

Nearing Home.

BY MARY D'OROSI.

The evening clouds are drifting to the West. White sails drift softly o'er the radiant sea; So lulled to peace by thoughts of coming rest, Dear Lord, my soul is drifting nearer Thee.

The Problem of Domestic Service.

The increasing difficulty of securing servants in New York has been of late the subject of much comment, says a local newspaper of that city. At the Federal Employment Bureau of the State Department of Labor, No. 107 East Thirty-first street, the superintendent, John J. Bealin, said recently:

"The disparity between the supply and demand of servants is especially marked in the case of general housework girls—those who are wanted for a little cooking, plain washing and ironing, waiting at table, chamberwork, and answering the doorbells. The increased demand for servants is due to the general condition of prosperity. More people nowadays can afford to keep servants, while work is plentiful in shops and factories.

"The scarcity of help comes from various causes. American girls, reared in cities, are not qualified to enter domestic service, even if they are willing to do so. When they are old enough to go out to work they go as cash girls or to do some minor work in shops or factories, where they remain. As a rule, they know nothing whatever of household duties, and for this their parents are largely to blame. The so-called kindness of the mother is often very hurtful to the girls of a working family.

"There is also objection on the part of such girls to domestic service, on the ground that it is menial and because it would interfere somewhat with their liberty. The country girl is likely to be somewhat better equipped, but she, too, is unavailable as her ambition is coming to New York to become a salesgirl, a typewriter, a stenographer, or, perhaps, an actress. In my judgment, the native American girl has to be eliminated entirely from the servant question, and we must fall back upon the immigrants to supply her place.

"A change, too, has occurred among the immigrants. Girls who are willing to work as domestic servants are not now found among them in large numbers. In letters to me, Sister Mary Catherine, of the Convent of Mercy, near Dublin, with which a girls' industrial school is connected, says that a similar condition of things is beginning to prevail there—very many working girls preferring to go into shops and factories, rather than into household.

"In the quarter ending September 30, 1903," said Mr. Bealin, "1,279 employers applied to this bureau for help, male and female, and 1,627 persons applied for employment, of whom 1,316 secured it. The teaching of domestic science in the public schools is very beneficial, and I have seen its good results in the homes of working people. It will do much toward fitting the present-day school girl to be a wife and mother, but it will tend to increase the supply of domestic servants only in very large cases.

"The recurring disposition of some girls, who frequently oblige from place to place, is encouraged to a considerable extent by some of the employment agencies of this city.

The church mission near the Barge Office, which looks after the welfare of immigrants, are no employment bureaus, but are visited by many persons in search of servants, and those in charge are ready to assist in placing immigrant girls in good homes. The Rev. Father Henry, of the Irish Immigrant Girls' Home, No. 7 State street, said that the Irish girls now coming over were less inclined to do rough kitchen work. Very few were willing to do general housework, the majority wanting to be chambermaids or waitresses. They also wanted high wages at the start.

The Rev. Dr. Doering of the German Lutheran Emigrant House, No. 12 State street, said that the supply of German servant girls was diminished by the decrease in German immigration, which was due to better times in Germany. Of the German girls who came here, not more than ten out of every hundred stayed in New York city, the remainder going out West.

The Rev. A. B. Lilja, in charge of the Swedish Lutheran Immigrant Home, No. 5 Water street, said that the Scandinavian immigration to this port, chiefly composed of Swedes, was greater from June, 1902, to June, 1903, than in any previous year, being 59,262. The great majority of these immigrants went out West. Of the girls who stayed in this city, about 95 per cent. went into domestic service, and the demand for them was greater than the supply, although most of them could speak no English. Employers were willing to take the pains to teach them the language. Newcomers sometimes did not get more than \$10 a month, but when they had gained experience here and learned the language, they commanded higher wages.

All Swedish girls, he said, know something of housework, and some of the immigrants had been trained in Swedish cooking schools. The latter secured high wages here immediately. Some of the girls were willing to do general housework, but they were usually good cooks, and preferred service in that capacity. The supply of these girls had increased here, but the demand had increased faster.—True Witness.

A Nickel for the Lord.

The following article from the Toronto Star was not intended primarily for exclusively Catholic reading, but it fits so admirably certain Catholic young men that we reproduce it:

"Yesterday he wore a rose on the lapel of his coat, and when the plate was passed he gave a nickel to the Lord. He had several bills in his pocket, and a sundry change, perhaps a dollar's worth, but he hunted about, and finding this poor little nickel, he laid it on the plate to aid the Church militant in its fight against the world, the flesh and the devil. His silk hat was beneath the seat, and his gloves and cane were beside it, and the nickel was on the plate—a whole nickel.

"On Sunday afternoon he had had a gin rickey at the Queen's, and his friend had had a fancy drink, while the cash register stamped thirty-five cents on the slip the boy presented to him. Peeling off a bill he handed it to the lad, and gave him a nickel tip when he brought back the change.

"A nickel for the Lord and a nickel for the waiter! "And the man had his shoes

Loss of Flesh

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polished on Saturday afternoon, and handed out a dime without a murmur. He had a share, and paid fifteen cents with equal alacrity. He took a box of candies home to his wife, and paid forty cents for them, and the box was tied with a dainty bit of ribbon. Yes, and he also gave a nickel to the Lord.

"Who is this Lord? "Who is he? Why the man worships Him as Creator of the universe, the One Who puts the stars in order, and by Whose immutable decree the heavens stand. Yes, he does, and he dropped a nickel in to support the Church militant.

"And what is the Church militant? "The Church militant is the Church that represents upon earth the Church Triumphant of the Great God—the man gave the nickel to.

"And the man knew that he was but an atom in peace, and he knew that the Almighty was without limitations, and knowing this he put his hand in his pocket and picked out the nickel and gave it to the Lord.

"And the Lord being gracious and slow to anger and knowing our frame, did not play the man for the meanness of his offering, but gives him this day his daily bread.

"But the nickel was ashamed, if the man wasn't. "The nickel hid beneath a quarter given by a poor woman who washes for a living."

The Valet of Leo XIII.

During the past twenty years, or so, and especially during the last illness of the late illustrious Pontiff, Leo XIII, few names were better known, and few men in public positions less known, than Cavalier Centra, who was valet to the Holy Father. Now that his days of office are over Centra will no longer have his name figuring in the press of the great world, and it is not probable that his person will be even thought of outside his own immediate circle of friends. Yet he played an important part in his time, and he had his share of public attention.

An account of him says that he is with a large, clean-shaven face, and a vigorous and fine-looking man, sparkling eyes. His task was a delicate and responsible one. He rose before the Pope, and only went to bed when everything had been set in order for the night. He helped the Pope to dress and undress, served his meals and many other important charges. He was never far from the Vatican, because he knew he was very useful to his venerable master. He is a cultivated man, with a kindly disposition and infinite tact. Needless people knock at his door and sometimes they are hard to dispose of, but he is a thorough diplomatist, polite and witty as a first secretary of legation. When he used to be asked, however, if the alarming news published by the papers was true, he would stare in blank amazement and reassure you at once; to tell him that the Pope was ill was the same as charging him with a crime.

These few notes are of interest to Catholics, for we all hold in deep and lasting veneration the memory of the great and saintly Pope whom God called to Himself a few months ago; and all who were in his confidence, who served him well, and who were beloved by him also merit our recognition. And though not in the most elevated capacity—like a Secretary of State, or a Perfect of a Sacred College—still Centra was certainly the one nearest to Leo XIII, in the intimacy of the Pontiff's life.

Items of Interest.

Mrs. Maher, a new edition of whose story, "Fidelity," is about to be issued by Messrs. Burns & Oates, London, has received from the Holy Father the Cross "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice."

At the first annual conference of the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland, held on October 14 last, Archbishop Healy, of Tuam, who presided, mentioned that over a million and a half publications had already been issued by the organization. The attendance at the conference included a number of the Irish Bishops, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, and many of the clergy, Irish members of Parliament and representative men from the Catholic community in all parts of Ireland.

Dr. Pastor, author of the "History of the Popes," had a long audience with the Holy Father on Saturday, and presented to his Holiness a copy of the fourth edition of the work. The Pope expressed his hearty appreciation of the action of Leo XIII. in throwing open the Vatican archives, and said: "Non e da temere la verita." "The truth is not to be feared." He gave Dr. Pastor permission to dedicate to him the fourth edition of the second volume of the "History of the Popes," and said he would regard the dedication as a high honor for himself.

Church Times, London, recently: "My idea is that I am certainly at one with Mr. G. in thinking that to be dissatisfied with the arrangements of one communion is a wholly inadequate reason for entering another? Positive belief, and not merely negative, is necessary for such a step. Nor have I ever met a priest who did not think so too. And it is owing to a positive belief that to be in communion with the Holy See is a necessity for one who wishes to be in communion with the Catholic Church that I have made my submission."

"The phrase 'a good home' may have many meanings," says the Catholic Columbian. "Some parents imagine that their children have a good home if they get enough to eat, and are fairly well clothed. They think that boys are simply so many mouths. Keep the mouths filled with food, and the boys are all right. If they go wrong then, it is their own fault. This is a very prevalent idea of the meaning of a good home, but it is entirely wrong. There are other things than merely food and clothing, which make up a good home. In fact, a home where food is scarce and clothes are poor may be a far better home than one where these things are abundant and something else is lacking."

A significant ceremony took place at the Hotel Dieu Hospital at Rouen, France, recently. General Dubatisse, commanding the troops at Rouen, accompanied by the Mayor of the city, M. Leblond, by Dr. Millet, who has charge of the medical service of the Third Army Corps; by the Abbe Lemonnier, vicar general, and by a delegation of the soldiers who had suffered in the last epidemic of typhoid fever, presented the official gold medal for distinguished services in times of epidemic to Sister Angela, the nun attached to the Military Hospital.

The general took this opportunity of warmly congratulating Sister Angela and the nuns upon the zeal and devotion with which they work, especially in trying times of epidemic, to alleviate the sufferings of patients. Sister Angela, by the way, is a sister of the famous Father Beattie, whose archaeological discoveries at Carthage and whose studies of Carthaginian antiquities are known all the world over.

The Independent for Nov. 5 contains a valuable article on the prevention of suicide. We express profound sympathy with its firm adherence to the following proposition, which has been more than once asserted: "The sensational reporting of suicides in all their hideous details can have no good purpose, has no excuse in any otherwise impunity of criminals, and is only a bid for the morbid tastes of neurotic readers. Suicides should not be more than mentioned, and the blazing of all neurotic details should be forbidden by legislation." The Independent believes that this step, together with the proper legal restriction of the sale of carbolic acid, would probably reduce the suicides by one fourth in the course of a single year. An epidemic of typhoid fever that carried off two hundred persons would be considered to justify the enforcement of the most stringent precautions. Surely the suicide epidemic is worthy of quite as much attention."

An English Author Wrote.

"No shade, no shine, no fruit, no flowers, no leaves—November!" Many Americans would add no freedom from catarrh, which is so aggravated during this month that it becomes constantly troublesome. There is abundant proof that catarrh is a constitutional disease. It is related to scrofula and consumption, being one of the wasting diseases. Hod's Sarsaparilla has shown that which is capable of eradicating scrofula, completely cures catarrh, and taken in time prevents consumption. We cannot see how any sufferer can put off taking this medicine, in view of the widely published record of its radical and permanent cures. It is undoubtedly America's Greatest Medicine for America's Greatest Disease—Catarrh.

Mrs. Newrick had been describing her visit to Turkey. FRIEND.—Then, of course, you saw the Dardanelles? MRS. NEWRICK.—Why, no, we didn't. They called, but we were out.

Mary A. O'Connell, Middle-tewicke, N.S., says: "I have used Laxa-Liver Pills for serious Liver Complaint and they have done me a world of good making me smart and healthy."

PAYNE, an examiner at Cambridge university, whose questions were always of a peculiarly exasperating nature, once asked a student at a special examination to "give a definition of happiness." He gave Dr. Payne permission to dedicate to him the fourth edition of the second volume of the "History of the Popes," and said he would regard the dedication as a high honor for himself.

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"MRS. TOM should be de happier man in de roun' worl'!" "I think so?" "I sho' does. He spends three-fourths of his time huntin' an' de yuther fo' he eatin' what he hunts!"

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