

Truth

BY HENRY W. LORFELLOW.

Oh holy and Eternal Truth! Thou art An emanation of the Eternal Mind, A noble attribute, a noble part Of uncreated being. Who can find, By diligent searching—who can find out The incomprehensible, the Deity? The human mind is a reflection caught From thee, a trembling shadow of thy ray, Thy glory beams around us, but the thought That heavenward wings its daring flight away Returns to where its light was first begun, Blinded and dark beneath the noontide sun.

The soul of man, though sighing after thee, Hath never known thee saving as it knows The stars of heaven, whose glorious light We see, The sun whose radiance dazzles as it glows— Something that is beyond us, and above The reach of human power, though not of human love.

Vainly philosophy may strive to teach The secret of thy being, thy faint ray, Misleading our steps, beyond the utmost reach Of its untiring wing the eternal day Of truth is unchanged, changeless, pure and high.

And yet thou hast not left thyself without A revelation. Now, no one, I am sure, Will find fault with those for striving To assist and help their fellowman By every means in their power; and on the contrary, the Church has always fostered and encouraged all such efforts.

But so far from depressing and lowering man and his dignity, I venture to say that the doctrines and teaching of the Catholic Church unduly depress mankind, and turn his care and attention into less deserving channels. Now, no one, I am sure, will find fault with those for striving to assist and help their fellowman by every means in their power; and on the contrary, the Church has always fostered and encouraged all such efforts.

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DEDICATING CHILDREN.

Catholic Columbian.

In Catholic countries parents often dedicate or make an offering of their children, when infants, to the Blessed Mother of God. They are brought to the church for this purpose. The parents and friends of the family are present. It is a feast day for them. The child is taken to the shrine of the Blessed Virgin. The parents kneel before the altar and ask Our Lady to accept of the gift they are presenting to her, and to obtain for the child from her Divine Son the grace to remain a true servant of her until death.

This custom prevails to some extent in the State of Maryland. In Europe some parents dress the children thus consecrated to Mary in blue until they are seven years of age. As soon as the child begins to understand what is said to it, these parents tell it how they consecrated it to the Blessed Mother of God. Indeed, friends often say to it, "You are a child of Mary." Parents tell friends who visit them: "This child is consecrated to the Blessed Mother." The child is taught by its parents and friends to look up to Mary. It is told of the beauty and goodness of its heavenly Mother. These parents often wonder what Our Lady will do for the child they fondle. So earnest is this work of love on the part of parents that the child begins to couple the name of Mary with everything it sees and does. Parents have reason to think that the angels are whispering to these infants when they smile while sleeping in the cradle.

Mary presented the infant Jesus in the temple to His Eternal Father. Parents in thus consecrating their children to God, through Mary, imitate the Blessed Virgin. They tell these children what Mary did, and all about the Infant Jesus. He was called the Son of Joseph and Mary. He obeyed their every wish by anticipating it. He is God, yet He was subject to them in all things. He filled the hearts of Mary and Joseph with love when He was offered to His Father. He came to do the will of His Father. How grateful then was he not to Mary and Joseph for the offering which made of him the Son of God? He obeyed their every wish by anticipating it. He is God, yet He was subject to them in all things. He filled the hearts of Mary and Joseph with love when He was offered to His Father. He came to do the will of His Father. How grateful then was he not to Mary and Joseph for the offering which made of him the Son of God?

The parents and the priest form or make the intention of dedicating the infant brought to the church to the most Blessed Virgin, and then the child is blessed by the priest, who says the following prayer: "O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, who, begotten before all ages, wished to become an infant in time, and dost love the innocence of this age; who lovingly embraced the little ones offered to Thee and blessed them, prevent this infant with the sweetness of Thy blessings and preserve it useful; make it pure of heart, grant that increasing in age, wisdom and grace, it may be ever pleasing to Thee, who livest and reignest with God the Father in unity with the Holy Ghost, God forever and ever. Amen."

Then, the priest sprinkles the infant with holy water, saying: "May the peace and blessing of the omnipotent God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, descend upon and remain with you forever. Amen."

It is not necessary to dress the child in blue, and where parents must depend on their daily labor for the support of the family God has given to them, let them not be anxious about the matter of dress, provided his clothing be clean.

There is also in the Roman Ritual a prayer for the blessing of boys and girls, which may be said when they are consecrated to Mary. Children, there are acts of consecration in some prayer-books, and these may be used when boys and girls desire to dedicate themselves to the service of the Mother of God. Jesus Christ obeyed his mother, and He entered upon His public ministry. Tradition says that He asked her permission before He became a man of sorrows abandoned by all.

The young and the old may give themselves to the service of Mary. Age places neither limit nor barrier to her service! But what greater crown, parents, can you place on the head of Mary than the consecration of your children to her service. In Mary you have a mother for yourselves and your children.

Where Mary is there also is Jesus. Have Mary in the hearts of your children so that Jesus may dwell with them. Your household will be blessed; your children being under the special protection of Mary will be obedient and dutiful; they will obtain the graces that are asked for them in their consecration and increase in age, wisdom and grace before God and man. Parents, is not this the dearest wish of your hearts? S. S. M.

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AN OPIUM EATER'S STORY.

CRAWLING OVER RED HOT BARS OF IRON IN HIS FEARFUL FRENZY—A SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION AND ITS RESULTS.

Cincinnati Times-Star.

"Opium or death!" This brief sentence was fairly bludgeoned into the ear of a prominent druggist on Vine street by a person who, a few years ago well off in to-day a hopeless wreck! One can scarcely realize the sufferings of an opium victim. De Quincy has vividly portrayed it. But who can fully describe the joy of the rescued victim? H. C. Wilson, of Loveland, O., formerly with March, Harwood & Co., manufacturing chemists of St. Louis, and of the well known firm of H. C. Wilson & Co., chemists, formerly of this city, gave our reporter yesterday a bit of thrilling personal experience on this line.

"I have crawled over red hot bars of iron and coals of fire," he said, "in my agony during an opium frenzy. The very thought of my sufferings freezes my blood and chills my bones. I was then eating over 30 grains of opium daily." "How did you contract the habit?" "Excessive business cares broke me down and my doctor prescribed opium! That is the way nine-tenths of cases commence. When I determined to stop, however, I found I could not do it. "You may be surprised to know," he said, "that two-fifths of the slaves of morphine and opium are physicians. Many of these I met. We studied our cases carefully. We found out what the organs were in which the appetite for opium was developed and sustained; that no victim was free from a demoralized condition of those organs; that the hope of a cure depended entirely upon the degree of vigor which could be imparted to them. I have seen patients, while undergoing treatment, compelled to resort to opium again to deaden the horrible pain in those organs. I marvel how I ever escaped."

"Do you mean to say, Mr. Wilson, that you have conquered the habit?" "Indeed I have." "Do you object to telling me how?" "No, sir. Studying the matter with several opium-eating physicians, we became convinced that the most delicate constant was located in the kidneys and liver. Our next object was to find a specific for restoring those organs to health. The physicians, much against their code, addressed their attention to a certain remedy and became thoroughly convinced of its scientific merits alone that it was the only one that could be relied upon in every case of disordered kidneys and liver. I there upon began using it and, supplementing it with my own special treatment, finally got fully over the habit. I may say that the most important part of the treatment is to get those organs first into good working condition, for in them the appetite originates, and in them other ailments originate."

"For the last seven years this position has been taken by the proprietors of that remedy and finally it is becoming an acknowledged scientific truth among the medical profession; many of them, however, do not openly acknowledge it, and yet, knowing they have no other scientific specific, their code not allowing them to do it, they buy it upon the quiet and prescribe it in their own bottles."

"As I said before, the opium and morphine habits can never be cured until the kidneys and liver. I have tried everything, and know they have no other scientific specific, their code not allowing them to do it, they buy it upon the quiet and prescribe it in their own bottles."

Mr. Wilson stands very high wherever known. His experience is only another proof of the wonderful and conceded power of Warner's safe cure over all diseases of the kidneys, liver and blood, and the diseases caused by derangements of those organs. We may say that it is very flattering to the proprietors of Warner's safe cure that it has received the highest medical endorsement and, after persistent testing, it is admitted by scientists that there is nothing in modern medicine for the restoration of those great organs that equal it in power. We take pleasure in publishing the above statements coming from so reliable a source as Mr. Wilson and confirming by personal experience what we have time and again published in our columns. We also extend to the proprietors our hearty congratulations on the results wrought.

Salut John Nepomucen.

THE SEAL OF THE CONFESSOR.

John Nepomucen was born in Bohemia about 1380. He was dedicated to God and the Holy Virgin a life which had, in this case, been miraculously preserved from his very infancy, and embraced the ecclesiastical state, that he might devote himself wholly to the salvation of souls. The first efforts of his zeal having been attended with admirable results, particularly among the students of the town of Prague, the Emperor Wenceslas wished to hear him preach, and named him his almoner. The emperor and many of the greatest personages of the court put themselves under his spiritual direction; but as the pious emperor had been accused of leading a disorderly life, the emperor wished to obtain information in that particular from her confessor. The latter, as duty required, withheld all explanation. Wenceslas, who was of wrathful temper and had become cruel by dint of misfortune, maltreated John Nepomucen, submitted him to a protracted torture, and caused him at last to be thrown into the Moldau. The body of the holy martyr, by means of a celestial light, was discovered, withdrawn from the waters and fittingly interred. This happened in 1383. Benedict XIII. canonized John Nepomucen in 1729. His feast occurs on the 16th of May.

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