London Catholic News. The Rev. Father Ryan, rector of St. Joseph's, East Greenwich, preaching at Deptford on Christmas Eve, said that a couple of years ago a very striking picture appeared in one of the Catholic papers. The subject of the picture was the celebration of Midnight Mass in Ireland during the penal days. The place chesen was one of the mountain districts, and on looking at the picture they could not help noticing the reverent attitude of the people as they knelt in adoration in the open air with the canopy of heaven for a roof. The surroundings comprised every possible description of desolation, yet if they cast their eyes around the scene they would be struck with the bowed heads and reverent attitude and detheir whole hearts to participate in and assist at the Holy Mass. They could understand why these men were on the watch. A price was put on the head of the priest, and, difficult as was their task, they faithfully performed the duty of keeping him from capture by the youmen, for, if he had been taken intocustody, the very fact of his being a priest would have cost him the loss of his head. The people were poor, hard working people who toiled, labored, and slaved simply to keep body and soul together, for if they had accumulated wealth it would have been confiscated to their poor non-Catholic neighbors. But they had a higher motive in their lives. Heaven was for them a reality. They under-stood the meaning and efficacy of Holy and the thraldom of sin. Mass; hence it was that after these years of hard work, they were to be found risking almost their lives to assist at Holy Mass on the bleak mountain side. Leaving them for the moment, the rev. preacher asked the tory resolutions in the congregation to go back to that night each recurring year. nineteen centuries ago — that night which witnessed the great event, that night when Jesus Christ was born. In the streets of Bethlehem they would notice at the dead hour of night that there were no people about. If they took another look around the streets they would see a week old man beside him a tender maiden, who were going to this inn and to that, but the answer at each was the same, there was no room for them. True, their personal appearance aroused a certain amount of curiosity, but the answer at each house was a distinct "no room." They had to go and manage as best they could. They went to an out-house, a stable, and there in that stable was laid Jesus Christ. Though unsern by aims at an amendment of life, there is human eyes, His companions were thousands of ministering angels, and also the ox and the ass. Such was the of the first Christmas night. And it was well that they, the Catholic people of Deptford, should ask them-selves what did Christmas mean for around them they could not help seeing that Christmas was a time of gluttony in eating and drinking, and especially the latter. If they went through the streets of Daptford that evening, what sights would meet their eyes? Did they think that the thousands of people they would meet were thinking of the goodness of God to them? Not at all. They were thinking of drink fident even temporary checks and meaning of Christmas for them. They should realize that Jesus Christ came down from heaven for the salvation of man and to redeem him from the thraldom of sin. That was the idea of the Catholic Church, and that also was the feeling of the poor Cathelic people that formed the subject of the picture to which he had referred. It was saddening-one of the most painful thoughts in the life of a priest-to see the vast numbers of the descendants of those pure people, those saints and heroes. losing all idea of Christianity when they come to this country. They seemed to have forgotten all knowledge of Christianity that holy Church had put before them, by ceasing to live as practical Catholics. They were full of faith, that is, they thought they were, and full of nationality. They rejoiced at that forebodes certain irredeemable and fatal consequences in the future. In such cases, the recognized formula surely achieved, but how much more is to "swear off." ought they labour for and rejoice at ing off business may be well enough in the emancipation of the soul from the itself, inasmuch as it is a step in the thraldom of the devil and of sin! right direction, its lamentable and con-They rejoiced when they read of numbers of heretics being brought into the Church, yet it was sad and painful for a priest to see the numbers of Catholics | nature. that were falling away from the practice of their religion. All therefore should feel that Christmas meant the spiritual emancipation of the soul, that Christ wants the hearts and souls of His people purified from sin. He wants them to open the doors of their If she imposes upon her wayward chil hearts, and receive Him into their cestors, the intense love of God which her the depository of Divine power lives. The faith of people who attended church only on occasions of certain functions or for particular. If the Catholic Church, in the plencertain functions or for particular keep my commandments." In order ents, some hurtful or dangerous indulg-therefore that they may worthily cele-

MIDNIGHT MASS IN THE PENAL | mandments. There was not, he repeated, anything that had such a depressing effect on a priest as the knowledge that vast numbers of the sons and daughters of St. Patrick had almost on their arrival in this country given up all practical work for their Faith. Amongst such there would be no room, no warm reception for Our Lord this Christmas. Why? Because their hearts were filled with sensuality. Yet their ancestors, not more than a hundred years ago, were ready to endure any hardship and face any risk, for they worked for the kingdom of heaven. They were the true heroes and patriots that had the emancipation of their country at heart. scendants may well try to assimilate their patriotism, but they were only the victims of the vices that came out of indulgence in intoxicating drink. He wondered if his country-people would ever learn a lesson in sense, if they would ever think of the example of their ancestors who lived meanor of those peeple. They would observe also the rude altar, and they would also observe in the distance, the men who were doing vigilance duty on the outpost while endeavoring with their whole hearts to participate in the whole hearts to participate in the meaning that Christmas had for the people who lived in Ireland a century In Deptford the Catholics had every facility afforded them to make their peace with God. By responding to the graces which God had offorded them they would show themselves worthy descendants of their heroic and saintly ancestors, they would be worthy of Him who was born the first Christmas night for their spiritual emancipation, and show true patriot-ism, for they may be confident that the spiritual emancipation which they desired would be theirs just in proportion to the efforts they made to emancipate their souls from the devil

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS.

In the personal and domestic affairs of men nothing is more common than the institution of new sets of reformatory resolutions in the beginning of

The logical meaning of this is that the retrospect of the bygone year is not, in all respects, quite satisfactory to the individual, hence the consciousness of the necessity of adopting new methods, and new rules of life, that will appare a standing and more perwill ensure a steadier and more persistent effort to keep the paths of recti tude-which plainly means a more de termined purpose to yield a fuller obedience to the dictates of reason and justice, as well as a stricter compliance with the moral precepts and Christian duties. In this wise and salutary effort, that

a certain beneficial element of mortification that humbles the pride of the wayward transgressor and lets him see, with painful clearness, that he must not absolutely depend upon himself, or upon his own unaided power to carry out schemes or resolves, he good the object or pure may be the intentions. From this positive and humiliating discovery of man's inherent weakness and inability to ade-In these days if they looked quately provide for his own essential wants, springs the vivid and realistic sense of his utter dependence upon that higher, overruling power which a merciful Providence has set as a shield and protection to save erring mortals from plunging headlong into vicious projects, that would ultimately lead to and the other sins that were its natural needful corrections are very galling, injunction—his reply would be in the consequence. They, as Catholics, and they sometimes produce a spirit of negative, inasmuch, as he proposed recklessness and sentment in the most impetuous and ill-balanced minds. This leads the mortified ones to attrib ute their ill-success to neglect on the part of their friends, or to lack of abilty and interest in the co-operators If, however, no better reason may b found to account for non success, it is commonly ascribed to that convenient, but much abused term, bad-luck. To the youthful portion of mankind, who have not yet been called upon to face any of the sterner problems of life's struggles, the sum total of their good resolutions, to take effect on the 1st of January, 1894, may simply be a welldirected resolve to overcome the pernicious habit of premature tippling, or, perchance, a determination to resist the evil suggestions of a vicious companion, or to choke off a growing tendency towards some besetting sin ing off business may be well enough in stantly recurring failure to cure the evils aimed at, forms a sad phase of

The only power on earth that is really effective for holding the evil passions in check, is the spiritual or supernatural power that is exercised in the Catholic Church. The reasons dren a restrictive or corrective law, How can that be done? By they know that the true Church speaks having the perfect Faith of their an- only in the Name of Him Who made made its presence felt in their daily and the unerring interpreter of His

sermons was not worth much. The itude of her spiritual wisdom and words of Christ were, "If you love Me power, cuts off from one of her adherbrate this Christmas, the reverend gentleman hoped they would all pray that God would give them the grace to keep His com-

to a temporary suffering or punishment here below.

No merely human medium or institution could pretend to correct a by such gentle, yet persuasive, authority, and be able, at the same time, to offer heavenly rewards that so much offer neaventy rewards that so much outweigh the trifling sacrifice demand-ed. The truth of this is gradually dawning upon the minds of the more enlightened men outside of the true fold, in the United States. Hence, their more favorable consideration of the claims and works of this Supreme Teacher of religion, honesty, virtue and morality.

Eminent statesmen, no matter of what creed or belief, know that there are adverse elements at work, among the un-Christian and infidel hordes in the Republic, that must eventually destroy the Christian character of the nation, unless the hostile forces be met and overthrown by a stronger force. The divinely appointed institution is the only one possessing competent authority to make use of effective spiritual weapons that are fit to do useful work in the dreadful combat.

This contention, is, of course, disputed by the numerous non-Catholic bodies, each of which claim credit for themselves as leaders in the great movements for the religious and moral regeneration of the world. While these empty boasts and hollow pretenthese empty boasts and hollow preten-sions are heard on all sides, the true Church, through the powerful ministrations of her eminent hierarchy, her zealous priests and her numerous temperance and benevolent societies, is steadily, but quietly putting forth superhuman efforts to preserve intact that elevating and purifying stream of grace and virtue which alone is capable of restraining the evil passions of men, and which now is, and always will be, the most potent factor in safeguarding the national healthfulness and moral purity of this New World

The vast multitudes of human souls who are outside the sphere of this great reforming and saving agency, will continue—as long as they refuse to submit to its influence the struggle against the debasing tendencies of their fallen human nature, with no better results in the future than those reaped from their vain strivings in the past. New codes of rules for personal government dur-ing the year 1894, may be outlined in abundance, they will be as helplessly wrecked as were those of 1893, unless divine help be sought for, and invoked in a legitimate manner, and through the proper channels. The old Adam planted in the stubborn heart of man refuses to make this humble submission; hence, the real cause of the tota wreck of so many well conceived and well-meant New Year's resolutions. As weak humanity is unable, of its free will, to rise superior to its own inherent frailties, it need not flatter itself into a belief that the temptations and evil promptings of the future will be less violent, or easier to subdue, or that the mastery will be gained where inadequate means

A once notorious American humorist felt himself moved by an overpowering desire—if by no higher motive—to be freed from the vexatious inconven iences that arise from an ill spent life. He accordingly drew up an elaborate set of new guiding rules for the ensuing year. Some of them partook largely of the philosophic, or businesslike element. For instance, the first was, that he would neither borrow (money) nor lend - especially lend. Secondly. If any man asked him for his coat,—in spite of the Scriptural attending a full dress, evening party, and the surplus contents of his wardrobe had been transferred to his "uncl's" for safe-keeping. Thirdly. That if some one should call him a fool, he would not ask him to prove it. "The inference being that the assertion might be too easily sub-stantiated." Fourthly, that if questioned as to his reasons for talking to himself, he would aver that he liked to hear a sensible man talk, besides, he loved to talk to a sensible man Fifthly, that if a person wanted to test his familiarity with the characteristics of the past Presidents of the United States by an enquiry as to which of them wore the biggest hat, he would answer that it was "the one that had the biggest head." Sixthly, that if re-quested to name something that was beneficial to man, he would declare that it was tight boots, "simply because they made a man forget all his sorrows." Seventhly, that if attacked either by a slanderous tongue or pen, he would not attempt to strike back in kind. On the contrary, he would endeavor to live such a life as would belie the statements, and prevent any per-

son from believing the slanderers. the instability and frailty of human This last resolution, whether original or adopted, embodies the true philosophic sentiment, and should form the fundamental rule and guide for all good Christians, who are beginning this New Year of grace, with a sincere and well-directed purpose of amend-

> If they pursue crooked or doubtful methods in their various relations and dealings with their fellow-creatures they are making moral rents in their own protecting walls. They are making themselves vulnerable to the attacks of their open enemies, or false friends, and are thereby inviting assaults upon their own domestic hap-piness and peace of mind.—Wm. Ellison in the Chicago New World.

A FAIR TRIAL of Hood's Sarsaparilla guarantees a complete cure. It is an honest medicine, honestly advertised and honestly CURES.

### "THE CONVENT."

Baltimore Mirror.

their wedding tour. Mrs Warman is a graduate of the Sacred Heart; and, while witnessing the expression of affection which she bore to her Alma Mater and the gentle Sisters, the poet was inspired to write the following

What is there here, what can there be About this drear old nunnery, That makes this place so dear to me?

And softly down the distant hall I hear the muffled footsteps fall. That echo not from wall to wall.

A thousand things I would not miss, Seen in her smile, felt in her kiss; Her voice is like the angelus.

#### Are Catholics Tolerant?

Are we Catholics tolerant? If we live up to the teaching of Holy Mother Church we are of all men the most tolerant socially, we are, if prudence or charity require it, politically toler-ant, and, once such tolerance is established by compact, bound not by sentiment, but by the solid principles of ethics and religion, to observe and re-spect the compact. But for intellectual or dogmatic tolerance, for a tolerance that would put truth and error on the same pedestal of honor, we have nothing but contempt and abhorrence. We look on such tolerance as less gross, though not less absurd, than the tolerance which built the Pantheon of all the gods.

We wonder sometimes what was the mental attitude of thoughtful Romans towards their thirty thousand gods, gathered in Rome from every nation to receive without rivalry equal rever-ence. We wonder in like manner at the mental attitude of men to-day who confess one God, and see no repug-nance in a multiplicity of religions.

However much we may practice social tolerance and extend to the wanderers in the mazes of a wretched philosophy the largest personal charity however much we may insist on politi-cal tolerance—we hold that before the ribunal of reason and conscience dogmatic tolerance is an absurdity, lead ing logically to Atheism. — Rev. T. Brosnahan, S. J., in January Dona-

Mr. J. R. Allen, Upholsterer, Toronto, sends us the following: For six or seven years my wife suffered with Dyspepsia, Costiveness, Inward Piles and Kidney Complaint. We tried two physicians and any number of medicines without getting any relief, antil we got a bottle of Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery. This was the first relief she got, and before one bottle was used the benefit she derived from it was beyond our expectation."

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beast.

Dyspepsia or Indigestion is occasioned by the want of action in the billiary ducts, loss of vitality in the stemach to secret the gastric juices, without which digestion cannot go on; also being the principal cause of headache. Parmelee's Vegetable Pills taken before going to bed, for a while, never fail to give reliet and effect a cure. Mr. F. W. Ashdown, Ashdown, Ont., writes: "Parmelee's Pills are taking the lead against ten other makes which I have in stock."

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Mr. Cy Warman, that gentle wooer of the muses whose verses are fast bringing him into prominence, wrote the following pretty poem on a visit to the Sacred Heart Convent at London, Ont., while he and his bride were on their wadding to the word of the control of

Beneath the dimly lighted gas, Down these old aisles the children pass At early morn to early Mass.

At evening when the lights are low The silent nuns move to and fro, Like phantom figures, come and go.

And now between the night and day One gentle Sister leads the way, I follow where she cares to stay.

And pausing in each quaint retreat I muse, and say: here oft my sweet Has been, these floors have felt her feet.

Or standing in the chapel where I breathe sweet incense, I declare I've felt its fragrance in her hair.

And now its all made plain: I see What makes this drear old nunnery So sweetly, strangely dear to me.



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London, Ont., 13th annuary, 1891,
D. C. MACDONALD, Manager.

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FIVE-MI

JANUA

Many shall co the west, and sh. Isaac and Jacob but the children into the exterior

These word were spoken the Jews on th the servant o centurion was would call a belong to Go Church of the a heathen by brought up in the true relig prophecies whi him clearly th into the work darkness com Hebrew people was cast; but that was enoug power of God, knew that th Pharisees wer Master of life said he, "I ar shouldst come u say the word, be healed." which the Catl ured up, and p

every day, and Amen I say t so great faith i you that many and the west, a dom of heaven kingdom shall darkness." Now, my bre

heathen centur to God's own pe the mouth of this: that our use which we m He gives us ; th but that the gr if we slight the A simple ar surely, and yet get and neglect from our infanc to families wh the faith. We to whom the promised. An

always so, but l darkness into l the divine favo He, then, who l now complete H His word, we ar we receive His sacraments : ho whom He said. voice, and I kn low Me; and I ing, and they s and no man sha Yes, my dea that we shall be Catholics. But being Catholics

means of salvati ing our salvat greater means souls; but woe them! And w and see many g similar, as far a the Reman cen light that we lifault, but by when we see the few helps that th fear that God wi the graces that cast into the ex others shall and the west an we have but do

Let us, then, we have been u graces which w and which of us rouse ourselves having the faith a great privileg we must give when we stand Anglicans a

Our esteeme Liverpool Cath ible for the foll stories: One of encies of Ritual

for their Bishop appear to look not contempt. one of the High the old story of one of the most tant Bishops. Anglican prelat the nickname o cause, seeing th testant calendar referred to some greater and less ing within the ra learning. The upon by one of t ever since. The

other Bishop, wh High Church par invested in a th quested him to le it was an illegal good in its way who, when invit rector with High to Compline, re