

IDLENESS.

(Written for The Register.)

One of the greatest evils with which society must contend at the present day is idleness, and by idleness I mean not only that certain indisposition to labour, but an etymologically found in the German language, "emptiness."

Truly is the idle man an empty man; a burden to himself, a curse to his family, a despicable character in the eyes of his friends, a hindrance to a community, and a loathsome and half-forsaken soul to his God.

Do we not all, as children of Adam, fall under Adam's curse? Must we not earn our bread by the sweat of our brow? What then of the man whose brow or whose life gives no evidence of the fact that he is earning his daily sustenance?

Let us not all, as children of Adam, fall under Adam's curse? Must we not earn our bread by the sweat of our brow? What then of the man whose brow or whose life gives no evidence of the fact that he is earning his daily sustenance?

Next to the manifold graces God confers upon us, time is His greatest gift; a gift so precious, says Cardinal Manning, that He gives it to us only moment by moment. Do not tell me that, by such reading we do not waste this precious gift and squander the goodness of a beautiful Providence.

The man who will so spend his hours soon becomes as a ship without a rudder; drifting aimlessly about in this great storm of life, and utterly incapable of following any one course, while he is blown about by every wind soon to break upon the hidden rocks of despair.

We do they pause to consider that this is just their teaching by allowing such the literature in the hands of their little ones? "The child is becoming studious," they will say, but do they realize that poor, frail, human nature is more prone to evil than to good?

It is too gay and frivolous, and I can only reply to such a mother's words that the child is becoming a despondent character, and his mother's silence is the best of approved to his career.

We must admit the wisdom of St. Matthew, and can but shudder at our awful responsibility when we recall that "every idle word that men shall speak, he shall render an account for it in the day of judgment."

ADDRESS BY THE GRAND ORGANIZER.

Peterborough, Jan. 25.—Grand Organizer Killackey, of the C. M. B. A., addressed a large gathering in the C. M. B. A. hall last night.

Mr. Killackey gave an excellent address, in which he pointed out the good work that the association was doing, and its progress since its organization in Ontario twenty-one years ago.

Knowing the disadvantages which we ourselves meet with and the obstacles we have to overcome, far be it from me," said the speaker, "to say anything in opposition to sister societies. But the membership of this society is limited, and for that reason deserves favor at your hands.

A vote of thanks, moved by Mr. A. J. Gough, president of the local branch, and seconded by Mr. L. M. Hayes, was cordially endorsed by the audience, and was tendered the speaker.

During the evening a short musical programme was also furnished.

After the meeting Bro. Killackey was entertained at a supper at the National. The president, Mr. A. J. Gough, occupied the chair, and short speeches were made by Ven. Archbishop Casey, Mr. Killackey, Mr. Thos. Cahill and Treasurer Squin, of the Catholic Order of Foresters.

REFUGE FOR FRENCH ARTISTS.

The retreat or refuge for artists of every category at Liguere, in the Western Department of the Vienne, is now being built under the guidance of M. Huysmans, the novelist, and former disciple of Zola in literature.

Now I made some of these idle winter entertainments. I want to tell you of my wonderful success. Before a year had passed I had made a fortune of \$100,000.

AN INFAMOUS BLANDER.

(From the Catholic Union and Times.)

A despicable Britisher named Sir Henry Smith, ex-Counsel at St. James, recently made a vile attempt to resurrect the infamous calumny against the saintly Father Damien, which was started by a certain preacher named Hyde, and which Robert Louis Stevenson, the great novelist, so ably refuted.

Mr. W. E. Clarke, a friend of Stevenson's, himself a missionary in Samoa, told me that Stevenson regretted having written that pamphlet in defence of Damien more than anything else he had ever written.

The above letter in conclusion, but is made absolutely impregnable by another authority, the very highest, namely, the widow of the great novelist, who writes as follows to her friend and the friend of her lamented husband, Mr. Charles Warren Stoddard.

"A man named Smith, former British Consul at Samoa, has published a most malicious attack on Louis' memory. Every statement made by Sir Henry Smith is false, and has been so proved by responsible persons. The clipping I enclose to you I wish to have copied in all the best Catholic journals in England."

"FANNY VANDE GRIFT STEVENSON."

Thus has another attempt to rob Father Damien of his fame and reputation been frustrated. The whipping post is the only punishment for such rascals as Smith and Hyde.

CARDINAL MORAN ON THE DECAY OF PROTESTANTISM IN AUSTRALIA.

In the course of a Lenten sermon Cardinal Moran, of Sydney, said—"One speaker at the Anglican Synod in Adelaide asked the question, 'What is the Anglican Church in Australia to-day?'"

On the other hand, we see other many souls, endeavoring to draw water from broken cisterns. In this Church, men are ever growing the Tree of Life, whose leaves are for the healing of her children of all nations.

The Catholic Young Ladies' Literary Association will be another of their very enjoyable "At Home" at St. George's hall next Monday night, February 6th.

ARCHBISHOP BRUCHEM'S LENTEN FASTORIAL.

Montreal, Jan. 30.—The circular concerning the observance of Lent, addressed to the clergy by the Archbishop of Montreal, was read in the churches of the diocese yesterday at mass. It said, in part:—

The health of a large number of people has been affected since the beginning of the winter by the grippe. This malady, as well as several others, are still prevailing, almost all through the diocese.

Nevertheless, you will understand, this lightening of the ordinary rules of Lent, far from relieving the faithful from the obligation of doing penance during that holy period, must, on the contrary, render such obligation more imperious for everybody.

POPE LEO'S PLEA FOR PURITY.

Rome, Jan. 30.—Granting the customary new year's reception to the Roman nobility on Thursday, the Pope, replying to Prince Colonna's address, took occasion to severely reprimand the nobility for the tendency toward corruption and immorality prevalent among the higher classes.

Leo reminded his hearers that when the Abomination of desolation penetrated the Temple of Jerusalem, a mysterious voice from Heaven cried:—"God withdraws." He went on:—"The same terrible words are applicable to the soul without faith, abandoned to lust, and worldly ambitions.

After the ceremony the Pope's chief physician, Dr. Lappont, emphatically contradicted the report that the Pope had an attack of the grippe. The Pope's might cold has now passed, leaving a weakness.

Dr. Lappont considers Leo's constitution marvellous, and believes he will live to bless the twentieth century, celebrating the holy year already announced.

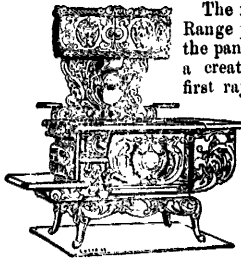
C. L. L. A.

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The tickets are sold at the small price of 50 cents each. They may be obtained from the members or at the hall that night, February 6th.

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