

THEATRES.

The Modesty of Nature Overstepped in the Theatrical Presentations of the Present Day.

Whatever may be said of immoral placards, and much that is not pleasant has and might be said regarding them, there can be no question but the plays of which they are the very obscene advertisements are truly demoralizing. The drama among ancient peoples was originally associated with religion. In our days, however, theatrical presentations have become a medium for the mockery of virtue and growth of vice. It may be that actors are sincere in the performance of their respective roles, but it must be conceded that the skill which enables them to portray human emotions is not only unnatural and irrational, but is often a painful embarrassment to a refined audience. Actors should learn to hold the mirror up to nature, but not all nature need be mirrored. There are moral plague spots which should find no place in the reflected life of the stage. It is neither commendable for counsel, admonition or reproof to portray the seemingly unavoidably sad scenes of our every day life, which are unqualified or forbidden topics of the drawing-room.

To the clean of heart all things are not clean, and the greatest dangers of a pure heart are not in the brutal attractions of gross passions, but in those sentiments which enchant with their delicacy and seduce with their tenderness.

There must be a conscious mental impression of impurity, no matter how white-souled and pure the person may be. To use the words of an eminent writer: Indeed, because of that innocence, impurity is more quickly discerned, and the blush of offended modesty that follows is nature's own evidence that impurity, and suggestion in art is quite as offensive as in nature.

If the motives which actuated actors possessed the legitimate qualities of tragedy without the attributes of vulgar sin, there would be sympathetic interest, but no shock to sentiments of propriety. Playwrights must learn, therefore, to provide heart-interest for their dramas without picturing either the Magdalen or the unfaithful wife. Young men and women cannot be present at these presentations where anger becomes frenzy and love is harlotry or delirium.

What is indelicate and bad taste for our drawing rooms should not be transferred to the stage.

The tendency of the dramas nowadays in vogue is to deify the passions; and deified passions are extravagance, immorality, corruption and crime. The heart—that magnificent harp which emits all kinds of sounds, from the deafening noise of the infernal caverns to the most delicate harmony of the celestial spheres—has enough themes engaging it without the perpetual reiteration of the dismal horrors of impurity. In no way can the stage be purified except by people refusing to attend objectionable presentations.

M. L. SHEA.

THE WORLD AROUND

There is prospect of a rupture between Peru and Ecuador, and both countries have ordered war materials from Europe.

The Holy Father recently gave a private audience to Sir Robert Knill, the ex-Lord Mayor of London, who is in Rome.

Hans von Bulow, the world-renowned pianist, has passed away. He was sixty-four years of age, and was a native of Saxony.

Five hundred men belonging to the Foreign Legion have been ordered to proceed to Senegal to reinforce the French troops at Timbuctoo.

In London a crank-lunatic was placed under arrest Monday for writing a letter in which, unless certain demands were granted, he threatened to take the life of Queen Victoria.

Archbishop Ireland refused to appear on the same platform in St. Paul with Rev. Morrell, a creature of the Justin Fulton stripe, who had repeatedly abused the Catholic Church in the customary disgusting way.

Miss Harriet Hosmer's statue of Queen Isabella was unveiled in the Fine Arts building of the Midwinter Exposition in San Francisco, last week, under the di-

rection of the Women's Congress auxiliary. Miss Hosmer read a letter from Pope Leo XIII. complimenting her on her work.

Within the past sixteen months Bishop Horstmann of Cleveland has confirmed 30,000 born Catholics and 900 converts within a territory embracing less than one-third of the State of Ohio.

Cardinal Gibbons and other prelates are endeavoring to have the schedule of the Wilson Tariff bill relating to free art changed so that the imported pictorial paintings on glass may be admitted free under any circumstance.

The permanent password of the A.P.A. is "Omer." Our readers will notice that by making the final letter "r" the first letter, the word becomes "Rome." Thus if a member forgets the password he thinks of "Rome," then taking the first letter of the word and making it the final letter he has the magic word "Omer." The present quarterly password of the organization is "Union." This word is changed every three months, but the other is intended not to change, which is the reason, perhaps, the word Rome was taken.—*Northwest Catholic.*

RELIGIOUS NEWS ITEMS.

His Holiness has appointed Rev. Dr. Montgomery as coadjutor to Bishop Mora of Los Angeles, Cal.

The Countess of Salabay of Turin, daughter of the Senator of that name, is about to become a Carmelite nun.

In Bethlehem the Catholics are predominant, their number being about 4,000. The total of population 6,000.

Jerusalem has a population of about 75,000 inhabitants, of whom 60,000 are Jews, 7,000 dissenting Christians, and 8,000 Catholics.

The Rev. Fathers Rudolph McCarthy and John Finigan, missionary priests of the Franciscan (Capuchin) Order, arrived lately in New York.

Sister Alvina, who contracted small-pox while caring for the patients at the Chicago pest-house, died Wednesday night, after a week's illness.

The Very Rev. Father T. A. Casey, Vicar-General of the Catholic diocese of Erie, Pa., died last week in Erie. He was forty-eight years old.

M. Fournier de Faix, a French statistician, gives the number of Catholics in the world as 230,866,633; Protestants 148,237,625; Greek Catholics, 98,014,000.

The Christian Brothers have opened a school for the Catholic Greek and Maronites in Nazareth, the Latin Catholics attending the school of the Holy Land.

The number of Protestants in France is put down at 65,000 in a population of 35,000,000. This number is less than it has been at any previous time during the past two centuries.

The old English name for the Feast of the Holy Innocents was Childermas; for Assumption, Marymas or Lady-Day-in-Harvest. The Exaltation of the Holy Cross was called Holy Rood Day.

The Holy Father has granted an indulgence of 100 days, to be gained once a day by those who recite the ejaculation: "St. Michael, Archangel, defend us in battle, lest we perish in terrible judgment."

In a circular addressed to all the priests of the Green Bay, Mich., diocese, Bishop Messmer has forbidden the election of saloon-keepers or any other persons engaged in the liquor business, to the office of trustees of congregations.

The following are the statistics of the Jesuit missions in India: Diocese of Bombay, 15,868 Catholics; Calcutta, 61,000; Mangalore, 72,637; Poona, 9,829; Trichinopoly, 183,900. This gives a total of 248,234 Catholics in the five dioceses, or nearly a quarter of a million in all.

The recent statistical quarterly statement of the German Empire reports the latest religious data of the country. Germany has 31,026,810 Protestant subjects, 17,674,921 Roman Catholics, 145,540 other Christians, 567,884 Jews and 12,753 without any religious profession. The total population of the Empire is 49,428,470.

OBSTINATE COUGH CURED.

GENTLEMEN,—I had a very bad cough which I could not get rid of, but by using Hagyard's Pectoral Balsam I was cured in two or three days. It is the best and surest cough medicine I know of. JOSEPH GARRICK, Goderich, Ont.

YOUR FIRST AND YOUR LAST ACT.

IT SHOULD BE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS, A TOWER OF STRENGTH TO YOU.

The sign of the cross is a token, the memorial of the pains and humiliations which our dear Lord bore for us; and each time we make it, we ought to mean thereby that we take up His cross, accept it willingly, clasp it to our heart, and unite all we do to His saving Passion. With this intention let the sign of the cross be your first waking act; dedicating your day to Him as a soldier of the cross, let your last conscious act before sleep be that precious sign of which will banish evil spirits from your bedside, and rest upon you as a hallowing safeguard till the day returns. Begin your prayers, your work, with the sign of the cross, in token that they are dedicated to Him. Let it sanctify your going out and coming in. Let it hallow your conversation and intercourse with others, whether social or in the order of business.

Who could be grasping, over-reaching, false; who could give way to unkind words, judgments, uncharitable gossip, unholy talk, who had just stamped the cross of Christ upon their lips in token that, they are pledged to use the gift of speech, like all else, in the service of their God. Let it consecrate your food, so that eating and drinking, instead of a mere indulgence of earthly cravings, it may be "to the glory of God." Let the sign of the cross soothe and stay you in sorrow, when above all, you are brought near him who lays it on you, but who also bore it for you. Let it sober and steady your hour of joy or pleasure.

Let it calm your impulse of impatience, of petulance, of intolerance of others, of eager self-defence. Let it check the angry expression ready to break forth, the unkind word, the unloving sarcasm. Let it purify, as the hot coals laid by angels on the prophet's lips, the light, or careless, or irreverent utterance, the conventional falsehood, the boastful word of self-seeking. And be sure that if the sign of the cross is thus your companion and safeguard through the day, it in all places and seasons you accustom yourself to "softly make the sign of angels known," it will be as a tower of strength to you, and the power of evil over you will become feeble and feebler.

ROMAN NEWS.

(Gleaned from the London Universe.)

Signor Alibrandi, the famous advocate who was assigned at Rome to sustain the cause of Jeanne d'Arc, died on the very day she was proclaimed Venerable. The inhabitants of Orleans decorated and illuminated the city in honor of the maid on last Saturday.

The Catholic students of Paris made an inoffensive patriotic demonstration on Sunday afternoon before the statue of Jeanne d'Arc. They laid a wreath on the pedestal, and the Abbe Garnier delivered an eloquent discourse frequently interrupted with cries of "Live France," "Live the country." To which we echo with all the veins of our heart, Amen.

The Monde states that it is a mistake that Cardinal Langenieux intends to prolong his journey from Rome to Jerusalem. On the contrary, he means to return immediately to his diocese of Rheims.

The Holy Father has received M. Gerard, Minister of France to Pekin, and was deeply interested at what he heard of the vast empire and its missionaries. France continues to exercise the paramount power there amongst foreigners. After the audience the Pope descended into the Vatican gardens, which in itself is sufficient testimony to his excellent health.

There is an interesting communication about Manchester in a recent number of the Osservatore Romano. The diocese of Salford is mentioned in terms of high laudation, and the districts of the busy north are recommended to visitors, who should not quit England under the impression that they have seen everything when they have admired the marvels of London. Cardinal Newman's saying that he wished the intellectual layman to be religious, and the devout ecclesiastic to be intellectual, is borne out there. The Catholic Truth Society is eulogized, and the faithful who show such allegiance to their religion under every circumstance of opposition, the heritage of past persecution and the ex-

istence of actual materialism, are cited with respect. The local branch is presided over by an Italian famed as an Orientalist—Don Luigi Castella, of St. Bede's College. The discourses delivered on Savonarola by John O'Dea, on "Foreign Freemasonry" by D. O'Connor, on "Catholic Emancipation" by Mr. Milburn, on Dante, and others, are panegyricized, and the lecture on the "Prospects of Socialism" by Father Browne, of Stonyhurst, is commended as it deserves.

The Ursuline Monastery at Blois has been enriched with the body of one of the earliest martyrs, St. Candida. The recognition of the relics and their translation have been the object of imposing ceremonies. The Archbishop of Cambrai announces the crowning of the patron of the diocese, Our Lady of Grace, for the 14th of May.

Cardinal Zerefino Gonzales has returned to Madrid after his journey to Berlin, where he consulted Professor Bergmann for an affection of the larynx. His Eminence is suffering from a cancer, which was aggravated so much during the voyage that his condition is now considered hopeless. By all classes of society he is regarded as a national glory.

THE ROSARY.

ITS GOLDEN PERIOD, ITS DECLINE AND RE-NEWAL.

The history of the Rosary opens with a golden period of prosperity and fervor, wherein, for more than a hundred years, the devotion grew and spread under the welcome and zealous teachings of the Dominicans. At the close of this first century there occurred a change, the disastrous result of many evils. The horrible plague of 1348 swept over Europe, slaying its thousands and tens of thousands, and carrying off the religious until monastery after monastery was left desolate. The learned, the loving, the devout and faithful souls, which are the heart of the Church on earth, left few to fill their place as teachers and guides. Terror-stricken and demoralized, the survivors of their once carefully instructed flocks found themselves doubly alone, despondent, helpless and tempted. The new generation of religious were young and unversed in spiritual lore, and, for a time, showed themselves less faithful to Our Lady's Confraternity than the earlier sons of St. Dominic. Gradually the devotion of the Rosary fell into disuse with the many, and from 1350 to 1450 there was an entire cessation of the monthly meetings and other prescribed duties. But a few among the thousands remained faithful to the teachings of other days and to their beads. About the year 1460—not long before the birth of Luther and the discovery of America—the Blessed Alain de la Roche was moved to greater exertions in behalf of the almost forgotten Confraternity by a vision in which the Blessed Virgin appeared to him with her Divine Child, and kindled anew his love and fervor for his favorite devotion by the most tender and earnest words of counsel and advice. So faithfully did he respond that he has been recognized by following ages as the restorer of the Rosary. For fifteen years he preached it without intermission, reassembling and reforming the Confraternities in Germany, France, Flanders and Holland. From thence the new spirit spread into the neighboring countries, and the former practices were resumed. With more or less steady growth the devotion has reached in our day the beginning of a second "golden period" and almost "possesses the land." It has received a new impetus from our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIII., who has again and again recommended it to his children, and has earnestly and lovingly asked them to unite with him in the daily and fervent recital of its simple yet sublime prayers. Linked by its slender chains of adamant steel, there is a girdle of the earth not to be riven asunder, and Our Lady is offered a Rosary of praise by day and by night.—*Adapted from the Rosary Magazine.*

THE PINE FORESTS.

The pine forests yield up their healing virtues for the cure of coughs, colds, asthma, bronchitis and sore throat in the pleasant preparation known as Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. 25 and 50c. at druggists.

A smart little boy calls himself Compass because he is boxed so often.