BY A PROTESTANT THEOLOGIAN. CCCIV.

The Presbyterian Witness, of March 19, has the following paragraph:

"Our Irish friends are not by any means happy. They still insist upon Home Rule. They still claim a University with a 'Catholic atmosphere.' They have formed a 'Catholic Association' which is intended to voot out all which is intended to root out all Protestants from the land; but Arch-bishop Walsh has expressed disapproval of it, and it may not do much harm.

Here are three gibes at the Catholic Irish, the third accompanied with a great exaggeration. Let us consider them in turn.

hem in turn.

The tone of this paragraph, as we see, is that of contemptuous surprise that the Catholic Irish should presume to crave anything which their Pro-testant countrymen do not wish them to

Of course, setting aside the Parnells, and Emmetts, and Lord Edwards, etc., the Irish Protestants, in view of Catholie Emancipation, are hardly desirous of seeing an Irish Parliament, since they lean upon the Westminster Parliament in the hope of maintaining the ascendency which otherwise their great numerical inferiority would render impossible. Is it not rather unreasonable, though, to expect that the Catholic three-fourths will the Catholic three-fourths will ever be contented while so large a proportion of public functionaries, of every grade, is taken from the minority, even after making full account of their advantages of education and of the Scottish energy which so

many of them inherit? I speak as one that has a little Irish blood, but not a drop of Scottish. Like it or dislike it, we may depend upon it that "Celtic obstinacy" is not likely to give over until, without doing any wrong to the minority, the general complexion of Irish administration shall have been brought more nearly into agreement with the interests and instincts of the immense majority. Whether the final settlement will take Whether the final settlement will take the form of a Dublin Parliament or not, of course I do not know, as both islands must agree in the ultimate adjustment. In some form, however, Home Rule is a certainty of the future. As Justin McCarthy well says, the ocean insists on union; the sea forbids identification. It has been reasonably remarked, that, should the Irish be removed in a body, and their place taken by unmixed English or Scotch, geographical necessity would soon induce a Home Rule ques-

The sneer of our friends of the Witness (after all, a not very ferocious one) becomes more pronounced over the Catholic demand for a University with a Catholic atmosphere." is there amiss in this? One would think it was the most natural and reasonable request in the world. The Protestant fourth has a University, en dowed by the State, with so very decided a "Protestant atmosphere," that one of its professors (Tyrrell) feels himself free to publish an almost ferocious satire, in verse, upon the Catholic Church of Ireland. Surely Catholic parents may very well wish to be aided by the Government in setting up a school where their sons shall not be exposed to the influence of such teachers

That pleasant writer, Miss Ellen Thorneycroft, in one of her agreeable novels sets forth with Irish lucidity, while declaring herself an unmoved Anglican, the claims which the Irish bave in equity to a Catholic University. She has a right to represent the passage of the bill as a thing of the past, for it is a simple certainty of the future. The present Government, it is headed by its Presbyterian a Government, it had not the nerve to

present Bishops of the English Establishment are men of high character, marked ability, and a sober mind.
Their sympathies of course are strongly engaged for Trinity College, Dublin.
Yet I believe that the whole body of them, headed by the two Primates, has expressed emphatic approbation of the Roman Catholic claim. Surely this means a good deal for unprejudiced minds. The Spectator too, which is fixedly Protestant, and sometimes more zealously than intelligently so, treats the right of the Irish to a Catholic University as past all question. In-deed, aside from party complications, it does not seem to be seriously questioned by thinkers!

Why is it, then, that the non-Conformists are so firmly, indeed so fierce ly, against it? We may answer: the present non-Conformists are against anything and everything that will please or profit either Churchmen or Catholics. Bitter religious anin. sity has a leading part in their programme, and well-advised justice a very sub-ordinate part. They have, through many generations, slowly and painfully wrought their way, first from under flagrant violence, then from under dull oppressiveness, until now, when their numbers have come to rival those of the Episcopalians, they may be said to have entered upon their actively perse-cuting stage. Indeed, their great leader, the Baptist Dr. Clifford (personally a very amiable man) declares that he is following the example of M. Combes, although, he makes haste to add, he is not against religion! Think of that! A Christian pastor finding it necessary to assure men that he is no an enemy of religion!

Facilis descensus Averno.

When a man has gone so far as to have need of making such an avowal, he, and his followers, are on the way to worse. Indeed, one nonConformist two sounding not obscurely like a threat to put down all priests in England, Catholic or Anglican. To be sure, this has given such offense to the from the league. Yet this only exag-gerates beyond decency what I may handle the stand of Our Lady, May, the fairest and brighest in the golden cycle. — St. Anthony's Messenger.

fairly call a persecuting temper of the non-Conformists at large. Their chief immediate displeasure, naturally, is turned against the Epis-copalians, but they are relentlessly hostile to the reasonable and equitable proposal to secure for the Irish a university "with a Catholic atmos-phere," but under lay administration, Mr. Arnold White has reason to say, that their wish is not for religious that their wish is not for religious equality, but for Protestant ascend-

They are not content with that meas ure of ascendency which is necessarily involved in an overwhelming Protestant majority of the whole kingdom. are not willing that the Catholic three-fourths of Ireland should have that higher education which is secured to the Protestant one-fourth, unless they will take it under Protestant auspices, including, of course, the auspices of Professor Tyrrell. Therefore the bril-liant-minded Irish are so handicapped in the race of life that fair minded Viceroys and Secretaries lament that they cannot give that measure of public employment to the young men of the majority to which these have a reasonable claim, because they cannot find a sufficient portion that are suitably trained. This unhappy fact seems to give the non Conformists not an ounce of concern. "Take your intellectual bread from Protestant hands." say, "or go without it. At least you shall not, with our good will, have a penny out of the Treasury to assist you."

These men do not seem to see that These men do not seem to see that, even from their own point of view, the higher education, besides being a natural right of the major, if it is of the minor part, naturally tends to train independence of mind, and to reduce undue submissiveness, so that educated men and women, retaining their religion, are easily raised above super-stitiousness, or mere unreasoning ad-herence. It is true, however highly educated, they are almost sure still to merit the reproach of Dr. Clifford's exemplar, M. Combes, by continuing to dislike divorce, by holding aloof from lodges, and by detesting necromancy. Yet these are forms of Protestant ightenment for which we can hardly

suppose that the Presbyterian Witness is very enthusiastic.

There are men among the Noncomformists, such as Dr. Fairbairn, Dr. McKennal, Dr. Shakespeare, who, in thoughtfulness and picty, are equal to the best of the Anglican Bishops. Yet, forty years ago, I began to have mis-givings whether the English Dissenters were not falling into practical atheism, so that I was not greatly surprised to hear subsequently the complaint of a Welsh Congregationalist, that the churches of his persuasion were becom-ing mere infidel clubs. Now, too, I observe complaints from Baptist and Independent ministers and deacons, that their churches are becoming mere associations for assailing the prevailing religion of England. Can it be that hatred of religion, finding in England too many impediments to avowed organ-ization, is making its way, more or less, into the Nonconforming churches, in order, under the name of a warfare against priestcraft, to carry on a warfare against Christianity?

CHARLES C. STARBUCK. Andover, Mass.

A LEGEND.

BY SISTER BONAVENTURA, O. S. F.

It was a glorious eventide in the land of Judah. The tender shadows were recepting over the verdant glades, while Zion's hoar brow shone bright in the diadem with which the departing mon arch of day crowned it. The strains o the shepherds' songs as they guided their flock homeward, and the merry carolling of the dark-eyed maidens, known, headed by its Presbyterian chief, acknowledges the rightfulness of the claim, although, even when it was a Government, it had not the nerve to verdant earth, came apace. Over a blooming meadow there tripped a little maiden fairer and more graceful than ever had dawned upon poet's vision. She was clad in spotless white; bright ringlets, soft and silken, gleaming as richest gold, fell in luxuriant ripples over her shoulders, and veiled a face of exquisite loveliness. A small basket hung upon the child's arm; the arm of the most beauteous of earth's daughters

the sinless child Mary.
While her companions at the Temple school had been enjoying to the u most the freedom from labor and study, granted in honor of the High Priest, the dear child had stolen away with her share of the delicacies as a refreshment for an aged invalid, to whose relief whatever was given for her own enjoy-ment and recreation was devoted. The lonely sufferer was more depressed on that particular afternoon than usual, and the sweet child in the exuberance of tenderness and pity, which in after days procured her the title " Mother of Mercy,' had tarried, whispering words of soothing in a voice sweeter and more tender than echoes of angel melodies, until the lengthening shadows warned her to hasten to her Temple-home.

On sped the little one, and as she flitted over the meadows, the flowers eemed to cling to her dainty footsteps. and the last rays of the sinking sun ap peared to linger casting an aureole of molten gold upon the pure upturned brow. Her eyes, blue as the sapphire skies, were raised from time to time to the radiant heaven, while a smile of in effable love lingered around the sweet mouth as she gazed past the fleeting crimson-tipped clouds, far beyond, in adoring love. The shadows fell aslant; gentle Mary must not be a loiterer, she quickens her footsteps and lo! as they press the sod, delicate flowerets, white as the driven snow, jewel the meadow's baeast. The fair May Bells gleamed forth in snowy radiance to greet their Queen. And ever as the May-tide comes anon, the graceful little bells start from their winter slumbers, and ring out, all over the land, sweet less ferocious that even a zealot like and clear, as silver chimes, the month

FIVE-MINUTES SERMON.

Third Sunday After Pentecost.

SINFUL AMUSEMENTS.

Be sober and watch, because your adversary ne devil as a roaring lion goeth about, seek ng whom he may devour. (Epistle of the Day. ing whom ne may devour. (Epistle of the Day.)

I need not tell you, dear brethren, that there is nothing more contrary to the spirit of our holy religion than melancholy. The Church would not have her children long - faced and mopish, eschewing all pleasure as a thing sinful; nor would she have them unhappy by depriving them of what is good and forbidding what is innocent, but like a wise mother she permits, nay, sanctions, harmless amusements, knowing that this, far from being an knowing that this, far from being an impediment to us in our efforts after

holiness, is rather a help.

But, unfortunately, all pleasures are not innocent. There are some which are sinful-very sinful-and which, instead of aiding us by begetting a holy gladness, fill us with remorse and rob the soul of the grace of God, which is the principle of all our joy. Such the principle of all our joy. Such pleasures as these the Church forbids : such as these she would have us avoid, and she warns us that they come not from God, but from our adversary the devil, who is seeking our ruin. It is with regret that we say it, still we say it with truth, that of late years a very dangerous sort of amusement has taken more or less hold upon numbers of our young poople, and, now that we are at the beginning of summer, it may not be amiss to say a word or two about a cer-tain sort of "picnics." It is hard to conceive how a young

man or woman, who wishes to be deemed respectable, or even to preserve selfrespectable, or even to preserve self-respect, can attend any of those moon-light gatherings known as picnics, festi-vals, etc. Call them by what name you please, as a whole they are bad. The places where these meetings are held, the persons whom you cannot avoid coming in contact with, make them dangerous at least, and very frequently a real occasion of sin. How can a young girl know the character of him whom she is dancing? She has been introduced, to be sure, but what of that? Does she feel quite certain that she may not be subjected to insult, or worse? Is she satisfied that her mother would be pleased to see her with her present companions? Is she not engaged in a dance which borders on immodesty? Take care, my good girl, you have taken your first down-ward step to-night; retrace your way, and never be found at such a "festival" as this again, if you value your good Nor can young men attend "moonlight rural gatherings" name. without endangering their fair fame and interests. A pure woman will not marry a man who consorts with bad characters. She will not trust herself to the tender mercies of one who reaches home in the early morning in a half or wholly drunken state. She cannot look forward to a happy life with one of this forward to a happy life with one of this character, and she will not encourage his attentions. Employers are not over-anxious to have in their service those who come to their occupations with evident marks of debauchery. They believe that young men of this sort are not efficient, and they believe a sightly, they think that these are so rightly; they think that these are not altogether trustworthy; that they are constantly exposing themselves to danger and theft. It does not pay, young men, to go to "moonlight picnics." It is not to your interest, either temporal or spiritual. Do not be carried away with the idea that you can be dissipated with impurity. "Bo be dissipated with impunity. "Be sober and watch" yourselves, remembering that a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and certainly to be preferred to the gross pleasures

THE FIRST PRECEPT.

of moonlight orgies.

According to this first law of the Church we are required, under the pendone; and evening, its dewy pinions dropping peace and blissful rest on the verdant earth, came areas. The hot, weary day was days and holy days. Note well the language of the commandment, "to hear Mass." This means competition more than merely going to church. It implies an intelligent act, a mental participation in the Sacrifice offered by the officiating priest.

Yet are there not some who without good cause absent themselves from go ing to church on those days mentioned in the precept? Some who for trivial causes do not hear Mass on Sundays and some who do not know when the special days fixed for the performance of the same duty occur? And others still who, despite the positive law, deem it no serious matter to offend against the same at their own pleasure.

against the same at their own pleasure.

But as to those who attend. Among these are there not also some who do not comply with the requirements of the law? A casual observation prompts an affirmative answer. Some come late and leave early. Some have their thoughts on many things absolutely at variance with the great Mystery enacted. Some know but few prayers said by the priest, yet they are never seen follow-

ing the same from a prayer book.

Wherein do such persons comply with the law? Wherein do they give evidence of an intelligent act? By their conduct they indicate a belief that to hear Mass means nothing more that to hear Mass means nothing more than their bodily presence in the Church. This, however, is not the character of worship which is due to God. Neither will it suffice to meet the requirements of the law, and those who are given to it are not only violat-ing the first precept of the Church, but are also guilty of a positive insult to God .- Church Progress.

We sometimes congratulate ourselves waking from at the moment of waking from a troubled dream; it may be so at the noment after death.

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SAURED PICTURES IN THE HOME

olics deal with pictures of sacred sub jects, she says:
"It is almost a proverb in New England that you can tell a Unitarian home by the number of Madonnas in it. But in the Catholic home, too often, the

house not seen by the transient guest."
Some Catholic house mothers, Miss
Conway declares (and we all know how rne are her words) have extraordin ary ideas as to the fitness of location for sacred pictures. For while the Protestant matron of culture, but with-out the gift of faith, hangs the Sistine Madonna over the mantel in her front drawing-room, her Catholic neighbor sends the like picture up to a bedroom and puts the "Puritan Maid" or a Japmese landscape in the place of honor

Of course Catholics of sense who have art which is the Church's possession do not make such errors of judgment, but (again in the words of Miss Conway) there are Catholics so full of human respect, and so narrow and uncultured withal, that they exclude sacred pic-tures from prominence in their houses, lest they be reckoned devout, or annoy the non Catholic or infidel guest. The lo not fear to offend pure eyes with dangerously suggestive pagan pictures, nor refined taste with the banalities of some fleeting fashion of art. They have not sufficient common sense nor finenes of feeling to understand what they are shutting out of their own lives and those of their children in banishing the Blessed Mother and the Divine Child."

It may be added that it is not the tholics of humble life who do this Catholics sort of thing. They may err by placing upon their walls inartistic daubs supposed to represent the saints or Jesus Christ and His Mother, but their error is by no means so great as that of the newly rich Catholics who want to hide away in the recesses of their homes all suggestions of that Catholicity which they should be proud to own and acknowledge.—Catholic Columbian.

A CHRISTIAN WAY OF SETTLING INTERNATIONAL DIFFICUL-

" The quarrelsome little republics of South America " have often been alluded to by orators in this country when contrasting the peace existing between all the States in our Federal Union with the hostility prevailing between the various countries in the southern hemisphere. But this rebuke can not any longer be fairly leveled at our South American neighbors. Recent events among them show that they are far in advance of the Anglo-Saxons in their earnest desire to settle their quarrels peaceably. A despatch from Managua, Nicaragua, last week stated, that the foreign ministers respectively of Nicaragua, Honduras, and Salvador, had met recently at Amapala, an island in the gulf of Fonseca, belonging to Honduras, and had discussed the political affairs of their respective countries. The result is said to have been so satisfactory that the proposed conference of the presidents of the three Republics is considered to be un-

ecessary.
This seems to be the practical working out of the arbitration idea attempted by the great Powers at The Hague. But a still more striking instance of the peaceful spirit of peoples, supposed by North Americans to be peculiarly flery and pugnacious, was the mutua disarmament agreement reached a short time ago between Chili and the Argentine Republic, and the decision to abandon the forts erected on their borders, and to raise, instead, on the summitt of the Andes, an immense statue of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus

This extraordinary substitution of the symbol of Christianity for the grim strongholds of war has attracted the attention of the world to the two South American countries involved in the agreement, and lovers of peace in all lands have been encouraged by such a signal manifestation of international a signal manifestation of international amity. Some even in these progressive United States are drawing lessons from it. The other night in New York, Edwin D. Mead of this city, made a speech in which he contrasted to our detriment the war spirit of our country, as shown in the increase of our navy, with the disarmament agreement of Chili and Argentina. Mr. Mead said it was not worthy of the civilization which this country had attained to spend hundreds of millions for battleships, when south American countries, which we consider semi-civilized, were erecting figures of Christ on their frontier.—Sacred Heart Re-view.

Bad Catholics the Church's Weak-

"The weakness of the Catholic Church "The weakness of the Catholic Church it," as Bishop Spalding says, "that so many Catholics say one thing and do another." The creed does not make Protestants and pessimists, but the people do. The secret sins, the public scandals, the petty enmities, the rule or ruin policy, dishonest and bad advice among the educated and pretentious classes make the average man avoid, distrust and disbelieve. The cure Let Catholics be sincere, humble and charitable, but withal, wise, unmasking the hypocrite. Eternal vigilance is a virtue if exercised over one's self, and

In the current Issue of the Holy Family Magazine, Miss Katherine E Conway, of the Boston Pilot, has a word to say with regard to sacred pic-tures in Catholic homes which we wish all Catholics would hear and heed. Commenting on the way too many Cath-

stered pictures are few and unbeautiful, and relegated to those portions of the

lown stairs.

Christ, the Prince of Peace.

When a Rich Man Dies

his policies of life insurance often prove to be more useful just then than his other property. They bring cash— immediately—without shrinkage—and at a time when money is much needed. His bank account may be small; securities may be selling at ruinously low prices; money may not be easily bor-rowed; and there may be large accounts rowed; and there may be large accounts to settle. Would it not be wise, then, for you to secure a policy, or to in-crease your present insurance and thus facilitate the administration of your estate? The best forms of policy contracts may be obtained from th

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ACTS OF REPARATION.

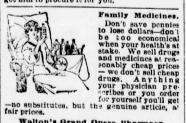
In ordering crucifixes to be removed from all courtrooms throughout France the Combes Government has unwillingly contributed to a religious revival. Everywhere what is known as an act of reparation is performed. In some places the crucifix is borne to a church in solemn procession; in other places the symbol of man's redemption, after being torn from the walls of the court, has been placed either in the City Hall or in the Council Chamber of the local Assembly.
In Tours, for instance, the act of rep-

aration filled the Cathedral with a congregation numbering four thousand. The Archbishop celebrated a Mass, at was again filled with a great crowd. The Archbishop, assisted by his two Vicars-General, made the Stations of the Cross. A correspondent of the Universe describing the scene, says: Nothing could be more touching, more impressive, than the manner in which this act of reparation was performed. The crowd chanted the 'O, Crux Aye' ('Hail, O Cross') with every manifestation of piety, which bore testimony to their faith, as well as to the great sorrow they felt. A choir of seminarians chanted the 'Miserere.' At the end of each verse thousands of voices were heard repeating the supplication, 'Parce

Domine' ('Spare, O Lord.')."

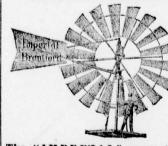
From all over France come similar accounts of popular manifestations. The infidel rulers of France, in wanton-The inder rulers of France, in wanton-ly wounding the religious sensibilities of the French people, have aroused a storm of indignation which shows that the French are still loyal children of the Church.— N Y. Freeman's Journal.

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JUNE 11,

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