we are unable or negligent in procuring for ourselves. When these books are placed in public libraries our people ought to read them. What possible danger can exist for anyone in reading Brownson, Newman, Manning, Azarias, Egan, et al., when the same are found on the shelves of a public library? There may be in the same building a few books that are immoral or contain unfaith (although these are growing less every day), but it is not true that there are in every community immoral and infidel men or women and that Catholics avoid them because they are taught to do so? Would any sensible man advise Catholics to keep out of a great city simply because there are a few dangerous characters there? If not, then why advise that public libraries should be avoided merely because a few dangerous books may exist among tens of thousands of good or useful ones? Are we to believe that our people will straightway rush to drink down that which is evil after they have been warned against it? Are we to infer that, in order to keep them uncontaminated, the vast majority of Catholics must be kept in a bandbox? If we are not to read the Catholic books which we are so stupid in insisting shall be placed in the sense in having them purchased?—Syrause Catholic Sun.

Uplifting Thoughts.

We should be appalled if we could see pass before us in vivid panorama the wrecks caused in a lifetime by cruel thought. A stab here, a thrust there, a malicious sarcasm, a bitter irony, ungenerous criticism, a jealous envious or reverent all going out constantly from many a mind on deadly missions.

Servants have actually been made dishonest by other persons perpetually holding the suspicion that they were dishonest. This thought suggests dishonesty to the suspected perhaps for the first time, and being constantly held takes root and grows, and bears the fruit of theft. The old proverb, "if you have the name you might as well have the game," is put into action many times. It is simply cruel to hold a suspicious thought of another until you have positive proof. That other person's mind is sacred; you have no right to invade it with your miserable thoughts and pictures of

Reverence.

Here is a gem from Canon Sheehan's interesting novel, "Luke Delmege," which might be memorized and pondered with profit.

"Reverence is the secret of all religion and happiness. Without reverence there is no faith, nor hope nor love. Reverence is the motive of each of the commandments of Sinai—reverence of God, reverence of our neighbor, reverence of ourselves. Humility is founded upon it, piety is conserved by it, purity finds in it its shield and its buckler. Reverence for our neighbor, his person, his goods, his chattels—that is honesty. Reverence for ourselves—clean bodies and pure souls—that is chastity."

Ireland's Roll of Honor Among the Hierarchy.

From the "Annuaire Pontificale Catholique" for 1908 a contributor to the "Freeman's Journal" has compiled a list which may be regarded as a complete enumeration of all the Archbishops and Bishops Irish by birth or by descent now living throughout the world.

The total number of prelates included in the list is 147, of whom more than half are Irish born. Among the ecclesiastics listed are three Cardinals, the Archbishops of Armagh, Sydney and Baltimore, and twenty-four other Archbishops.

The total by countries are as follows: In Ireland, 29; in England, 6; in Scotland, 1; in the United States, 65; in the Philippines, 3; in Canada, 7; in Newfoundland, 1; in Australia, 21; in New Zealand, 3; in India, 1; in Africa, 7.

"If," writes the compiler of the list, "to this splendid array of the Irish episcopacy could be added the approximate number of Irish priests, secular and regular, of Irish religious of both sexes, now laboring in almost every land, we should be better able to estimate the grandeur of the mission which Providence has entrusted to the Irish race, better able to appreciate the peerless services which poor suffering Ireland has rendered, and seems destined for yet many years to render, to the Holy Catholic Church. Small wonder, says a recent writer, that the Mother Church of Ireland should exult when she looks over the world and sees the proud achievement of Alexander repeated. He distributed sceptres to his generals and then sent them to rule the kingdoms he had conquered. She beholds spiritual empires springing up in the wake of her children, and her mitred chiefs wielding the crozier's peaceful sway."

Touching Ceremony at Cote des Neiges.

Last Sunday some 30,000 people assembled in Cote des Neiges in response to an appeal made some years ago by the Archbishop. The Rev. Canon Gauthier was the preacher. He opened his sermon by saying that it was only occasionally those in the world thought of the dead. Our dead are soon forgotten. It is a human trait to forget even grievous occurrences. Time softens everything, and with time enough the dead become nothing but shadows. His Lordship Bishop Racicot presided. The Harmony Band, under the leadership of Mr. Edmond Hardy, was in attendance throughout the proceedings, and played the Stabat Mater, Chopin's Marche Funebre and other selections which were appropriate to the occasion.

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