

Persons and Facts

The Pope has sent a telegram to Bishop Muldoon of Chicago, warmly congratulating him on his conduct during the fire in the Iroquois Theatre.

Theobald Chartran, the French artist, sailed for the United States on January 9. It is said he comes for the express purpose of painting a portrait of Cardinal Gibbons.

It appears that Lady Burnand, wife of the editor of Punch, is a sister of the late Mr. Molyneux St. John, who recently died Usher of the Black Rod at Ottawa, and who was sometime editor of the Free Press of this city.

Mrs. Bourland, a prominent club woman and society leader of Peoria, Ill., was received into the Catholic Church and made her first Communion on Christmas day in the Peoria Cathedral. Mrs. Bourland is a member of one of the oldest and most aristocratic families of Peoria, and her conversion created something of a sensation, not alone in the city but throughout the State, where she is widely known.

The concrete piers of Broadway Bridge, on which work has been carried on steadily through the severest cold, are now almost completed. There is some talk of the St. Boniface street car—or cars, for let us hope there may be more than one ultimately, with a ten-minute instead of a twenty-minute service—crossing this bridge instead of the Norwood bridge, which, being still guiltless of rails, affords a nice opportunity for passengers to catch, not the car which so seldom connects, but a severe chill.

The Free Press, while justly scoring a Winnipeg contributor to a St. Paul paper, who had invented, out of whole cloth, a thumping lie about wooden houses bursting asunder with the cold in a village called Nestpas, supposed to be ten miles from Winnipeg, did not notice that this ingenious, though shameless and unpatriotic, liar had by the very choice of the name, hinted that it was all a hoax and that no such place existed. For what is "nest pas" but the French for "is not?"

It is not generally known that Mrs. Fraser, widow of the late Hugh Fraser, British Minister to Japan, was the sister of Mr. F. Marion Crawford. It now appears that a work from her pen which deals with reminiscences of a diplomatic character will soon be issued. Some of the critics who are familiar with her literary ability are already engaged in preparing the public for a kindly reception of the volume. It is said that Mrs. Fraser is of kin to Mr. F. Marion Crawford in literary finish.—New Century.

The Marquise de Menstiers-Meriville, formerly Miss Mary Gwendolyn Caldwell, and the chief benefactress of the Catholic University, is ill at the Buckingham hotel, New York. Her condition is said to be serious, her hearing and sight being badly affected. She has been in New York for several months, but her presence was known to only a few intimate friends. Her aunt, Mrs. Donnelly by whom she was reared, is with her. Before her marriage she contributed \$300,000 for the founding of Divinity Hall at the Catholic University, Washington, and for this and other handsome contributions to Church work Pope Leo bestowed upon her the "Golden Rose." Miss Caldwell was married to the Marquis de Meriville in 1896 by Bishop Spalding, who was her guardian.

The Very Rev. Jean Marie Chouteau, Abbot of the Trappist Monastery at Bellefontaine, Maine-et-Loire, France, and of the Monastery at St. Norbert, is now staying at the latter place. His French house has not yet been disturbed by Combes; but, whenever the blow falls, he will find a home in this Canadian house, of which he is the chief superior, Rev. Father Louis de Bourmont being only Prior of Notre Dame des Prairies, St. Norbert, Manitoba.

THE "MERRY" FAMILY AND ITS DISTINGUISHED WINNIPEG REPRESENTATIVES.

To the Editor of the Northwest Review:

Sir,—In reference to an item in your last number on the Irish or "Merry" ancestry of His Eminence the Cardinal Secretary of State to Pius X., I may mention a member of that distinguished family who came to our Canadian shores, and in whom, and his descendants living here we recognize the same vein of Irish faith and nobility.

John Merry, who died at Kirkfield, Ont., two years ago, left Waterford in 1825 with his parents who settled in Toronto. He married a Miss O'Sullivan (a member of another of those exiled noble Irish families of the 18th century) by whom he had a family of fifteen children. Of these "Merry" children there remain three sons, John and Thomas, married in Ontario, Charles in Manitoba, and five daughters, viz.:

(1) Mary, widow of Antoine Vasseur, and mother of five children, living in Winnipeg, i.e., Rose, wife of Norman J. Lindsay, Manager of the Mason & Risch Piano Co.; Elizabeth, wife of Karl Wolff, of the Conservatory of Music; and Miss Ida, John and Antoine of the C. N. R.

(2) Margaret, wife of William Mackenzie, president of the C. N. R. Co., and mother of nine children, i.e., Roderick, General Manager of the C.N.R., Alexander and Joseph, and six daughters: Mabel, wife of Supt. Scott Griffin; Gertrude, wife of Mr. Grantham; the Misses Bertha, Ethel, Kate, and Grace.

(3) Annie, wife of Mr. William Mitchell, living with her aged mother at Kirkfield, Ont.

(4) Elizabeth, wife of Mr. Donald McDonald, living at Kamloops, B. C.

(5) Bridget, wife of John Meagher, of Lindsay, Ontario.

The many friends and acquaintances of these families will be pleased to see a scion of their house a prince of the Papal court, and with best wishes, I hope that Faith and fatherland may be their pride for many future generations.

Yours truly,
A. FRIEND.

BOTH ARE COMMANDS OF THE CHURCH.

A little anti-Catholic sheet published somewhere up the Hudson offers to "pay \$100 to the first person who can find a text in the Roman Catholic Bible forbidding children or adults to eat meat on Fridays."

As an offset to this and to show that it is a game that two can play, we hereby offer to pay \$100 to the first person who can find a text in the Protestant Bible forbidding children and adults to work on Sunday, or any text abrogating the divine command to keep Saturday holy and do no work on it.

The Catholic finds sufficient authority in the Bible to make it obligatory on him to abstain from meat on Friday. In Matthew xviii., 17, our Lord said: "If he will not hear the Church, let him be to thee as the heathen and the publican."

The Church forbids the use of meat on Friday, and the Catholic, not wishing to be classed as a heathen, hears the Church and abstains from meat on Friday. He has the same reason for keeping the Sunday, namely, the authority of the Church—the only authority any Christian has.—N. Y. "Freeman's Journal."

LEAKED ONLY WHEN IT RAINED.

Senator George C. Perkins, of California, returned recently from a three months' tour of Europe. The unprecedented rainfall over there interfered considerably with Mr. Perkin's pleasure, but it gave him an opportunity to sample the humor of the London "bus conductors."

One rainy day Mr. Perkins boarded a 'bus and took a seat inside. He began soon to feel the regular pattering of waterdrops upon his head. The roof of the 'bus leaked, and the American was suffering from the fact.

The conductor just then came in to collect the fares, and Mr. Perkins said to him:

"What's the matter with this roof? Does it do this always?"

"No sir; only when it rains," the conductor answered smiling.

THOUGHTS OF OUR LADY.

The Hail Mary is the most beautiful of all prayers after the Our Father. Mary only exists with reference to God. She is the echo of God, and she says nothing, repeats nothing but God.

When we praise, love honor Mary, or give anything to her, it is God who is praised, loved, glorified. We give to God by Mary, and in Mary.

Our Blessed Lady is the faithful Virgin, who by her fidelity to God repairs the losses which the faithless Eve has caused by her infidelity. Devotion to Our Blessed Lady is a sure way to Jesus, and to acquire perfection by uniting us to Him.

The Most High has come down to us perfectly and divinely by the humble Mary. He has come to us by her, without losing anything of His divinity and sanctity. We are to yield ourselves to Him that He may live, breathe, act, speak within us by the Spirit's fiery impulse and dovelike power combined, and may never follow any more natural impulse of our own.—Pittsburg Observer.

HELPFUL AMMONIA.

Few people realize the possibilities of ammonia. The preparation known as common spiritse of ammonia is valuable in many ailments. For example, 10 or 20 drops in a large wineglass of water will revive a fainting person. It is an excellent stimulant in case of nervous depression and headache, as it restores circulation. Again, a few drops of ammonia poured into hard water makes the water soft, and it takes the dirt off of paint more quickly than anything else, takes the stains out of carpets, cleans combs and hair brushes and makes gold and silver look as good as new.

SOMETHING WORTH KNOWING

I accidentally learned a use for tincture of iodine which is unknown to any physician to whom I have spoken in regard to it. Getting some strong carbolic acid on quite a portion of my flesh and knowing that it would cause a dreadful burn and blister, if not worse, and knowing that iodine was good for burning feet, and having it at hand, at once, before the acid had time to begin to eat or burn, I applied the iodine liberally with a feather. It immediately stopped smarting, and in the morning not a sign of burn was to be seen, while on one side, where there was one drop of acid to which I had not applied iodine, there was a blister.

EVEN TO THE BEDSIDE OF THE DYING.

Writing of the "feverish endeavor of French statesmen to expel religion from France," Mr. Arnold White, European correspondent of the "Public Ledger," says:

"Some time ago I was visiting the hospital at Caen, in Normandy, where there was a man being tended by a Sister of Mercy. She was praying quietly by the bedside, and rose with tears in her eyes. I asked her later on why she wept, and she said that the dying man had asked that a crucifix might be placed on the wall opposite his bed. Under French law this is now illegal.

"Words would fail to describe the simple woe of the Sister, who lamented the action of a powerful government in carrying their political warfare even to the bedside of the dying."

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The St. Boniface Kindergarten, directed by the Grey Nuns, for boys under twelve years of age, will re-open on September the First. Parents who desire to send in their children should retain their places immediately.

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