

events unfortunately for themselves fail to consider that which is of paramount importance, namely, the guidance of the Holy Ghost. All prophets are apt to go astray if they think the church is but a human institution.

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A more general reception of the holy sacraments on the feast of Ireland's patron saint would be a thing much to be desired.

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We are all invited these days to follow our Lord in His *via dolorosa*. Perhaps some of us would faint in the way if we travelled fasting, but there are other modes of self-flagellation.

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"Blessed is the womb that bore thee!" "exclaimed the woman mentioned in the Gospel of the fourth Sunday of Lent, and four days later we hear the archangel announcing his great message to Mary. Dear reader, never grow tired of repeating the *Hail Mary*. In heaven alone will you know what blessings its recital brings to your soul.

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One verse of the hymn of the divine office for the First Sunday of Lent sums up the way of observing these days. It thus runs:

"Utamur ergo parcius
Verbis, cibis et potibus
Somno, jocis et artibus
Perstemus in custodia"

which might be made to read: "Let us therefore, use more sparingly our words, food, drink, sleep, recreation and watch and pray more carefully."

Life is only bright when it proceedeth
Towards a truer, deeper life above;
Human love is sweetest, when it
leadeth
To a more divine and perfect love.

A Letter of Thanksgiving.

OTTAWA, 30th January.

A child of Mary wishes to return grateful thanks to our Blessed Mother for a great favor obtained through her intercession.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

A Round Table of the Representative American Catholic Novelists, at which is served a feast of excellent stories by Eleanor C. Donnelly, Walter Lecky, Anna Hanson Dorsey, Christian Reid, Ella Loraine Dorsey, Anna T. Sadlier, Maurice Francis Egan, Mary A. Sadlier, Francis J. Finn, S. J., John Talbot Smith, Charles Warren Stoddard, With Portraits, Biographical Sketches, and Bibliography. Second Edition. Price \$1.50. Benziger Bros., New York.

This second edition was made necessary by the unprecedented sale of a first edition within three months; quite a novel experience for an American Catholic publishing house. We hail this symptom of growth and health in our Catholic reading public.

The contributors to the Round Table are called representative Novelists, and the feast they serve is one of fancy and fiction. There are still many of our more conservative Catholics, who shake their heads at novels. But fiction is, and always was, popular. Our Lord, whose mission as he says Himself was to preach the Gospel to the poor, taught the multitudes in parables. A good story well told will make a deeper impression for good in the heart of susceptible youth than any sermon or admonition could produce. And we are all fond of stories. If we cannot get good ones, we may be tempted to read bad, or at least silly ones. The Apostleship of the Press should welcome these teachers in parables, as the most efficient and successful missionaries to our novelty-loving people.

We hope the poor will not be deprived of this *feast* on account of the price, which publishers were forced to demand hitherto; but that the sales of these books will soon justify a cheap popular edition.