

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28.

## LIFE ON THE RAIL.

## PEN-PICTURES OF TRAVELERS.

Bod Burdette, the pungent paragrapher of the Burlington *Hawkeye*, has been traveling a good deal by rail lately, and he supplies his paper with the following amusing pictures of some people he met on the cars:

## FINDING A SEAT.

A woman with three bird-cages and a little girl has just got on the train. She arranges the three bird-cages on a seat, and then she and the little girl stand up in the aisle and she glares around upon the ungallant men who remain glued to their seats and look dreamily out of the window. I bend my face down to the tablet and write furiously, for I feel her eyes fastened upon me. Somehow or other, I am always the victim in cases of this delicate nature. Just as I expected. She speaks, fastening her commanding gaze upon me:

"Sir, would it be asking too much if I begged you to let myself and my little girl have that seat? A gentleman can always find a seat so much more easily than a lady."

And she smiled. Not the charmingest kind of a smile. It was too triumphant to be very pleasing. Of course I surrendered. I said: "Oh, certainly. I could find another seat without any trouble."

She thanked me, and I crawled out of my comfortable seat and gathered up my overcoat, my manuscript, my shawl strap package, my valise, my overshoes, and she and the little girl went into the vacant premises as soon as the work of ejectment had been served, and they looked happy and comfortable.

Then I stepped across the aisle; I took up those bird-cages and set them along on top of the coalbox, and sat down in the seat thus vacated. I apologized to the woman, who was gazing at me with the expression that looked trouble, that "it was much warmer for the canaries by the stove." She didn't say anything, but she gave me a look that made it much warmer for me, for about five minutes, than the stove can make it for the canaries. I don't believe she likes me, and I am uncomfortably confident that she disapproves of my conduct.

## ETHICS OF CONVERSATION.

A friendly passenger wants to talk. I am not feeling particularly sociable this morning, and consequently I do not propose to talk to anybody. He asks how I like this kind of weather, and I say, "splendidly."

He laughs feebly, but encouraging, and says there has been a little too much snow. I say: "Not for health; it was just what we needed."

He asks if I heard of the accident on the Central Railroad, and I say "Yes."

Then he asks me how it was, and I tell him "I don't know; didn't read it."

He wants to know what I think of Hayes, and I say "I think he made a very good Constable."

"Constable!" he says; I mean President Hayes.

I say I thought he meant Dennis Hayes, of Peoria.

Then he asks if I "am going far?"

"I say no."

"How far?" he asks.

"Fourteen hundred miles," I say, unblushingly.

He thinks that is what he would call "far" and I make no response. Two babies in the car are rehearsing a little and in rather faulty time, but with fine expression. And the man with one or two "dashers" asks if it doesn't bother me to write with a lot of "brats squalling around."

I looked up at him severely, for it always makes me mad to hear a man call a baby "brat," and I say to him, in a slow impressive manner, that "I would rather listen to a baby cry than hear a man swear."

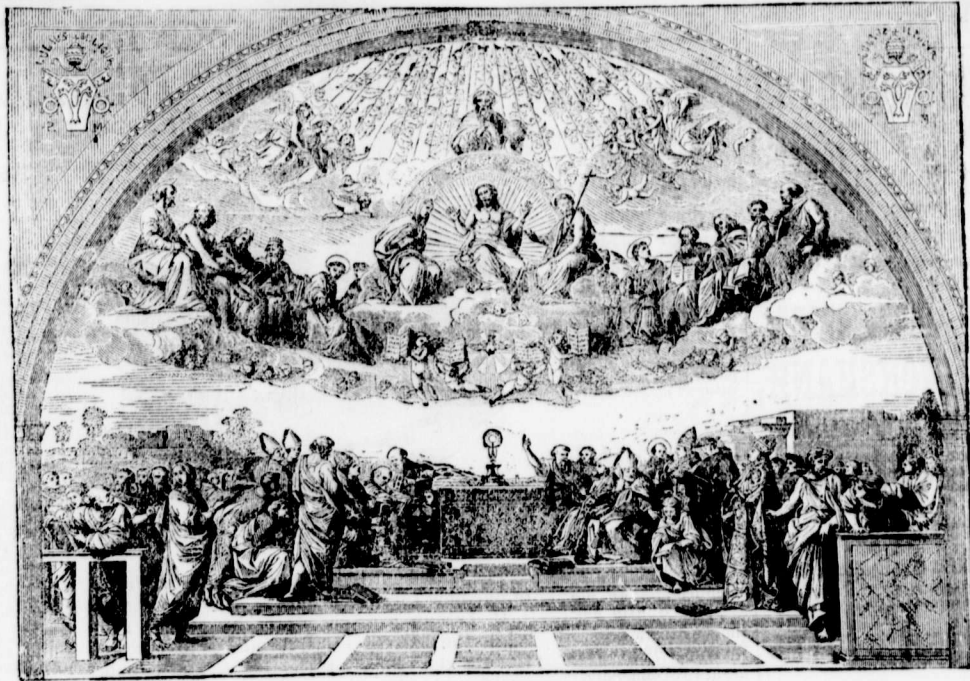
This eminently proper and highly moral rebuke has its effect. The man forsakes me, and he is now wreaking a cheap miserable revenge on the smiling passengers by whistling "My Grandfather's Clock," accompanying himself by drumming on the window with his fingers.

A woman gets on the train, and says a very warm-hearted good-bye to a great cub of a sixteen-year-old boy who sets down her bundles and turns to leave the car with a gruff grunt that means good-bye or anything else. There is a little quiver on her lips as she calls after him:

"Be a good boy, write to me often, and do as I tell you."

He never looks around as he leaves the car. He looks just like the kind of a boy who will do just as she tells him, but she must be careful to tell him to do just as he wants to. I have one bright spark of consolation as the train moves on, and I see that boy performing a clumsy satire on a clog dance, on the platform. Some of these days he will treat some man as gruffly and rudely as he treats his mother. Then the man will climb on to him and lick him—pound the very sawdust out of him. Then the world will feel better and happier for the licking he gets. It may be long deferred, but it will come at last. I am most wish I had pounded him myself, while he is young, and I felt able to do it. He may grow up a very discouragingly rugged man, extremely difficult to lick, and the world may have to wait a very long time for this act of justice. It frequently happens that these boys grow up into distressingly bad men.

PAPER CARPETS.—A paper carpet is now made in England, designed to imitate parquet flooring; the paper being printed in patterns to represent different woods from photographs, so that the resemblance is quite perfect. The floor is first prepared by being made perfectly level and the crevices filled up with plaster of Paris; over the surface as thus prepared, hessian is stretched and on this first, living paper and then patterned paper is pasted, the whole being finished with a peculiar kind of varnish, described as wonderfully hard, and wear-resisting. This kind of carpeting can be kept perfectly clean with the greatest ease, and though problematical, the inventor states that he has had rooms covered with it for some sixteen months without showing any signs of wear.



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## CATHOLIC INTELLIGENCE.

—The New York Cathedral will be dedicated next May. Rt. Rev. Bishop Ryan of St. Louis has been invited to preach on the occasion.

The *Whitell Revue* report the conversion of Miss Edith Potter, only daughter of Mr. Thomas Bazley Potter, M. P. for Rochdale, who was received into the Church by Cardinal Manning.

Speaking of the obligation which Catholics are under to be present at sermons, the *Catholic Mirror* says: "Some Catholics are unwilling to attend sermons. From year's end to year's end they go to low Mass, and so miss hearing the word of God. Faith then cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ," says St. Paul, nowonder there are nominal Catholics who have little faith and less ability to explain their belief, since they shun hearing the word of Christ."

Very Rev. Isidore Babot, O. S. B., Prefect Apostolic of the Indian Territory, is also Abbot of the Benedictine Monastery of the Sacred Heart, in that district. The new Abbot is in possession of a precious memorial of Pope Pius IX: consisting of a complete missionary *trousseau*, presented him at the request of the late Cardinal Franchi. This *trousseau* consists of a complete set of vestments, chalice, crucifix, candlesticks, etc., in fact everything necessary to celebrate the Holy Mysteries.

"Luther's house at Mansfield, which remained in the possession of descendants till the middle of the last century, has been bought by a person who intends turning it into a public school. To avert this catastrophe a committee has been appointed to raise a fund for the purchase and preservation of the building."—*New York World*. The *Catholic Universe* remarks that there is no "catastrophe" about it, in consideration of the fact that the "public-house" was where Luther used to spend most of his time.

"The Finger of God" is the heading of a local item in the *Nouvelles Mondes* of Montreal. Gabriel Cloutier, a pious old man, deemed it is his duty to chastise for intemperance and erring conduct his two grown-up daughters. The girls, however, chastised him and their mother, and one of them severely bit the third finger of his right hand. Next day he took out a warrant for them, but when he and the policeman arrived at the factory where the girls work, it was found that the new guilty one had just had the third finger of her right hand taken off by a machine. The policeman was dismissed, for the old man perceived in this curious coincidence that the Finger of God had been laid in punishment upon the principal offender.

Viccount Poli, once a soldier in the army of Pius IX., relates the following:—"There was serving in the regiment a Protestant named Jecker from Luzerne, Switzerland, a man as a lion. He was struck one day by a cannon-ball, and mortally wounded. When near his death he expressed a wish to see the Pope. That same evening Pius IX. went to visit the sick and wounded soldiers in the hospital, and came to the bed side of this brave man. "Holy Father," he grasped, "I am proud and happy to die in your defence." "Thanks, my son," replied the pope. "But, Holy Father, I am a Protestant." "I am aware of that my son." "I know I am going to die, but I feel happy and safe since you are near me." The Pope raised his hand and gave him his blessing. Instantaneously, although he had not mentioned it before, the wounded soldier declared that he wished to die in the ancient Faith. He was baptized, and expired a few minutes later.

CHINESE MISSIONS.—Rev. Angelo Cattaneo, priest of the Missionary Congregation of Milan, now engaged on mission duty in Hoonan, China, baptized 40 adults and 100 children during the year 1877; faithful Chinese Christians of both sexes, who had rescued 1,000 infants abandoned by their unnatural parents, baptized these forsaken creatures, of whom 500 died shortly after baptism. The Rev. missionary remained at his post during the horrors of the recent famine and typhoid fever following it. His good example, the charity of the native Christians towards their country men, and the effect of the alms distributed among the famine-stricken from the good Catholics of Europe and America, have been the means of adding at least fifty entire families to the true fold. Rev. Father Cattaneo had been stricken down by the typhoid fever, and ascribes his miraculous recovery to the use of the water of Lourdes. Thus the efficacy of our Lady's intercession has been manifested in Yan-tse-kiang as well as at the Grotto in the Pyrenees.

A MIRACULOUS CURE THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF PIUS IX.—Miraculous favors, obtained through the intercession of Pius IX., of blessed memory, are not confined to Europe, as will be seen from the following extract from a letter to the venerable Archbishop Blanchet, of Oregon City, by one of his priests, published in the *Catholic Standard*. "During my last missionary trip, I stopped at the house of Mr. —, and to my sorrow I found his daughter, Mrs. —, in a truly deplorable condition, one of her arms being almost totally paralyzed and her whole body continually subject to nervous spasms so that it was a most pitiful sight to look on her distorted features or to hear her attempts to speak. Providentially I had with me a relic of Pius IX., which I had received from Rome a few days previous, along with a photograph of the dead Pontiff while exposed in St. Peter's, in the Chapel of the Most Holy Sacrament. This I presented to the poor afflicted woman, feeling that her faith was strong enough to procure a miraculous cure through the intercession of Pius IX., whom she ever loved as a dutiful child. Accordingly, I proposed to her to commence a novena, and left the relic with her for that purpose. She followed my advice faithfully. The following day I renewed my missionary journey, but you can scarcely imagine my surprise, when, homeward bound, I visited the house again, just the day after the conclusion of the novena, and was welcomed by Mrs. —, no more the half-paralyzed and prostrate person I had seen, but fully restored to health."