

them, a thousand may, with difficulty, entertain a thing a moment in the mind. Shall the pride of him who does not require them, impute to those who do, the crime of idolatry and superstition? I kneel before a crucifix, when I would meditate upon the mysteries of the cross; my watering imagination is arrested and shaped by the chiselled form before me; it makes a centre for my wandering thoughts, and fixes them upon the given object. An Iconoclast, surprising me in this attitude, would accuse me of image worship; and thus it is this odious accusation has been obtained against the Catholics.

But to return to the Beads. These are strung upon a little chain and divided into what are called decades, or tens. Between each ten there is a larger bead, to denote that the decade is finished. Each bead stands for one prayer, and the decades in all are five.

Now, let us see how and why these beads are used. It will be observed that the mysteries are fifteen; that is to say five joyful, five sorrowful, and five glorious. The first five relate to the incarnation and birth of our Divine Lord, the second five to his passion and death, and the third to his resurrection and ascension. It must be admitted these are all most worthy subjects of Christian meditation. On one day we meditate the joyful, another the sorrowful, a third the glorious mysteries. To each mystery, then one decade is assigned; because it has been experienced that that is about as long as the average of human minds can, without weariness, continue in the consideration of one idea. The object is not to weary, but refresh the soul. Having finished one decade, we proceed to another, and so on until the five are finished.

But why say any prayers whilst meditating? For two reasons: first, because the prayers are in themselves acceptable to God, and secondly, because being short, and repeated without any sensible effort of memory, so far from diverting the mind from the subject of meditation, they produce a current of affection in the soul, which contributes greatly to its concentration on the image before the mind. These are things, however, always difficult to describe in the abstract; to be appreciated they must be practised. The most we can say is, that this is a method of prayer, and one that all Christians that understood it, have found to be of infinite benefit and satisfaction. It is only a mode, found by experience to be efficacious, of performing what is the great gist of Catholic devotion, namely, the commemoration of the life, passion and death of Jesus Christ. This is the great centre, around which the whole Catholic system revolves. It is the prime object of the holy sacrifice of the Mass; the constant magnet of

our meditations. It is thus we learn to appreciate our redemption, to imitate in our lives, the model given us in Christ, and to cherish a tender love for him through whom he was given. Thus it is, that Catholic piety is displayed. It dwells in the heart, and not upon the lips. It lives in a continual converse with the Redeemer of man. In short to say the beads, is but a pilgrimage to Palestine, to witness the mighty records of the Gospel. One hour thus spent over the wounds of Jesus Christ, is worth a life-time of windy hallelujahs and vociferous harangues.

BISHOP FENWICK.—We are grieved to learn from the *Boston Pilot*, that the venerable and zealous Bishop of Boston is daily declining in health, and that anxious fears are entertained that the disease with which he is afflicted will prove fatal.

DEATHS RECORDED.

AT ST. MARY'S.

- APRIL 20.—Mrs. Margaret Hobin, of a Son.
 “ Mrs. Catherine Wade, of a Son.
 “ Mrs. Ellen Derney, of a Daughter.
 21.—Mrs. Elizabeth Kinclin, of a Son.
 22.—Mrs. Ellen Fehnerth, of a Son.
 “ Mrs. Margaret Mahier, of a Daughter.
 23.—Mrs. Mary Norris, of a Son.
 24.—Mrs. Ellen Keleher, of a Son.
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MARRIAGE RECORD.

- APRIL 20.—John Allen and Margaret Lacy.
 “ Timothy Donovan and Elizabeth Tilby.
 21.—John Shea and Bridget Kenny.
 22.—Thomas Flynn and Maria Cantalon.
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INTERMENTS.

AT THE CEMETERY OF THE HOLY CROSS.

- APRIL 19.—Ellen, daughter of Michael and Mary Tohie, aged 14 years.
 20.—Catherine, daughter of Richard and Mary Johnson, aged 9 months.
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