

SHORT SERMONS FOR SINCERE SOULS.

No. III.

Honor your father and your mother. Learn, christian children, from the holy youth of Sacred Scripture your duty of obedience. The voice of your parents is the voice of God. Would the pious Isaac, think you, have been willing to allow his life to be sacrificed by his father Abraham, if he had not recognized in his father's command the voice of God? He had grown to the age of manhood, when he was called upon to lay down his life—he could easily have resisted his father's will, when he bound him for the sacrifice, for they were alone—he must at least have felt a natural desire to live, for he was young—it was natural that he should even call in question the propriety of this immolation, for it was unnatural. And does he any of these things? He does not; this pious youth: the Scripture is silent upon all these points. Whence then this obedience unto death? Whence this dutiful offering of himself in silence and without a murmur to this unnatural command of his father? It can only have been because he recognized in that father's voice, the voice of God. Of himself, no father has a right to take away the life of his child. Isaac must have known this. He must have felt that, humanly speaking, his father's conduct was inhuman. And yet he is silent—he is obedient—he is passive. Whence all this? It can only be that he recognizes in his father's will a higher decree: it can only be because he feels that in laying down his life at his father's command, he is obeying God. Oh! glorious martyrdom of obedience, surpassing, if possible, the fortitude of the christian martyrs. It is indeed an act of holy fortitude to receive the death blow from those who hate us; but to receive it from the hands of those who love us, a holier bravery still. Oh! christian children, when the devil, the author of that first disobedience that robbed man of paradise, tempts you as he tempted of old our common mother Eve, to think that you are wiser than the parents that begat you, when he tempts you to think that the commands of your parents are harsh and unnecessary, think of the silent obedience of the pious Isaac. When self-love, or the indolence natural to youth makes you feel inclined, if not to disobey, at least to defer your obedience—to procrastinate the fulfillment of their commands, think of the ready instant obedience of this holy youth. And remember your parents ask you only to obey some reasonable—some evidently necessary request. Isaac was silently submissive to an evidently unreasonable, unnecessary command. Away, then, all murmuring—all delay—all unwilling obedience, christian child, if you wish not the pious Isaac to rise up in judgment against you.

The piety of the Rechabites should put to the blush those christian children, who, preferring their own will and comfort, disregard the commands of their parents. In the days of Joakim, the son of Josias, King of Juda, God sent Jeremias, the prophet, to try that people. "Go," said the Lord, "to the house of the Rechabites, and speak to them, and bring them into the house of the Lord, into one of the chambers of the treasures, and thou shalt give them wine to drink." And Jeremias did as he was commanded, and he "set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites pots full of wine, and cups, and said to them, Drink ye wine. And they answered, We will not drink wine, because Jonadab the son of Rechabab, our father, commanded us saying, You shall drink no wine, neither you nor your children for ever. Neither shall ye build houses nor sow seed, nor plant vineyards nor have any; but you shall dwell in tents all your days. Therefore we have obeyed the voice of Jonadab, the son of Rechabab, our father, in all things that he commanded us; so as to drink no wine all our days, neither we, nor our wives, nor our sons, nor our daughters; nor to build houses to dwell in; nor to have vineyards, or field, or seed. But we have dwelt in tents, and have been obedient according to all that Jonadab, our father, commanded us." Oh! holy obedience, that is obedient to such harsh commands! Oh! filial piety, putting to blush many thousands of christian children! "The words of Jonadab, the son of Rechabab, by which he commanded his sons, have prevailed," but christian youth has not hesitated to disobey its parents. Almighty God has sent your parents, christian child, as he sent his prophets of old to the Jews, to lead you in all your ways, and you have refused to hearken to their voice, you have refused, as did the Jews of old, to recognise therein the voice of God. Oh! senseless and ungrateful children! well may Almighty God cry out to you, upbraiding you as he did of old to the Jews, by the voice of Jeremias. "The words of Jonadab have prevailed, and they have drunk no wine to this day, because they have obeyed the commandment of their father; but I have spoken to you rising early, and speaking, and you have not obeyed. And I have sent to you all my servants, the prophets commanding you, and you have not inclined your ear nor hearkened to me. The sons of Jonadab have kept the commandments of their father, but this people hath not obeyed me." Christian children, you who alas have dared to disobey and hold as naught these prophets, your parents, whom God has sent to you, listen to the terrible threat with which God concludes this upbraiding. "Therefore thus saith the Lord of Hosts, Behold I will bring upon you all the evils that I have pronounced against you, because I have spoken to you and you have not heard; I have called to you (through your parents) and you have not answered me." This is in very truth a terrible threat, for remember it includes shortness of days—measures for measure of indignity in return, the uprooting the foundations of your house, and generally all those evils

wherewith God has threatened those who despise his word. But you, christian children, you who obey your parents in their every word, forestalling their wants and fulfilling their every desire, you christian Rechabites, what is your reward which the Lord has promised? "Thus saith the Lord of Hosts, because you have obeyed the commandments of your father, and have kept all his precepts, and have done all that he commanded you, therefore thus saith the Lord of Hosts the God of Israel. There shall not be wanting a man of the race of Jonadab the son of Rechabab, standing before me for ever." (Jer.)

But rebellious christian child, do you wish further to learn the enormity of your disobedience? Listen to the chastisements which Almighty God ordained in the law against the rebellious Jewish child, and judge thence how much greater even must be your rebellion against those parents, who have been redeemed not by the blood of goats and of oxen only, but by the blood of the Eternal Lamb. When that holy martyr St. Stephen, who had the incomparable privilege of offering the first Christian holocaust at the foot of the throne of God, when this holy protomartyr of the Christian Church laid down his life for Christ, it was by being stoned to death. There is something peculiarly terrible in this mode of execution. There stood the holy Stephen crying out as the huge stones beat against his body "Lord Jesus receive my spirit," and falling on his knees he prayed with a loud voice that prayer he had learnt at the foot of the cross, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." And in sooth it was a huge sin,—this stoning to death of this holy man,—as huge and heavy as the mountain of stones which was cast upon him. The heart runs cold as it hears the dull thud of the huge stones, as they beat against the body. Bruise after bruise—now an arm is broken in one place, now in another—now one rib—now many. Still the huge stones fall thick as hail. When no bones are broken, the flesh, the sinews and muscles are torn to shreds or beaten to jelly. Still they fly these murderous stones. The hate of his persecutors is inflamed by the sight of blood. A jagged and ponderous stone hurled with the force and precision of intensified hate, speeds on its errand of woe;—it crashes against the skull, the brains are scattered, and that tongue that amidst this hail of stones has never ceased to pray for its persecutors is silent in death. But the body even though dead is pounded with merciless stones, until it becomes a deformed mass of mangled flesh and muscles and bones and blood. Gracious heavens! christian child this was the mode of death without its honor, by the command of God himself, of every Jewish child, who dared persistently to disobey its parents. Listen to the Eternal Law-giver in the Book of Deuteronomy: "If a man have a stubborn or unruly son, who will not hear the commandment of his father or mother and being corrected slightly obedience, they shall take him and bring him to the ancients of the city and to the gate of judgment; and shall say to them, This our son is rebellious and stubborn, he slightly hearing our admonitions. And the people of this city shall stone him and he shall die, that you may take away the evil out of the midst of you, and all Israel hearing it may be afraid."

Christian child, that must indeed be a grievous evil, which merits at the hands of a just God such a terrible punishment, that must indeed be a terrible scourge, that requires so prompt a stamping out. But this was the punishment for disobedience against a Jewish parent only. How much greater must it be when against christian parents, who have been redeemed by Christ's most precious blood.

THE ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY.—This Society will celebrate Dominion Day, on Monday next, by a Pic-Nic to be held in the grounds of the Honourable Charles Wilson. A very attractive programme has been prepared, and a fine string band has been engaged for the benefit of the dancers, for whom several platforms have been got ready. This Society has incurred a great deal of expenses lately in purchasing wood, to be distributed to the poor in the coming winter, and we hope therefore, that the public will appreciate the good work done in behalf of the poor by giving the Society a good Attendance on Monday next, to enable them to meet in some measure their expenses.

ERIN AND THE BRENNANS.—On Wednesday evening the 19th inst., Mr. and Mrs. Brennan appeared for the first time before a Montreal audience to exhibit their Panorama of Ireland. The St. Patrick Hall was crowded to its utmost capacity. We have first shown to us Castle Garden, New York, the Ship starting on her voyage across the Atlantic, next a storm at sea accompanied with Thunder, lightning, rain and hail, and then the safe arrival in Dublin, where we make the acquaintance of a comical fellow, known as "Dublin Dan" the carman and take him as our guide. Visiting all the places of interest in Dublin we get an interior view of St. Patrick's Cathedral as the procession goes up to the High Altar on Christmas eve. After Visiting St. Canice's Cathedral, Co. Kilkenny, which being illuminated had an imposing effect, we visit next Glendalough, or the Seven Churches. We then get a view of Holy Cross Abbey by Moonlight, and after seeing the Vale of Arcoia, the Lakes of Killarney and many other places of historic interest to the Children of Ireland, we bid farewell to our guide mutually pleased with each other and wound our several ways home, delighted with what we had seen and heard. Mr. and Mrs. Brennan both sing and act well, and some of their impersonations, are very humorous. We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Brennan on the very successful week they have had, and deservedly so. We may also mention that they very kindly invited the St. Patrick's Orphan Children to a Matinee on last Saturday Afternoon.

ALEXANDRIA, Glengarry, Ont., June 17th, 1872.

To the Editor of The True Witness.

Dear Sir,—In your issue of the 14th inst., there appeared a communication signed "Justice," and without date, but purporting to have been written in the neighboring parish of Lochiel, which I know was not the case. That effusion alludes in such grossly insulting terms to myself, who have been a friend and supporter of the TRUE WITNESS for some eighteen years past, that I was and still am surprised to find that you allowed it to appear in such a shape, no matter whence it came, or by whom it was indited. For, surely, the animus of the writer of that elegant production must have revealed itself to the perceptions of the vast majority of your readers. So much so, that I would consider it gratuitous insolence on my part to suppose for a moment that you also did not see the point which "Justice" sought to make by his communication. There can be no manner of doubt but what that letter was written with the fixed object in view of producing the precise effect upon the minds of your Catholic readers in Glengarry, which the writer of it hypocritically professes to deprecate; namely, to arouse, instead of allaying, national antipathies between them and me.—But, Sir, I have not the slightest fears that any such consequences will result therefrom, much as the concoctors of it evidently desire so charitable a consummation. Fortunately for my case, the Scotch Catholics of Glengarry have an abiding respect for their Clergy. They are, moreover, blessed with good memories; and when the dust raised by "Justice's" base insinuations shall have blown by, they will remember the fact that this Total Abstinence movement now—thanks be to God—so widely established over the county, was not even thought of before the first of November last; they will also recollect the name of the person who began it. And I may here inform you, on the best authority, that no one, not even myself, regrets the publication of that malicious letter more than my respected confrere, Rev. Father MacDonell, of Lochiel. But, Sir, although that letter will prove perfectly harmless, so far as I am concerned, I doubt much if an impartial public will exonerate you from all blame on account of its publication, by reason of a spirit of hostility which it manifests towards a priest, whose only crime, even by the plaintiff's own showing, consists in his laboring to elevate the moral status of his flock; and for this "Justice" would fain ostracize him!—Enough on this, to me, painful subject. I grieve to be compelled to believe that there is to be found in my parish even one individual calling himself a Catholic, who could have so lost all sense of shame, as to pen such a scurrilous letter. May God forgive him, and grant him grace to mend his ways in future! I have now, Sir, to demand of you, as an act of simple justice to me under the circumstances, that you will insert prominently these few lines in your next impression.

I remain yours truly,
J. S. O'CONNOR, P. P.

[With this, the correspondence in the TRUE WITNESS, on this subject, must finish.—ED. T. W.]

ADDRESS AND PRESENTATION.

The following Address and accompanying present were presented to the Rev. Father Clune, Parish Priest of Smith's Falls, Ont., by his parishioners, on the occasion of his departure, for a short time, on a visit to his native land:—

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—Having learned that you are about to leave us for a while to pay a visit to your native land, we beg respectfully to approach you on the eve of your departure to pay to you the tribute of our sincere respect and esteem. For thirteen years we have stood in the relation of pastor and flock, and during that entire period our relations have ever been of the most happy and consoling nature. For thirteen years you have laboured faithfully in our midst, and spared no pains to advance us in the paths of eternal life.

The clear and solid instructions that fell from your lips have ever been rendered more effective by the confirmation of your personal example. If paternal kindness to each member of his flock, if the faithful discharge of all his priestly duties, if the prompt and constant attendance to the spiritual wants of all be a claim on the part of a Priest to the affections of his people, then, Rev. Sir, you have merited the love and esteem of the flock intrusted to your pastoral care. On every side we can point with feelings of gratitude and pleasure to the improvements made in our parish since we have had the happiness of being under your charge. If to-day we have in our midst a Church to which we all look with such feelings of pride, a Church that stands unsurpassed in beauty by any in the province, to your untiring energy and perseverance we are indebted for it.

Although we know that you have been actuated by higher motives than human praise, yet we deem it a duty on our part to avail ourselves of the present occasion to convey to you our appreciation of all you have done for us.

In bidding you an affectionate farewell for a time, we ask you, in the name of the whole Congregation, to accept this humble present as an expression of our love and esteem, and we hope that you may enjoy every happiness on your tour, and return to us ere long to shed around us for many years the blessing of your pastoral care.

Signed in behalf of the Congregation,
Michael Monaghan, Michael Carroll, James Shanks, Thomas Salmon, Patrick O'Donnell, Edward Salmon, Luke Cahill.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,—I thank you very sincerely for your kind address, and the beautiful gift with which it is accompanied.

Although I could scarce expect such a manifestation of feeling on your part, yet I must confess, it does not surprise me, as it is in keeping with the kindness I have ever experienced at your hands, since I have had the pleasure of being amongst you, you have always shown yourselves to be faithful children of the Church to which we have the happiness to belong; you have ever been willing to be guided by the voice of your pastor, and this outpouring of feeling to day is particularly pleasing to me, as I see in it the unmistakable evidence of your attachment to your Priest notwithstanding his personal unworthiness.

Our relations, it is true, for the last thirteen years, have been of the most happy character, and I feel convinced that they shall never be otherwise, as long as it may please my Ecclesiastical Superior to leave me in charge of this Parish.

In your kind address you have very much overrated my feeble efforts to advance your spiritual interests. It is true we have a beautiful Church to which we can all look with feelings of just pride, it is true that many sacrifices had to be made, to bring it to its present state of completion, but, my dear friends, yours were the sacrifices, yours were the labors, and mine was merely the easy task of pointing out the way.

I accept with just pleasure your beautiful present, and valuable as it is in itself, you may rest assured that I value it still more as the spontaneous expression of the sentiments of a people whom I have long since learned to love.

I shall carry it with me on my tour, and when I look upon it, either on the bosom of the deep, or on the green fields of your native land and mine, it shall ever bring to my recollection the good and faithful people of the parish of Smith's Falls.

Good by for a time, my dear people, and may God bless you, and keep you in His holy love until we have the happiness of meeting again.

MICHAEL CLUNE, Priest.

FIRE.—THIRTY-SEVEN HORSES ROASTED.—At a quarter past eleven, on Wednesday night of last week a fire broke out in Messrs. Bancroft and Sharpe's livery stables, Lagamochiere street, which was very serious in its consequences. It appears that the foreman, Mr. Curtin, (who resides on the premises) had but a few moments before gone his usual rounds to ascertain that all was secure, and upon preparing to retire to bed some few minutes afterwards, hearing a noise in the yard beneath, looked out and saw the hay loft in flames. He immediately obtained assistance and endeavored to save the horses, but owing to the dense and suffocating smoke it was with great difficulty that even five of the animals were rescued. Curtin was so much stupefied by the smoke that it was all he could do to save his own life. The stables were soon wrapped in flames, and it became impossible to save any more of the unfortunate animals, thirty-seven of which were burned to death. The flames spread very rapidly, and by the time the reels arrived had hold of everything on the premises. Soon the roof facing Alexander street fell in with a heavy crash, and the remaining part of the buildings, faired by a high wind, were soon reduced to ruins. There was a good supply of water, so much so that the aid of the steam engine, which was in attendance was not required. The firemen behaved with their usual intrepidity, and deserve great praise for their exertions. A large quantity of hay stored in the loft was destroyed, and 23 wagons and 16 buggies reduced to charred skeletons. Among the vehicles destroyed was the pleasure van "Pride of Canada." The horses generally were valuable, but neither the exact amount of loss nor of the insurance could be ascertained last night. The cause of the fire is inexplicable, but its career was sudden and destructive, by the time the firemen had reached their stations, another alarm sounded from the corner of St. Sophie Lane, where a shed, at the upper end of the street was found to be in flames. Three cows were in it, but were rescued; the shed was, however, destroyed also a large number of fowls.—*Heard.*

TERRIBLE ACCIDENTS OF THE GRAND TRUNK AND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAYS.—At about midnight on Friday last, the locomotive of the express train coming east left the track, when a short distance from Shamoville, near Belleville. The express and baggage cars, it is reported, were forced past the engine, without being injured, but the moving car telescoped the second class car, and the latter going forward knocked off the safety valve of the boiler, and remained on the top of the engine, allowing the steam to fill the second class car, which was filled with passengers. Several persons were killed and a large number severely scalded by the volumes of steam, which at once filled the shattered car. The injured were extricated with the utmost despatch, and received medical attendance from professional men belonging to the district. The wounded were afterwards taken to Belleville, Kingston, and other towns as desired.

A telegram from Belleville states that eleven deaths had occurred up to late on Saturday afternoon, and there were about forty passengers injured.

A collision occurred on the Great Western Railway on Thursday evening, just east of London city, by which one man lost his life; another was so badly injured that his recovery is doubted. Several others have also received hurts of a minor character. It seems that a special freight train going eastward, through some bungling on the part of a despatcher, ran fast of the grand trunk, which was attacked by a "Caloos" car, containing about 18 or 20 employees of the road, returning from Wabano. The engine of the special completely telescoped the engine car, which was thrown upon the top of the locomotive, knocking off its smoke-stack, and disabling it utterly. The engine of the special got her head gear badly damaged. A young man named David Ward, who was in the caboose, was killed on the spot. His head was severed from his body, and his heart was nearly torn out, while his body generally was very mangled. A man named Day, also belonging to London was very badly hurt, and the chances are that he will not recover, both his legs being crushed badly. A young man from Guelph sustained some frightful injuries to the lower portion of his body, and one of his legs had to be amputated near the thigh joint. Out of all the occupants of the caboose, only a few escaped contusions and bruises, and some of them were of a very serious nature. The unfortunate man Ward, who was killed, leaves a wife and six children.—*Gazette.*

NARROW ESCAPE FROM DROWNING.—Last evening, as Mr. Frank Hawkins and Mr. C. Scott, of the Ottawa Post Office, were fishing from a small boat at the foot of the Rideau Falls, they noticed a man who was bathing in the river gradually carried out with the strong current. The swimmer who appeared to be a powerful man, used every exertion to regain the shore, until finding himself becoming exhausted, he sent up a thrilling shout for help. Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Scott, who did not think he was in any danger at first, at once cut loose their anchor, and proceeded to assist him, but before they could reach the drowning man he was so exhausted that he went under. A few rapid strokes of the oars brought the craft over the spot where the swimmer went down, and fortunately his hand reappeared above the water, and was firmly grasped by Mr. Hawkins, who drew him up sufficiently to place his arms across the gunwales. Seeing that it was impossible to either take such a heavy man on board without upsetting the boat or to row to shore against such a stiff current, they pulled out to the boom, and getting the stranger between the timbers and the boat they got him on board and towed to shore. The swimmer was so far gone from the amount of water which he had swallowed that his eyes were protruding and wild looking, and he was swollen considerably, but he soon recovered after reaching land. Messrs. Scott and Hawkins deserve credit for their

presence of mind and prompt action, to which there is no question the latter owes his life.—*Ottawa Citizen, 21st inst.*

PROGRESS.—Our Catholic readers will be pleased to learn that every thing is settled in a satisfactory manner with regard to the arrangements for the erection of St. Patrick's Church, which has so long remained unfinished. There is no doubt the Catholics and their friends in and around Ottawa will lend a generous hand towards the erection of this temple. It has been suggested that all the spare collections and bazaar should go towards the building until it is finished, and remember the old saying, pull well, pull strong, pull all together.—*Ottawa Citizen.*

DEPARTURE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.—Quebec, June 22.—Lord and Lady Lisgar arrived from Ottawa and Montreal at 8 o'clock this morning, and proceeded direct to the steamship, without landing. They were attended by Mr. Tonvillie, private secretary, and Lieut. Ponsonby, Rifle Brigade, aide-de-camp. The former gentleman also proceeds to England. A guard of honour from the 11th battery, under command of Col. Stedje, with the band of the corps was in attendance at the ocean steamship wharf. As the Scandinavian left her moorings, at 10 o'clock, a salute was fired from the citadel. The Allan steamer Meteor, having on board His Excellency Lt.-Gen. Doyle and suite, Col. and Lady Fletcher, the Premier, Hon. Sir John A. McDonald, and Lady McDonald, Hon. Sir Francis Hincks, Hon. Mr. Chauveau, Sir Hugh Allan and Miss Allan, Miss Dalton, Col. Bernard, and Mr. Hillsworth, accompanied the Scandinavian down the harbor, and returned about noon.

THE NEW GOVERNOR OF CANADA.—Recently a large meeting of the inhabitants of the town and vicinity of Killarney, was held in the Court-house of that town, to consider the propriety of presenting to the Earl and Countess of Dufferin an address, expressive of congratulation on his lordship's appointment as Governor-General of Canada, and of regret in prospect of their removal for a time to a distant country. An address to his lordship, of a very flattering character, was unanimously adopted. The following is one of the paragraphs:—

"Personal qualities and accomplishments, well as senatorial experience and past services to the State, eminently qualify your lordship for the office to which you have been designated. In a country where many of the colonists are from Ireland, or of Irish descent, it will be no disadvantage that he who has been preferred to the primacy in rank and power is an Irishman of enlightened and devoted patriotism. On occasions demanding dignity and grace, in matters requiring discrimination and sagacity, when difficult and delicate questions arise for consideration and determination, and conflicting interests have to be adjusted, your lordship's talents show wisdom and integrity, and can be fully trusted. The transfer of your services to Canada cannot fail, by the blessing of the Supreme Ruler, to conduce to its welfare and felicity."

A FEROCEOUS FROGGER.—On the 16th inst., a cheque was presented at the Ontario Bank, drawn by Padgrave & Stethem, type foundry proprietors, and honored for the amount named, \$215.40. A few days ago a member of the firm entered the Bank and was informed that such a cheque in their name had been received and cashed. He denied knowledge of the affair, and pronounced the signature to the cheque a clever forgery. The party who presented the note being unknown, the case was given into the hands of Detectives Cullen and Boncland. With the assistance of Mr. Padgrave they traced the cheque, which had been filled up, to the office of a city broker, and from him learned that such a number had passed into the hands of his office boy, Christopher Flood. The boy being accused of the forgery confessed. To facilitate escape from discovery, he had also forged the name of a clerk to the firm he defrauded, named Richard Dillon. Flood was arraigned before the Police Magistrate this morning on a charge of forgery and obtaining money on false pretences, and was remanded.—*Star 22nd inst.*

THE WRECK OF THE PRINCE.—An investigation was made yesterday by the Trinity Board into a charge made by Captain Thompson, of the Steamship Prince which was run ashore a short time ago at Isle au Montion, opposite our harbour, against the pilot Matthew. The charge was to the effect that the wreck of this vessel was occasioned by the negligence and mismanagement of the pilot. The Board after hearing the evidence produced, exonerated the pilot from all blame, and stated the disaster resulted from the fact that the vessel would not answer to her helm.—*Gazette 21st inst.*

Married.

On the 19th inst., at the Parish Church of Notre Dame, by the Rev. Father Dowd, Mr. Francis Woodlock, to Miss Ellen S. Morrison.

Died.

At the Convent of the Sisters of Charity, Ottawa, on Friday morning, June 21st, Sister Mary Agnes Legue, of Strabane, Co. Derry, Ireland.—*R.I.P.*

ST. PATRICK'S HALL.

LAST WEEK OF ERIN AND THE BRENNANS,

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