

THE SAINT OF LITTLE INTERRUPTIONS.

Sacred Heart Review.

A charming story is told of St. Frances of Rome, that holy wife, mother, foundress of a religious order, widow, and then a nun in the order that she founded. She was born in 1384, and died in 1440; but the story told of her has its peculiar adaptation of our hurrying, strenuous 1905.

For indeed ours is a hurrying, restless, active life today; and "Americanitis" is not a thing to be laughed at, but a very serious matter. We have so many calls upon our time, so little leisure, so many interruptions, while such constant inroads are made upon our strength and resources, that our nervous faculties are demoralized and our patience is well-nigh gone.

And who is it that does not maintain that "little, nagging things" are the worst of all? The trifling interruptions, the ceaseless chatter, the rattling electric cars, the twanging telephone, the door-bell, the callers, the business agents for sewing machines or "postum cereal," for anything we want, or nothing we want,—oh! it may be an age of many conveniences, but they have brought in their train endless annoyances as well. If we could only be still for awhile, and attend only to what is important, to what is great!

Father Faber has declared that little, constant interruptions form the daily trial, the far from self-imposed mortification of the priest. St. Frances of Rome, however, teaches us something more than that. So now for her story.

One day, this noble Roman lady knelt down in her quiet oratory to say the prayers and read the psalms she dearly loved. It was all so very quiet, and peaceful, and restful, as she read, in Psalm 72, the words: "How good is God to Israel, to them that are of a right heart. . . I am always with Thee. Thou hast held me by my right hand; and by Thy will Thou hast conducted me, and with Thy glory Thou hast received me." But there and then came a knock at her door; her servant waited to say that Lorenzo, her husband, was departing for the chase, and wished to say farewell to her.

Sweetly she rose and left her prayers—she was wont to say that "a married woman must leave God at the altar to find Him in her domestic cares";—she saw her husband ride away, watching him faithfully till he was out of sight; then she returned to her oratory, only to be interrupted three times more at that selfsame verse. Her child wanted to speak to her, she met him with a loving smile; a pilgrim had come from the Holy Land, she humbly knelt and washed his travel-stained feet, and reverently heard his story, and gave him food; a gay young nobleman, passing by, came in for an idle chat, and was patiently and courteously received. Not once did a murmur cross those holy lips, sealed against any querulous or complaining utterance by the one soothing, uplifting thought of "the will of God."

But when she went back, peacefully, the fourth time to her little room, it seemed to her she saw a radiant form of heavenly beauty disappear from her prayer-desk; and, on the page of her missal, shone out in golden letters of unearthly loveliness the words of her psalm at which she had been so continually interrupted, and by "little interruptions" only: "I am always with Thee. Thou hast held me by my right hand; and by Thy will Thou hast conducted me, and with Thy glory Thou has received me."

Here lies the cure for our nervousness, our worry, our "Americanitis," if you choose to call it so. We must take our little interruptions, as we try to take our great ones, simply and sweetly as the will of God. This is the one thing necessary, and by doing it, we embrace always the better part of Mary; for he who does God's will everywhere, in small things as in great things, finds God everywhere, and, whether in crowds and tumult, or in prayer and Communion, he stirs not from his place at Jesus' feet. Let us look thus on "little interruptions," that come, uncalled for but imperative, in our daily lives; and sooner or later, in God's good time, our restless, nervous, storm-tossed beings will become "calm as the whirlpool's central drop."

ALMOST EVERY WOMAN

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A NOBLE MAGNATE

A visit to New York is a lesson in humility. Every material thing is so big and tall and grand, around Wall street especially, that one seems dwarfed and insignificant. No doubt the dwellers here become used to the environment and grow with it, but the stranger is a pigmy and shrinks in his own esteem, no matter how conceited he may be individually. Fortunately for me I had some influential friends and one powerful introduction. So, I managed to escape at least bewilderment. It is very difficult to enter the presence of the captains of industry and ordinarily it is as easy to see a king, but I managed, without much ceremony, to call upon Mr. Thomas F. Ryan, a multi-millionaire and president of the Seaboard Air Line, who could furnish certain information that might be of importance to me later on. Mr. Ryan is a Virginian and like his father, was a Confederate soldier. He is one of the handsomest and most impressive men I have ever encountered. He is very tall and symmetric, with power and benignity stamped upon his countenance. He is a Catholic and, in association with his devoted wife, gives millions to charity. A magnificent cathedral at Richmond, Va., is near completion, the gift of this noble couple. Their other munificent endowments are numerous. It would be to the honor of Virginia if this gallant, prosperous and generous son were elected to the United States Senate. It may be that he has no political ambition, but, in this epoch, the South needs men like him to illustrate her at the national capital. Under God, he owes his wealth to his own superior intellect, for he had to begin at the bottom of the ladder, after the war, and is now in the front rank of great capitalists who are developing the land that he courageously fought for. There are not a few ex-Confederates who have won their way marvellously in New York, but I know of none to compare with Thomas F. Ryan.—James R. Randall in Catholic Columbian.

THREE FAMOUS DOCTORS.

By Dr. James J. Walsh in Donahoe's for February.

The Irish School of Medicine has in Graves and Stokes and Corrigan a greater group of contemporaries than has been given to any other nation at one time. If we were to eliminate from nineteenth century medicine all of the inspiration derived from their work there would be much of value that would be lacking from the history of medical progress. These men were deeply imbued with the professional side of their work as physicians and were not, in any sense of the word, money-makers. Another very interesting phase in all their careers is that no one of them occupied himself exclusively with medical studies. All of them had hobbies followed faithfully and successfully together with medicine, and all of them were deeply interested in the uplifting of the medical profession, especially in securing the rights of its members and saving poor sick people from exploitation by quacks and charlatans. All of them gave of their time, their most precious possession, for the political and social interests of their fellow men, and felt in so doing that they were only accomplishing their duty in helping their generation to solve the problem that lay immediately before them.

ERADICATING THE INDELIBLE.

Carl Haeuser, the German humorist of New York, says that he met a friend one day who looked very prosperous, although a few months before he had been quite shabby. "You are doing well now?" asked Haeuser.

"Making money," was the response, "selling the only genuine indelible ink in the market."

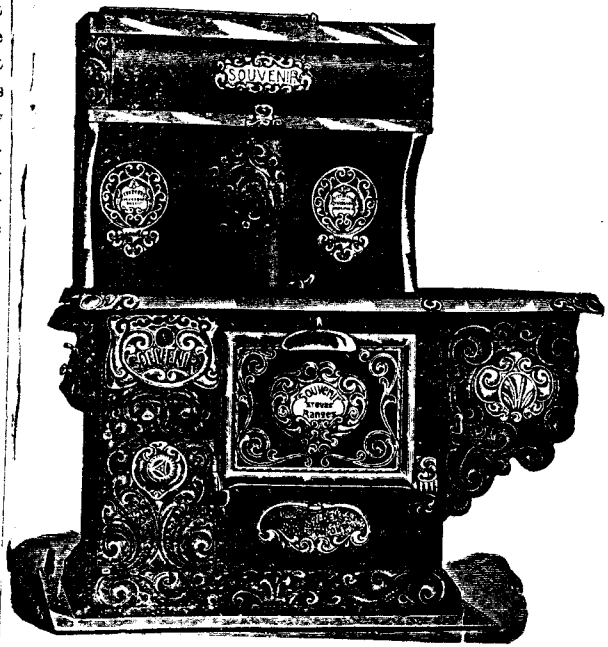
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A GOOD RETORT.

Man is so prone to err that he should reflect a little before drawing attention to the mistakes of others. A professor who prided himself on his correct English heard his wife remark:—

"I intended to tell Jane to bring a fresh bucket of water."

"You doubtless mean a bucket of fresh water," corrected the professor. "I wish you would pay some little attention to your rhetoric."

A few moments later he said:— "My dear, that picture would show to better advantage if you were to hang it over the clock."

"Ah," she replied, "you doubtless mean if I were to hang it above the clock. If I were to hang it over the clock we could not tell the time. I wish you would be more careful with your rhetoric, my dear."

And the learned professor became all at once much interested in his book.

SHREWD INSANITY.

The Protestant chaplain of a large private asylum asked a brother clergyman to preach to the inmates on a Sunday during his absence. Before going away he said: "Preach your best, for though insane on some points they are very intelligent." So he talked to them of India and of heathen mothers who threw their dear little babies into the sacred river Ganges as offerings to their false gods. Tears streamed down the face of one listener, evidently deeply affected. When asked by the preacher afterward what part of the sermon had touched his heart with grief, the lunatic replied: "I was thinking it was a pity your mother didn't throw you in the Ganges."

"Gentlemen of the jury" said the eloquent K.C. "I leave the rest to you. You are Englishmen. You come of a valorous race. The blood of your Saxon forefathers tingles in your veins. As men you would scorn to insult a woman—scorn to ill-treat one—scorn to say aught that is unmanly or unbecoming to a member of the weaker sex—"

"And only this morning" interrupted a shrill voice from the gallery "that man called me a meddling old cat!"

It was the K.C.'s wife. He lost his case.

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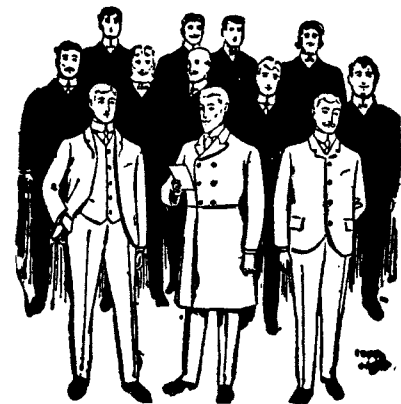
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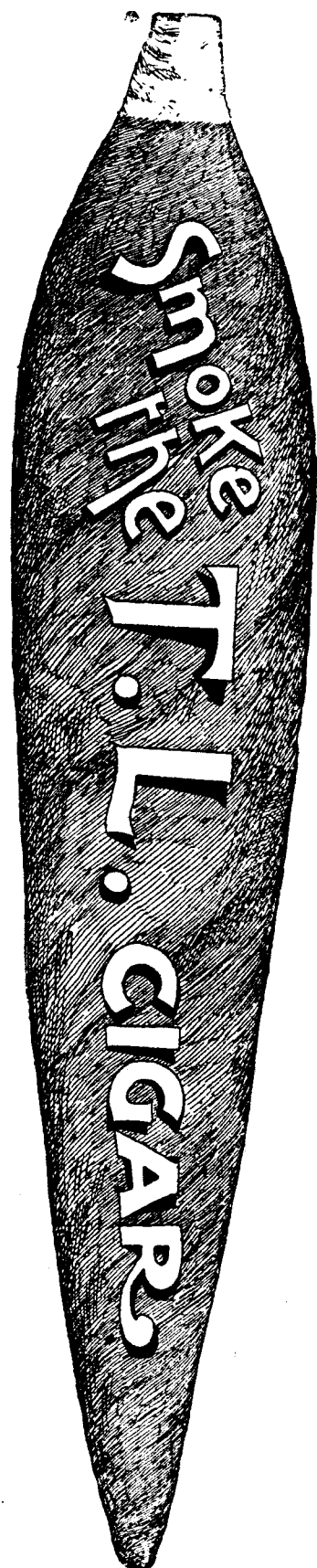
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