

JULY 20, 1883.

THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

7

The Poison-Flower.

BY JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY.

In the evergreen shade of an Austral wood,
Where the long branches laced above,
Through which all day it seemed
The sweet sunbeams down-glanced
Like the rays of a young mother's love,
When she hides her glad face with her hands
And peeps
At the youngling that crows on her knee:
"Nesth such ray-shivered shade,
In a bank's glade,
Was this flower first shown to me."

A rich pansy it was, with a small white lip
And a wonderful purple hood;
And your eye caught the sheen
Of its leaves, parrot-green,
Down the dim Gothic aisles of the wood.
And its foliage rich on the moistureless sand
Made you long for its odorous breath;
But ah! 'twas to take
To your bosom a snake,
For its pestilent fragrance was death.

And I saw it again, in a far northern land—
Not a pansy, not purple and white;
Yet in beautiful guise
Did this poisonous plant rise,
Fair and fatal again to my sight.
And men longed for her kiss and her odorous breath
When no friend was beside them to tell
That to kiss was to die,
And her beauty a soul-killing spell.

HOUSEHOLD.

FACTS WORTH KNOWING.

That salt fish are quickest and best freshened by soaking in salt milk.
That cold rain water and soap will remove machine grease from washable fabrics.
That fish may be sealed much easier by first dipping them in boiling water for a minute.

That fresh meat, beginning to sour, will sweeten if placed out of doors in the cool air over night.

That milk which has changed may be sweetened or rendered fit for use again by stirring in a little soda.

That boiling starch is much improved by addition of sperm or salt, or both, or a little gum arabic dissolved.

That a table-spoonful of turpentine, boiled with your white clothes, will greatly aid the whitening process.

That kerosene will soften your boots and shoes that have been hardened by water and will render them pliable as new.

That clear boiling water will remove tea stains; pour the water through the stain, and thus prevent its spreading over the fabric.

That salt will curdle new milk, hence, in preparing milk porridge, gruel, etc., the salt should not be added until the dish is prepared.

That blue ointment and kerosene, mixed in equal proportion and applied to bedsteads, is an excellent bed remedy, and that a coat of whitewash is ditto for a log house.

That beeswax and salt will make your rusty flat-irons as clean and as smooth as glass. Tie a lump of wax in a rag and keep it for that purpose. When the irons are hot rub them first with the wax rag, then scour them with a paper or cloth sprinkled with salt.

That some kinds of stains may be removed from silk by the application of essence of lemon, or part spirits of turpentine, five parts. Mix, and apply to the spot by means of a linen rag.

That nitrate of silver will cure warts. Wet the end with spirit and rub on the wart, and it will affect a cure. Be very careful not to touch the skin any place else.

That if you dip your broom in clean, hot suds once a week, then shake it till it is almost dry, and then hang it up, or stand it with the handle down, it will last twice as long as it would without this operation.

That a peck of fresh lime, first slaked to a dry powder and then reduced with water to a wash, with the addition of a pound of sulphate of zinc and half a pound of common salt will make a pretty good and durable whitewash.

That the external application of a small piece of the ointment of the oleate of copper at night upon retiring will usually remove freckles. The oleate copper ointment should be prepared by dissolving one drachm of the salt of oleate of copper in sufficient oleo palmitic acid to make a soft ointment.

That if a kerosene lamp is filled quite full in a cold room, and then is brought into a warm one, the heat will cause the oil to expand and overflow, and lead to the suspicion that the lamp leaks. This should be avoided by not filling completely, knowing that this may occur, sufficient space should be left to allow for the expansion.

That after the dust has been thoroughly beaten out of carpets, and they are tacked down again, they can be brightened very much by scattering corn meal mixed with coarse salt over them, and then sweeping it all off. Mix the salt and meal in equal proportions.

That a little common sugar as a remedy for a dry, hacking cough is highly recommended. If troscd at night or on waking in the morning, have a little cup on a stand close by the bed, and take half a teaspoonful; this will be of benefit when coughs are frequent.

That washing the face with the best malt vinegar every night, and damping it in the morning with a little can of cologne, never using soap or water, keeps the complexion fresh and clear.

God's Plan.

Never complain of your birth, your training, your employment, your hardships; never fancy that you could do something if you only had a different lot and sphere assigned you. God understands his own plans, and knows what you want a great deal better than you do. The very things you most depreciate as fatal limitations or obstructions are probably God's opportunities; and it is nothing new that the patient should dislike his medicines or any certain proof that they are poisonous. No! a true to all impatience! Choke that foolish envy which gnaws at your heart, because you are not in the same lot with others; bring down your soul, or rather bring it up, to receive God's will and do his work in your lot, in your sphere, under your cloud of obscurity, against your temptations; and then you shall find that your condition is never opposed to your good, but really consistent with it.

There is hardly an adult person living but is sometimes troubled with kidney difficulty, which is the most prolific and dangerous cause of all disease. There is no sort of need to have any form of kidney or urinary trouble if Hop Bitters is taken occasionally.

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GERMANY AND LUTHER.

Germany, that is, Protestant Germany, will celebrate the four hundredth anniversary of Luther's birth in November next. And the Emperor, who grows pious at times, as his famous telegrams during the Franco-Prussian war bear witness, has issued a decree that festivals, to be held on November 10th and 11th, may be so celebrated as to produce "lasting blessings to our beloved Evangelical Church."

This "beloved Evangelical Church," for which Luther was responsible, is melting away before the tide of German "free thought." It is like an iceberg in the spring. It will not exist to be "blessed" by another Luther celebration.

There will be many platitudes thoughtlessly repeated in the press as this "blessed" anniversary approaches. We shall read of the "glorious Lutheran renaissance." A hundred cant terms of Protestantism will be flung right and left. D'Aubigne's froth will be scattered about until truth will be unrecognizable. Educated Germans have discovered too much about Luther by this time to accept the record made for him by the narrow-minded bigots who compile "eschatological" books. It was the opinion of Erasmus, one of those "liberal Catholics" much in favor with the "cultured" of the present day, that scholarship withered wherever the new belief appeared. In fact, Lutheranism stopped the progress of that renaissance which filled Italy with semi-pagans, who mingled the mythology of Greece with the Faith of Christ, and tried to give the world redeemed by the Son of God back to the fabled and wise daughter of Jupiter. Lutheranism, a creed which married ignorance and sensuality, was as much opposed to the refinement of scholarship to which we owe so many beautiful, but semi-pagan, works of literature and art, as it was to the sacredness of the family.

To those writers who are preparing eulogies on Luther, we recommend the "Table Talk" of this "great reformer." It is a dirtier book than the novels of Sterne and Fielding, on which this age looks with affected horror; but, in the interest of truth, we hope that some of our non-Catholic friends will not neglect it.

While Christian Rome busied itself with the toys of paganism, society became so rotten that, in Germany and England, it eagerly seized a cloak for its sins against God and man. Let Germany honor the man who made divorce "respectable." It is consistent, but shortsighted, since the problem in Germany, as in most other countries, is how to preserve the family and society from the dangers with which modern progress threatens them. People who really want to get at the truth about Luther and Lutheranism, should consider the attitude of two other figures in relation to Luther. These are Sir Thomas More and Erasmus—Sir Thomas More, the ideal Christian father and citizen, fearing nothing so much as treason to God; Erasmus, misled by the allurements of pagan learning, yet fearing the wild, lawless rabble which Luther led, and which we are accustomed to hear called the pioneers of modern progress.—New York Freeman's Journal.

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