

THE PASSING OF IMMORTALITY

For the past three years immortality has ranked high among our mental fads, with Lodge, Doyle and Maeterlinck vying for the distinction of psychical Columbus.

But he, she, or it lives! Fanny, Frank, or Fido! To know that they were not really slumbering under the white moonlight and a shroud of blossoms in orthodox narrow cells, but were alive and living in an up-to-date, push-button, elevated, escalator, and existence; ah, that was enough for the moist-eyed sentimentalists!

But then, when the fervor flared fiercest, Oujia "cashed in." It was discovered that, while a celestial insane asylum had indeed been opened, the doors of many terrestrial ones needed to be opened.

Wrecked from psychical exploits; with sanity crushed by the forces of abnormal experience which, octopus-like, had wrapped itself around the human skull; a bedraggled line of people filed into the institutions designed to administer to "minds diseased" and to "pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow."

Too, charlatanism was widespread and unmistakable. So that people pondered more and more on the prudence of Hopsur's answer to Glendower's boast that he could call spirits from the vasty deep: "Why, so can I, or so can any man; but will they come when you do call for them?"

Thus a nausea and reaction are surely with us. Baby plays with the ouija-board no more, or makes step in it in the garret. Mediums, like Cassius, wear a lean and hungry look, and seek honest jobs in "five and ten-cent stores."

The wish is general enough that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle burn his disparate romances and serve up some more of his sure-fire, human Sherlock Holmes. Another craze has leaked over and lies gasping. The living are breathing more freely; and, perhaps, the dead.

But man must think something. And his substitutes for Spiritist preoccupations are interesting. Let G. B. Shaw and A. Keith speak. Everyone wishes an immortality of happiness; though very, very many are earnestly opposed to an endless stretch of this present troublous span.

But, amusingly, along comes Sir Arthur Keith, F. R. S., important biologist and anthropologist, with a different prospect and presentation. Shaw makes longivity the child of desire. Keith would hold that, if so, the child is illegitimate. We have no warrant from Nature, he

teaches to want to live for long or forever. Nature cares next to nothing for you or me or any other individual. She is the great lover of the species. Because she so elects, the species will endure. But her edict against the individual is death.

He concedes that civilization has wrung a few extra years of life from reluctant Nature. For gorillas and anthropoid apes are old at forty; whereas man's allotted cycle has become larger. There is something of a *petitio principii*; but interesting, withal. He even allows that immortality is not impossible, being impressed with Dr. Alexis Carrel's experiment with a bit of chicken heart which has been growing normally in a special culture at the Rockefeller Institute for nine years—perhaps for some such simple and unalarming reason as that which accounts for the increase of hair on a corpse.

His message, however, is: repudiate the possibility of lengthened life. Not a long existence, but a vigorous, efficient one, worthy the worthier aim. Extend, as far as possible, the better period of a man's days; but do not interfere materially with his given span.

In other words, don't pin your faith on longevity, but make the present moment golden. Good advice. Still it cannot effectually ward off the steady approach of toothlessness, hairlessness, rheumatism and all the other ills to which age is unwilling heir; and, worse, it would at once make the present life all the more desirable by adding to its zest, but all the less satisfactory by subtracting from the probability of its prolongation.

And so the havoc of modern thought on immortality appears. Summarily, the Spiritists turned eternity upside down. The Shawians snub the Spiritists and make immortality a thing to be achieved, if at all, here on *terra firma* and not in some immaterial *locus* or *status*.

Meanwhile Catholics are smiling the smile of peace, and the chicken-hearted exponent in Rockefeller Institute. Such is faith, especially when founded on a rock.—Edward F. Murphy, Ph. D., in America.

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HONESTY AS THE "BEST POLICY"

New York, Dec. 26.—Public schools in the city of New York will introduce a course in "honesty" as an antidote to crime, based on the theory that honesty is the best policy. Such instruction has the sanction of President Anning S. Prall of the Board of Education, according to a letter he has written to the head of a large fidelity and insurance company, who said that a general deterioration in moral fibre was the principal reason why burglars and embezzlers were stealing about ten times as much as formerly and why surety companies were losing \$10,000,000 annually from burglaries and \$5,000,000 from embezzlements.

"ONE FOLD AND ONE SHEPHERD"

New York, Dec. 22.—At a close of a special service in the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine to welcome Most Rev. Meletios, Bishop of the Schismatic Greek Church the latter, in the course of an address to the assembly of Episcopal clergymen and laymen and several bishops of oriental bodies, declared that "since our hearts beat already in such oneness, I am sure that the day is not far off when we shall be one fold with one shepherd."

The service had for its purpose the propagation of church unity. Right Rev. William T. Manning, Bishop of New York, and Right Rev. Thomas F. Gailor, chairman of the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church congratulated their religious fellows on the presence of Bishop Meletios among them.

"We feel it a great blessing to have with us in this cathedral and at this altar the head and chief shepherd of the Mother Church of Christendom," said Bishop Manning. As a special mark of deference to the schismatic visitors, Bishop Manning wore the pallium presented to him by the Russian Archbishop, Bishop Manning is one of the few

Episcopal Bishops who possess or will wear a pallium from any source. By way of a further compliment to the schismatic dignitaries, the Nieme Creed was recited instead of the Apostles' Creed.

STATUE TO HEROIC SISTERS

Washington, D. C., Dec. 26.—Eleven orders of Catholic sisters will be represented in the "Nuns of the Battlefield" monument which will be erected by the Ancient Order of Hibernians in the nation's capital as a tribute to the sacrifices made by women in religious orders on the fields of the Civil War.

To make certain that every detail of each habit will be correct, arrangements have been made with sisters studying at the Catholic Sisters' College here to visit the sculptor's studio and inspect the figures representing their different orders. The model for the statue is now complete.

The orders represented in the group, which will be ten feet in height and about eighteen in length, include the Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of the Holy Cross, Sisters of Divine Providence, Sisters of Charity, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Dominican Sisters, Ursuline Nuns, Sisters of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy and Sisters of St. Joseph.

It is expected that the statue will be unveiled during the coming year, according to Mrs. Ellen Ryan Jolly, who has been chief sponsor of the movement to honor the heroic nuns who served humanity so well.

"Throughout the centuries," declares Mrs. Jolly, "the sisters of many religious orders have been ministering angels in times of war. Many governments accepted their services. When peace came the nuns went back to their convent homes and their gentle services to the sick, the wounded, the dying, and the dead were forgotten. The United States, by its grant of one of the most desirable sites in the beautiful city of Washington for the monument to heroic sisters who served in the Civil War, has set a notable example to the nations of the world."

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GEORGETOWN U.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 26.—Two scholarships, to be known as the "Edward Douglas White" scholarships, have been founded at Georgetown University, according to the Rev. John B. Creeden, president of the Institution. The scholarships were endowed by Mrs. White in memory of the late Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, who attended Georgetown College in 1880, leaving his studies to join the Confederate Army.

Mrs. White has also presented to the Georgetown Preparatory School at Garret Park, Md., a set of Latin classics, comprising 250 volumes, in memory of her husband.

The college scholarships provide for free tuition and part payment of board during the college course.

WORLD'S FOREMOST LINGUIST

Prague, Dec. 15.—One of the world's foremost linguists recently celebrated his sixtieth birthday in the small parish of which he is cure.

He is Rev. M. Kondelka, better known under the pseudonym, "O. S. Vetti," and is known to have mastered thirty-four languages. While at school and in the seminary he learned Latin, Italian, English, Spanish, and various Slav tongues. After his ordination he added a knowledge of Swedish, Dutch, Finnish and other languages and dialects, meanwhile making voluminous contributions of translations to magazines. Later he turned attention to the Magyar tongue and

studied Turkish, Aranian, Hindustani, Armenian, Greek, Russian Polish, and German. He is now translating the best authors of the tongues he has acquired into Czech. It is quite probable that Father Kondelka is the world's greatest linguist. Cardinal Mezzofanti, who is regarded as the greatest linguist of all times, spoke fifty-eight languages.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, Jan. 1.—The feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord, a holiday of obligation in the United States.

Monday, Jan. 2.—St. Fulgentius, Bishop, who by his books and letters, confounded both Pelagian and Arian heresies and confirmed the Catholics of Africa and Gaul in the Faith. He died in 530 after having suffered many persecutions.

Tuesday, Jan. 3.—St. Genevieve, Virgin, who was born near Paris and was a constant advisor of Clovis. During the pestilence in Paris in 1129, when 14,000 died, the shrine of St. Genevieve was carried in solemn procession. Only three persons died that day, the rest recovered and no others were taken ill. St. Genevieve is patron of Paris.

Wednesday, Jan. 4.—St. Titus, Bishop, of the diocese of Crete. He was a fellow-laborer on many of his missions. He carried Paul's second epistle to the Corinthians and later was made Bishop of Crete.

Thursday, Jan. 5.—St. Simeon Stylites, who spent twenty-seven years on the top of pillars, exposed to heat and cold, adoring God. At last, in the year 400, those who watched from below observed he had been motionless for three days. They ascended and found him dead, in an attitude of prayer.

Friday, Jan. 6.—The Feast of the Epiphany, which commemorates Jesus' manifestation to the wise men, the manifestation of His divinity when John baptized him in the Jordan and that of his miraculous power when he changed water into wine at Cana.

Saturday, Jan. 7.—St. Lucian, martyr, whose revisions of the books of the Old and New Testaments prepared the way for St. Jerome. He died in prison.

LITTLE TALES

A correspondent writes to the New York Herald that George W. Christian, Jr., secretary to President Harding, is reported to have said to Lord Northcliffe at the White House when indicating the way to the President's office, "Come on in, Lord."

This recalls a story heard in Washington in 1871—fifty years ago—when the Joint High Commission to arrange the Treaty of Washington was sitting for the settlement of the Alabama claims.

The President gave a luncheon at the White House to the Commissioners, the chairman of whom was Earl de Grey and Ripon. The White House butler especially instructed the colored waiters to say "My Lord" when spoken to by His Lordship. All went well until the Earl asked what a certain dish handed to him to partake of was.

"It is cold salmon, my God," said, the colored waiter.

DIED

FREEL.—At Hotel Dieu, Windsor, Ont., on December 18, 1921, Edwin Jerome Freel, aged sixty-one years. May his soul rest in peace.

FLEMING.—At the General Hospital, Medicine Hat, Alberta, on Sunday, December 4, James M. Fleming, of Retlaw, Alberta, youngest son of the late Richard Fleming, Chepstow, Ont. May his soul rest in peace.

LYNCH.—At her late residence Percy Township, on December 16, Mrs. David Lynch, aged seventy-seven years. Interment from St. Jerome's Church, Warkworth, Ont. May her soul rest in peace.

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TEACHERS WANTED

WANTED teachers for Catholic Separate School at Kenora, must have 2nd class Ontario certificate. Salary \$750 per annum. Apply to C. McKinnon, Sec., Kenora, Ont. 225-2

TEACHER wanted for Separate School Section No. 2, Baldwin; must have third class French-English certificate. Duties to begin January 15th, 1922. School situated 3 miles from C. P. R. Station at Fortnabla. Apply stating salary expected, George Dugre, Espanola, Ont. 225-3

WANTED for P. S. No. 1, Hagar, 2nd class certified teacher with experience. Salary \$1,000. School and church, Village of Mark stay; on main line C. P. R. Apply to J. Brown, Markstay, Ont. 225-2

EXPERIENCED teacher wanted for Separate School Section No. 6, Merrill. Looking first or second class professional certificate. Duties to commence Jan. 31st. Salary \$1,000. Apply to W. Gordon Drew, Sec. Flat, Her., Ont. 225-4

WANTED 200 teachers for Saskatchewan; second class professional. Salary minimum \$1,200 a year. Apply Box 300, CATHOLIC RECORD Office, London, Ont. 225-4

TEACHER wanted for La Passe Catholic School Section No. 4; must have necessary qualifications. Certificate of teaching, both French and English. Write stating salary and experience to Hector Gervais, Sec. Trava., P. S. No. 4, La Passe, Ont. 225-3

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