"What a curious watch chain you

"What a curious watch chain yon have, Father Ambrose," said Alfred, an intelligent little altar boy, to his pastor one day, when they were alone together in the sacristy.

"Yes," replied Father Ambrose, a chain, literally," and he kindly took his watch from his pocket, so that Alfred could see the chain. "Although made up of links, you see there is something particular about there is something particular about it," and he put it into Alfred's hand,

so that he could examine it.
"The links are like those of an ordinary chain," said Alfred, "but at is something I do not under stand. At one end is a long loop made of the links, and at the other two curved pieces of steel, which can hook into each other. What do these

"The chain," replied Father Ambrose, " is a fac simile or an exac copy of small dimensions of the chain usually worn by criminals in prison. The long loop is the fetter used to con fine the feet. You see how next to impossible it would be to walk with such a chain around both ankles The ring was used to fasten the prisoner to the wall, and there united to the long chain by this straight bar, while the hooks at the other end make what are called manacles and confine the wrists. You can see how helpless even a strong man must be with his his hands in manacles, while the chain which unites them is often so short that the prisoner cannot stand upright or stretch his length on

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Alfred held the chain in his hand, examining it with a very compassion-ate face. "How dreadful," he said ate face. "How dafter some minutes.

"I do not suppose," said Father Am-"that you have ever realized brose, "that you have ever realized the sufferings of a prisoner in chains." "Never," replied Alfred, and he al-most shuddered. "And it is dreadful to think any man can be so wicked as

to deserve to wear them."
"And still more dreadful to think how many good men, holy men, have been obliged to wear such chains for months and years because suspected of crime; still more dreadful when they must submit to such a cruelty rather than deny their faith in our Lord."

the Christian martyrs wear such chains in their prisons?" asked

"Hundreds and thousands of Christians were them without a murmur."
"But what is this cross which makes the hook by which you attach the chain to the buttonhole of your vest?

Does it mean anything special?"

Father Ambrose took his watch from Alfred, put it into his vest-pocket, then attached it to the button-hole "Now look at the cross," he said to "is there anything peculiar

about it?" "It does not hang right," said Alfred. "The head of the cross hangs

Which is intentional," said Father "Our Lord's cross stood up-Ambrose. right, but who was crucified on an inverted cross with his head downward? "Saint Peter," immediately replied our intelligent little altar boy. "Yes," said Father Ambrose, and

this chain, with its fetters and manacles, is a fac-simile of the chain worn by Saint Peter, as the inverted cross

"And you wear this chain out of dear altar boy, "that this blessing may some time be yours."— New mon." mon

about it," said Alfred. "I have wanted to ask you very often, but did not wish to be inquisitive; especially

when the other boys were around."
"And now that you have asked about them, it will give me great pleasure to tell you the story of 'Saint Peter's chains,' as they are called." "I see but one chain," said Al-

fred. "When you hear the story, you will understand why I used the plural number," said Father Ambrose, "and for the story, we go first of all to the Acts of the Apostles, which gives us, in the twelfth chapter, an account of the wenderful ideliverance of Saint

Peter, I think you remember this."
"Yes," said Alfred. "How Herod, having killed James, the brother of John, took Peter also and casts him into prison with four files of soldiers to guard him and bound with two chains. But the night before he was to be executed, while sleeping between two soldiers and bound by two chains, an angel stood beside him and a light shi angel stood beside him and a light shined in the prison, and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, 'Arise quickly,' and the chains dropped from him. Then the angel told him to gird himself and put on his sandals and his carmants and to his sandals and his garments and to follow him. And it was not until the gets leading to the city of itself opened before them, and they had passed through one street, that Peter really came to himself and found that an

angel had delivered him from the hands of the cruel Herod."
"Very well told," said Father Ambrose. "You will remember that the Christians had been praying with-out ceasing for Peter's deliverance, so managed to get possession of these chains which had fallen from him so miraculously, and ecclesiastical history tells us that they were guarded most carefully. After Christianity was the religion of the Roman Empire, the religion of the Roman Empire, the religion of the Roman Empire, the religion, wife of Theodosius the Young, as he is called, visited Jerusalem and all the holy places.

Excellent reasons exist why Dr. Thomas' Eelectric Oil should be used by persons troubled with affections of the throat or lungs sores upon the skin, rheumatic poain, corns, stibilities of the young man for great the showed clearly that by no means was age the measure of merit, the measure of greatments and life from a purely human standpoint, we find that He successfully Jerusalem and all the holy places.

Excellent reasons exist why Dr. Thomas' Eelectric Oil should be used by persons troubled with affections of the throat or lungs sores upon the skin, rheumatic pain, corns, sores upon the skin, rheumatic pain, corns, sores upon the skin, rheumatic nain, corns, sores upon the skin, rheumatic pain, corns, sores upon the skin, rheumatic pain, corns, sores upon the skin, rheumatic nain, corns, sores upon the skin, rheumatic pain, corns, sores upon the skin, rheumatic nain, corns, and all attention of the lungs and all attentions are deaver the store attention

Juvenal, the patriarch of Jerusalem seeing her great devotion, presented to her the two chains with which Saint Peter had been bound. One of these chains she reserved for the city of Constantinople, where she lived, and the other she presented to her daughter Eudoxia, who was married to Valentinian. H. Emparate of Rome lentinian III., Emperor of Rome The young empress was so elated by this gift from her mother that she went directly to the Pope to make him a participant in her joy, when he brought forth, to show to her, the chain which Saint Peter had worn in the Mamertine prison for eight months before his martyrdom. As the Pope took both chains into his hands, himself and the Empress suddenly saw the two chains unite so as to make one chain. This marvel filled to the brim the holy joy of Eudoxia, and with the approbation of the Holy Father she built a beautiful church in which these chains, miraculously united, would be preserved, and which is known to us to day as the San Pietro in Vincole, or the Church of 'Saint Peter in Chains.' Moreover, the Pope ordered a new feast in honor of St. Peter's Chains, which is celebrated all over the world on the first day of August. A great many miracles had been worked by these chains both before and after they were united, so that Emperors and Kings begged for but one link. Of course, such a request was denied, but the Sovereign Contiffs for some centuries allow filings to be sent in reply. But this became at last unwise and instead this

> by the Very Rev. Abbot of the basilica which the chains are preserved. When I was in Rome," continued Father Ambrose, "I regretted so much that I could not remain until the Feast, when the chains are exposed. But one day when I was in the church the custodian touched me on the shoulder and told me to come quickly to the sacristy, where I found a party of distinguished ecclesiastics to whom the chains were being shown as a very great favor, and I thus, by the kind-ness of the custodian, shared the pri-

accompanied by an authentic, signed

vilege." No wonder," said Alfred, "that you wear this precious chain. Do you suppose I shall ever have such a chain if I have a watch?

"I think you are very likely to have one," said Father Ambrose with a smile, "since you would prize it so truly. And I will repeat to you what Saint Augustine says of these chains:
'If the shadow of Saint Peter falling on the sick healed them, how much more efficacious, may we not believe, would be the touch of these chains which he wore around his body.' And then in a sort of rapture, he exclaims: O fortunate chains, whose links have been changed into jewels for crowns and diadems by the martyrdom of the Prince of the Apostles. O happy links, by which the prisoner was dragged to the torture of the cross, not so much to be executed as to con ecrate both his chains and his cross! Very often these chains have been carried in procession through Rome during great calamities and always to the relief of the city where Saint Peter gave up his life for Christ with his head downward in the depth of his humility; and we can well believe that a virtue goes into this fac-simile when worn in faith. And I hope, dear Alfred," said Father Ambrose, laying his hand on the head of his

The employes of the various public "You may ask, is it possible, its departments of the Borough of the dollar marks and dollar men, for a dollar marks and dollar men, for a Bronx, New York city, recently ten-dered a complimentary dinner to Mr. Charles E. Ciarke, a rising young lawyer of that rapidly growing section of Greater New York and a son of Mr. Michael Clarke, for many years associted with the editorial staff of the Irish World. This banquet was given to World. This banquet was given to Mr. Clarke as a small recognition of the services he rendered the entire civil service of New York by the able manner in which he conducted an important civil service test case through three of the highest courts of the State. Many preminent persons were present and made addresses one of which we select this week, that of Mr. Charles A. Connor a well known young Irish American Catholic of Harlem and a graduate of the Cooper Union class in oratory and debate. In the famous campaign of 1896 Mr. Connor, then only twenty years of age, made many famous speeches and was the youngest orator on the Democratic State Committee's staff of speakers. The subject of Mr. Connor's address on this occasion was "Young Men in the Nation,"

and among other things, he said:

The power of the young man has been felt in every age. Back in the old law and before the birth of Christisnity no incident stands cut more prominently nor is more widely known than the distinguished services renthan the distinguished services renthanced renthand renthand renthanced renthanced renthand renthanced rentha dered to his people by the youth David in the slaying of the Philistine giant, Goliath. This narrative, familiar Goliath. This narrative, familiar even to the school boy, demonstrates the power of the young man even in that ancient period. At the beginning

HEART. There is no surer sign of a heart

completed his earthly mission at the early age of thirty-three. At the be-ginning of the new nation and just preceding the birth of what was to be the earth's greatest republic, there was promulgated to the world the greatest human document known to men-a document that embodied the very essence of the science of govern-ment, a document whose ideals of government were so lofty and whose truths were so mighty that they shock the throne of every monarch in Europe a document which gave a hope and an inspiration to the oppressed of every clime. It made possible the destruction of tyranny and the establishment of self-government; it contained the political creed, laid the corner-stone and built the foundation of the name and built the foundation of the new nation. All this was the Declaration of Independence, which emanated from in a Christian heart, the measure of the love of God is appreciated by the the brain and came from the pen of a

was but thirty-three years of age-the immortal Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson recognized the worth of secret of composing armies of young men only, whose enthusiasm and health enable them to surmount all obstacles." Let those who would decry young men, who would under-estimate their abilities, who would discourage their efforts to win prominence, learn the history of the nation's development, where the imprint of their footsteps may be found in every fac-simile was devised, which is touched to the original chains and is

avenue of progress. "Who are the young men that will forge their way to the front and sooner or later make their influence felt in the nation? Not alone the young men who are graduated from great colleges and universities, some of which undergo yearly gymnastic feats in their courses of philosophy and pol-itical economy to conform with the size of the donation of this or that trust magnate. But also young men such as the guest of honor this even-ing, who by the genius of hard work, seconded by ability, honesty, courage and becoming modesty, has already won for himself a place of distinction in his chosen profession. He has set an example in industry, thrift and perseverance that every young man may follow and profit by. Not the son of a great father, whose only title to position and favor is family relation ship. Because great fathers do not rear great sons. Not the young man who would fight and grind and ruthlessly disregard the rights of his fel low-man to amass a great fortune, and in his declining years make handsome endowments to appease his troubled Not the young man who conscience. would sacrifice every principle and barter away every vestige of his manhood to win temporary honors and place and position. Not the young place and position. man, who, because he has attained some little prominence, wears a big-ger hat to-day than he did yesterday. peril enlists in the service of his country, and after the battle returns home my men up the hill and down again.

Not the young man who in the hour of and writes volumes on how I marched No, no, none of these young men shall ever be truly great. The coming, the important, the triumphant young man in America, is the young man, who by the vigor of his personality, the strength of his character, the force of his intellect and the honesty and purity of his heart, will make himself it wherever he goes. He may encounter conditions where these qualitles may not be popular, but they are qualities that need not be apologized

Let him have the courage of his convictions and make sacrifices for "Precisely," replied Father Am. CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN. convictions and make sacrifices them if need be, for what is sacrif but the badge of sincerity, and after "How glad I am that I asked you POWER OF THE YOUNG MAN. all, we can attain permanent success in nothing unless we are sincere.

young man to cling to these principles and still attain such success as to live the Church anticipates every detail of the hearts and affections of his ward Virginia, so I would now turn them towards Nebraska. He is a young man, grown up since the Civil War, with a career impossible in any other country. I point to him as a liv-ing example, to prove my contention, that a man need not forsake honesty and devotion to principle to become great. There are those who agree with him, and those who do not. But there is not a man in this broad land who can honestly deny his manhood, his courage, his honesty, his purity of character and his devotion to principle. He was a young man and he was ambitious. He was taken up to a high mountain and tempted. But honest as the sun, courageous as a lion, firm as the rock of Gibraltar, true as the needle to its pole, he refused to betray the love, the affection and confidence reposed in him by 6 500 000 freemen. Casting saide every consideration of politics, I hold that such a character, such a career, such works, are an inspiration to American youth, American

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THOUGHTS ON THE SACRED

which knows the love of God and its own sinfulness than a spirit of joy.

The manifestation of the Sacred Heart was done to reanimate zeal, convert souls to Him. The practice which He has assigned, the privileges which He has accorded those devoted to His Heart, all demonstrate apostolic design. Those alone, then, love Him fully, and give Him what He asks for, who pursue in His place His work of redemption. Reciprocally those who are fit to follow this work, who are animated by sincere charity In every human heart, love is a motor the power of which is estimated by the movement which it imprints on the life;

the brain and came from the bell of the very state of the very sta world opens, and far from extinguish ing itself, heightens as it progresses. St. Xavier died converting China. young men when he wrote: "Bona-parte will conquer the whole world if the European powers do not learn his counts for naught what it has done. that lacks harvesters. Zeal is a fire that no obstacle checks. When it feels itself surrounded by egoism, the thought that the Heart of Jesus probed this egoism to the core, and still loves the world excites it the more. No current of indifference is sufficiently icy to extinguish it, for its ardor comfrom the Heart of Jesus. Zeal is a fire that warms without burning. It is not the thunderbolt that ravages, but the sun that purifies and rejoices. It draws by its brilliancy, and captivates by its sweetness. Even when indignant the zeal. Even when indignant the zealness. Even when indignant the zsai-ous heart, the apostolic heart shows a depth of inexhaustible love. If human malice crucifies it, it extends itself on the cross in pardoning its executioners, and its kindliness saves the world. St. Paul of the Cross said : "Sophistry has so perverted the mind, that enceforth we must address ourselves to the heart of man." Let him address the heart by doing it good; let him gain it thus, and by this means render the intelligence accessible to good rea

> A True Catholic Spirit. The Catholic Citizen, in an article on Falling Away from the Faith,

Here is a man who ceased to practice his religion because of a dispute regarding the location of a new church site; another because some good church man owed him money and did not pay another because he disagreed with hi ocal paster on the school question or in politics, and another because sermons were not preached in English. These cases, and a hundred others, result in dis affection from religion, and people, otherwise good fall away. A truly Catholic spirit is something not to be gained without effort or kept without care. It is not disturbed by personal feeling; it bows to authority in matters of faith and discipline.

ARE PROMISES OF MARRIAGE BINDING?,

In the July issue of the Catholic Palpit, Father McDermott, of Philadelphia, raises the question, and ans-wers it so definitely that to doubt his conclusions seems impossible. As made and answered, the question is one of much more than academic importance. In Canon Law a promise of marriage is held to be an obligation from which there is no relief except by the free consent of the party to whom the promise has been given; and from this impediment even the Pope himself cannot grant a dispensation. These drastic conclusions are clearly argued and logically deduced by Father Mc-Dermott from the unchangeable principles of natural justice, and in showing how they are embodied in the Can on Law of the Church he makes evi-

is a recklessly; and when made are al-Civil lowed too often to become the victims of circumstances or of family ambitions. Did young men and women, and above all parents, rightly appre-ciate the obligations thereby incurred, more care would be exercised in the making of these engagements. And ignorance of these obligations conveys no immunity from their consequences, since, as Father McDermott says, promise of marriage does not become sacred contract through the conse-quences thereoy incurred, but the consequences are created through the sanctity of promise.

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the body, giving tone and vigor.

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From the Advocate, Exeter, Ont.

"A run down system!" What a world of misery those few words im-ply, and yet there are thousands hroughout this country who are suffering from this condition. Their blood is poor and watery ; they suffer almost continuously from headaches; are unable to obtain restful sleep and the least exertion greatly fatigues them. What is needed to put the system right is a tonic, and experience has proved Dr. Williams' Pink Pills to be the only never failing tonic and health restorer.

Mrs. Henry Parsons, a respected resident of Exeter, Ont., is one of the many who have tested and proved the value of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. For many months she was a great sufferer from what is commonly termed a run down system." of the Advocate she gave the following story in the hope that other sufferers might benefit from her experience :

For many months my health was in a bad state, my constitution being greatly run down. I was troubled with continual headaches, my appetite was poor and the least exertion greatly fatigued me. I consulted a physician but his treatment did not appear to benefit me and I gradually worse, so that I could hardly attend to my household duties. I then tried several advertised remedies, but with out result, and I began to regard my condition as hopeless. A neighbor called to see me one day and urged me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Having tried so many medicines with-out receiving benefit, I was not easily persuaded, but finally I consented to give the pills a trial. To my surprise and great joy I noticed an improve ment in my condition before I had finished the first box and by the time I had taken four boxes of the pills I was fully restored to health. I no longer suffer from those severe headaches, my appetite is good, I can go about my household duties without the least trouble, in fact I feel like a new woman. All this I owe to that best of all medicines, Dr. Williams Pink Pills, and I would strongly urge other sufferers to give them a trial.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are recognized the world over as the and nerve tonic, and it is this power of acting directly on the blood and nerves which enable these pills to cure such discases as locomotor ataxia, paralysis, St. Vitus' dance, sciatica, neuralgia, rheumatism, nervous head ache, the after effects of la grippe, pal pitation of the heart, that tired feeling esulting from nervous prostration all diseases resulting from vitiated humors in the blood, such as scrofula, chronic erysipelas, etc. Dr. Williams Pink Pills are sold by all dealers in medicine or can be had by mail, post paid, at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2 50 by addressing the Dr. Wil-liams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

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