

GOOD AND BAD BOOKS.

Why Many of the Latter Are Not on the Index.

Replying to a correspondent who asks the question, "Are Catholics forbidden to read the works of Marie Corelli?" the Jesuit Father who edits the Examiner, of Bombay, India, says:

"We have been asked the same question before. There seems to be a rumor about that Marie Corelli's books (some or all) are on the Index. No one is bound to take notice of such rumors about books until they are definitely ascertained to be true. In this case they seem to be untrue. We have been through the Index down to December 16, 1908, and none of Corelli's books are contained in it; nor have we heard of anything having been done since that date.

The Index, as we have explained before, is merely a list of those books which, on account of their special character and the stir they have made, have been deemed of sufficient importance to call for official condemnation. Thousands of other books which pass unnoticed might also find a worthy place on the list, as far as perniciousness is concerned. Hence being off the Index is no proof of harmlessness. Where no sentence has been pronounced by authority, we are left to the general rules of the Index and to the natural law, which forbids any man to read what does his soul harm.

"As to Marie Corelli's books, one of her least known is decidedly her best. It is called 'Boy,' and we recommend everybody to read it carefully. In our opinion 'Barabbas' is a disgusting exhibition of bad taste, more calculated to repel than to harm. 'Master Christian,' though interesting, is spoiled by hysterical screams against the Pope and the Church; irreverent and morbid to boot. The 'Sorrows of Satan' is topsy-turvy-fantastical in its main idea, but no one would take it seriously. With the exception of 'Boy,' we think all her works are disfigured with glaring faults against taste; but whether they do harm in the serious sense depends on the individual. Certainly we could name many other books which would do good instead. How much Scott, how much Dickens, how much Shakespeare, how much Marion Crawford, how much of other standard romancers have you read? Books of this class afford healthy pleasure instead of morbid excitement, instruction and culture without the sacrifice of amusement. There are enough good English dramas and romances to occupy a life-time, why, then, waste time on Marie Corelli?"

A Charming Glimpse of the Pope of the People.

A French gentleman, distinguished in the artistic world and a musical enthusiast, applied some time ago to the proper authorities in Rome, where he was sojourning with his family, for the favor of a Papal audience. His request being made known to the Holy Father, the latter promptly granted it, and even graciously expressed a desire to meet the whole family. Now, the Frenchman in question is no believer in race suicide; the number of his boys and girls would easily supply three or four typical up-to-date Parisian households with their full contingent of children. Accordingly, when the father and mother, with their troop of little folk, and their governess, advanced into the room where the Pope awaited them, Pius X. exclaimed, "Che processione!" (What a procession!) and burst into a hearty laugh. Then, addressing himself to the happy head of so thriving a family, he inquired: "Do you mean to say that all these children are yours?" The smiling assurance that such was the case elicited as hearty congratulations as could be paid even by President Roosevelt.

Nothing could be more cordial or paternal than the Pontiff's reception of his visitors. Then, as each took a chair in response to the Pope's invitation, the governess alone remained standing. She felt rather disconcerted by so much unaffected kindness in a function which she had expected to be most formal and solemn. There was, however, a still greater surprise in store for her. All the seats provided for the visitors were taken up; there remained only a handsome armchair, quite close to the Papal throne. "Come," said the Pope to the governess, "come, sit down here." And sure enough, without further ado, the governess was installed between the Pope and her employers, at the right of Pius X., and in a chair usually occupied only by dignitaries of Church and State.

A MISSIONARY IN ALASKA.

Paulist Father Relates His Experience in the Yukon Territory.

Three summers ago Rev. M. P. Smith, of the Paulist Fathers, gave a series of missions in the Yukon Territory at the invitation of the Oblates. On his return southward, he was invited to preach at Skagway, Alaska, by the pastor, Rev. F. Turner, S.J. This assignment was transferred to me, and, at my first opportunity, in June of this year, I undertook its fulfillment. The mission was followed by others at Sevald, Valdez, Fort Liscum, Sitka, Juneau, Douglas and Ketchikan. Sermons were preached in churches, barracks, dance halls, on board ship, and in the open forests at the railway construction camps. Everywhere Catholics rallied with fervor to the mission cross, or dodged the opportunity, in traditional proportions of good and bad. I am happy to report, however, that each mission brought a goodly harvest of consolation and interior reconciliations. With the exception of the established parishes of Juneau and Douglas, the non-Catholic attendance exceeded the Catholic number and enthusiasm. Alaska is a capital experiment station for the study of American tendencies, and my work there confirms my belief that non-Catholics are more eager than luke-warm Catholics to welcome Catholic preaching.

I was fortunately able to leave everywhere copies of Father Wymen's excellent book, "Certainties in Religion," to complete their instruction. The several conversions resulting should be placed entirely to his credit, as the expedition was mainly due to his generous and indefatigable zeal in spreading the non-Catholic missions along the Western frontier. I covered less than one half of the main Alaskan coast line, a space of some fifteen hundred miles, which is cared for by three Jesuits, assisted by one newly ordained diocesan priest and the Jesuit Prefect-Apostolic. Their unwearied, unflinching devotion, in the midst of oppression, solitude, grim poverty, rigorous and gloomy climate and bitter hostility of lawless men, is the high water mark of apostolic self-sacrifice in the whole range of my missionary observation. I learned to reverence them as Pentecostal heroes.

The pathos of their hard lives is accentuated by the opulence of the Protestant missions, invariably the best equipped institutions of each small town, which gather under their roof mere handfuls of worshippers, at the expense of missionary donations from the states. Here again Alaska significantly points to one of the most deplorable defects of the Catholic propaganda, the failure of well-to-do Catholics to recognize their responsibility to the starving frontier. If we could begin, in the new settlement, like Seward, with the material advantages of the non-Catholics, the town would be predominantly Catholic.—John Marks Handly, C.S.P.

Holloway's Corn Cure is the medicine to remove all kinds of corns and warts, and only costs the small sum of twenty-five cents.

On earth we obtain nothing without effort; how, without virtue, shall we attain glory in heaven?—Able Roux.

BLOOD HUMORS

PIMPLES Many an otherwise beautiful and attractive face is sadly marred by unsightly blotches, eruptions, freckles, pimples, eruptions, and various other blood diseases.

ERUPTIONS Their presence is a source of embarrassment to those afflicted, as well as pain and regret to their friends.

FLESHWORMS Many a cheek and brow—cast in the mould of grace and beauty—have been sadly defaced, their attractiveness lost, and their possessor rendered unhappy for years.

HUMORS Why, then, consent to rest under this cloud of embarrassment?

There is an effective remedy for all these defects, it is,

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A SAINT'S STATUE

Presented to President Roosevelt by Dying Catholic Soldier.

In a recent issue of the Catholic Deaf Mute, the following incident is related by Miss Nellie Cecilia Ryan, in a correspondence from Our Lady of Good Counsel and Dumb Institute, St. Louis, Mo.:

"Joyous days pass quickly; those who came and made our vacation days most happy ones were many; none received a warmer welcome to our beloved Alma Mater than did the Sisters of St. Joseph from distant, torrid Arizona; among them was Sister C., the sister of Father Dunbach, S.J., of Chicago.

"Our visitants are neighbors of Mrs. Captain O'Neill, whose husband gave up his life in the Cuban War. Dying from the effects of a fatal ball, our respected President, Theodore Roosevelt, then in command of the Rough Riders, was summoned to his side, all through the war they had been intimate friends; now the Angel of Death, with quivering sword, was about to separate them. Mr. Roosevelt craved a friendship's memento. The hands of the dying captain extended and presented a little pocket statue of St. Joseph.

"The President still retains it; he has been singularly kind to the Indians' Mission in the West; no wonder when he has St. Joseph 'at his elbow' when any of his household help fall ill they are sent, at his expense, to the hospital conducted by the Sisters of St. Joseph. To the chapel of this Hospital Mrs. President Roosevelt recently presented a handsome wickerwork basket, four feet high."

THE STORY OF A SUCCESSFUL MAN

He Found His Lost Health in Dodd's Kidney Pills.

Leading Business Man of Welland Gives His Experience with the Great Canadian Kidney Remedy.

Welland, Ont., Dec. 18.—(Special.)—There is no better known or more highly respected man in Welland than Mr. J. J. Yokom, Born and brought up in the neighboring township of 'Crowland,' by his own industry and sterling honesty he has grown to be one of Welland's leading merchants. Consequently when Mr. Yokom comes out with a statement that he was cured of a serious illness by Dodd's Kidney Pills, everybody knows it must be so.

"For a year or more I had Kidney Trouble in all its worst symptoms," says Mr. Yokom. "My head was bad, I had no appetite and I lost weight fast. At times I was entirely incapacitated. I doctored with a physician of vast experience, but got no good results.

"I became despondent of ever being well again, when by good luck I chanced to try Dodd's Kidney Pills, and from the first they seemed to suit my case. Five boxes cured me completely."

Strange Title of a Church.

One of the many churches of Spain bears the strange name of "The Church of the Cup of Cold Water." This is its history: A certain good-hearted, but very poor priest, living in a little village not far from the mountains, was startled one day by two or three soldiers entering his house, carrying with them a bleeding orland, with a broken arm. The priest hastened to bind up the wounded arm, though the captors seemed to care little whether or not their prisoner lived. The injured man, who bore his sufferings without a groan, then begged for a drink of water, and as he raised to receive it, encouraged by the priest's kind manner, he whispered that his two children were left friendless on the edge of the wooded hills. When the prisoner had been dragged away, the Cure went in search of the poor children, found them crying and hungry, and brought them to his humble home. Then, poor man though he was, he sent the boy to school, and the girl to a neighboring convent; and by much self-denial, and in spite of many remarks on his folly, provided for their support.

Years passed away and the children were almost grown up, when one day a magnificent carriage stopped at the door of the humble parsonage; a fine-looking man in uniform, his breast covered with decorations, stepped out. He explained that he was the wounded brigand, that he had escaped, and in one of the many Spanish revolutions had happened to be of the winning party, now held a high office.

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and had returned to claim his children. And when he had affectionately greeted them he asked permission of the good old priest that he might build him a new church in place of the shabby little mountain chapel, and that it might, in remembrance of his kindness to the suffering, be called "The Church of the Cup of Cold Water."

A FRENCHMAN'S ARGUMENT FOR IRISH HOME RULE.

On Saturday, November 11, at the Ecole de Droit in Paris, a gifted young Frenchman, M. Etienne Bechaux, obtained with applause the degree of Doctor en Droit. The subject chosen for his thesis by M. Bechaux is one of interest to all Irishmen, viz.: "The Irish Land Question at the beginning of the 20th Century." M. Bechaux made the Irish land question the object of deep study, not merely in books and documents, but by visiting Ireland and examining the question thoroughly on the spot. As the result of his studies and observations, he presented to the Board of Examiners in Law a book of nearly 500 pages, divided into four parts.

In the first part he gives a history of the Land Question up to 1901. In the second part he treats of the division and occupation of landed property, of the conditions of agricultural laborers, and of the congested districts. In the third part he explains the Land Act of 1902, and shows the results it has produced up to 1905. Lastly, in the fourth part of his book, he gives an account of the work done by the Irish Agricultural Organization Society, by the Co-operative societies, and by the Department of Agriculture. Throughout he is full of sympathy with his subject. He went to Ireland, he says in his preface, opposed to Home Rule. He came back to France convinced that sooner or later England will have to govern Ireland in conformity with the aspirations and interests of the country. The Examiners of the Faculty of Law paid to M. Bechaux a well-merited tribute of praise for his masterly thesis on the Irish land question.

They Are a Powerful Nerve.—Dyspepsia causes derangement of the nervous system, and nervous debility once engendered is difficult to deal with. There are many testimonials as to the efficacy of Parmentier's Vegetable Pills in treating this disorder, showing that they never fail to produce good results. By giving proper tone to the digestive-organs, they restore equilibrium to the nerve centres.

It is not work that kills men; it is worry. Work is healthy. You can hardly put more upon a man than he can bear. Worry is rust on the blade.

We should never repulse the poor. If we cannot give them anything, we should pray to God to inspire others to do so.

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ANY even numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the Northwest Provinces, excepting 8 and 26, not reserved, may be homesteaded by any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section of 160 acres, more or less.

Entry may be made personally at the local land office for the district in which the land is situate, or if the homesteader desires, he may, on application to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, the Commissioner of Immigration, Winnipeg, or the local agent receive authority for some one to make entry for him.

The homesteader is required to perform the conditions connected therewith under one of the following plans:
(1) At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year for three years.

(2) If the father (or mother, if the father is deceased) of the homesteader resides upon a farm in the vicinity of the land entered for the requirements as to residence may be satisfied by such person residing with the father or mother.

(3) If the settler has his permanent residence upon farming land owned by him in the vicinity of his homestead, the requirements as to residence may be satisfied by residence upon the said land.

Six months' notice in writing should be given to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa of intention to apply for patent.

N.B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.

W. W. CORY,
Deputy Minister of the Interior.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1908



Mr. Hilary was upset—much upset; and he sat pencil furiously as he vain for the word that Kennedy had disappointed he might have known, was not to be depended on earth ever possessed that assignment to Kennedy not know, for it was a want one and needed to be immediately. And that of Kennedy's often got hand—one glass, and things to all men.

The editor of the Trump just man; he was nothing, and he had promised Kennedy round sum for his trouble story was not finished, as Kennedy's notes were shape, Hilary didn't know meant to Kennedy—and nothing to Kennedy now. So the editor had determined all up the space that the have taken with a sort of sermon—an article that before the numerous readers Trumpeter the Christian going good to your fellow-men opportunity offered—not preach "Peace on earth, good will to men," but to actually Hilary was provoked to think that Kennedy's failure should have made it for him to do this piece work—but the Christmas the Trumpeter was always paper. Everyone looked at it with delight, and the felt they were well repaid large picture on the front their eager eyes, and they umn after column on the im—Christmas stories, Christmas carols—in fact, a one could desire to make that the real Christmas spirit actually abroad once more Hilary had determined to Christmas number the most that had been gotten out and that story of Kennedy's have been elaborately with holly berries and leaves all about it, while over an angel blowing a trumpet on earth could be the notes floating in fleecy clouds. still use the angel and the but the story would have to planted by this semi-editorial own composition.

It was a bitterly cold day; snow flakes were lying still, tending over all the trees and

THE REBIRTH OF GAEL

(From the New York World)

That Erse or Irish Gaelic dead language was twice proclaimed Sunday's meeting in Carnegie for Ireland by Dr. Douglas citation of 3000 schools who was being taught; for New York Dr. Hyde spoke in Gaelic to the student understanding of a possible audience.

And why not? English is the main language of commerce there is something more than in life, and no invention of the language like Volapuk or esao can alter the fact that place and pride of tongue go to there are more Irishmen in the than Scandinavians, but no the Norsemen to lose tongue or to merge the different distinguished Norwegian, Danish, and Dutch. The Jewish race, as numerous as the Irish, is more widely scattered, but its men do not forget their speech.

Among races fortunate enough rule in their old homes the language in recent years have notable. Industrial development political freedom in Hungary accompanied a great revival of year letters. Greece is a little time, most of whose people have elsewhere. A hundred years ago Althar than Greek was spoken in speech and letters. Any one can read a Greek newspaper in York can read Herodotus.

The language of the non-Slavic nations, or "Roum," is changed from the Latin of old regions. And strange of all, to a little Greek colony buried Southern Italy which still will