

**THE USE OF LITTLE BROOMS.**

"I keep a little broom to clean the kettles, spiders, saucepan etc. It saves time does better work, and saves the hands. The little broom helps in this way. You can scrub around the ears of a kettle with it, and hot suds soon make the saucepan shine. Try it. The same little broom does duty as a vegetable cleaner. It washes the turnips and potatoes quite clean and much quicker than the hands; and how one does hate to handle dirty vegetable! Just try it. After the clothes are brought in from the line and ready for sprinkling, a clean little broom, kept solely for the purpose is dipped in water and sprinkles the clothes quite as well as the Chinese laundryman can spray the water through his teeth, and it seems ever so much cleaner too. Then the washtubs, wringers, and washboard are kept in order with almost no labor at all by having a little broom handy to scrub them off with. Pantry shelves, kitchen sink and table are cleaned with a broom. Even the kitchen windows in fly time are washed down first with the inevitable little broom which cleans the corners of the sashes in less than half the time necessary to accomplish the work without its help. Blacking the stove is no longer dreaded. A little broom puts on the black and does all the polishing necessary, and saves the hands. Then scrub the kitchen floor with a big broom, and sit down to the enjoyments of reading with comfort, such as comes from duties done and time saved from slavish work for the culture of the mind."

**HIS HOLINESS ON MODERN EVILS**

On March 15 the parish priests of Rome and the preachers appointed to occupy the pulpits of this city during the Lenten season, were received in solemn audience by his Holiness Leo XIII. He took this occasion of addressing them in a lengthy and important discourse, speaking first of the sorrowful conditions of the present times and the very serious evils by which human society is so sadly tried and disturbed.

These evils he has deplored from the beginning of his Pontificate, and on many occasions he has denounced them to the Catholic Episcopate as well as to princes and governments. It was these evils he aimed at in his Encyclical Letter, in which he opposed the false theories of socialism, rationalism, naturalism, and particularly in those Encyclicals in which he pointed to the gangrene which invests the world, namely the sect of Freemasons. Still more recently by the Encyclical *Immortale Dei*, summarizing preceding instructions, he exposed and strove to reinstate in honor these irrefragable principles which are the true base on which the Christian constitution of States should rest. It was clearly understood by those now listening to him that it would be vain to hope for the return of the world to God, if the wound was not at first healed in its very root—in families and individuals, which are the constituent elements of society—and destroyed so that Christians virtues should flourish again.

The Holy Father referred them to the Jubilee, the publication of which was considered by all Christendom as an event of most high and supreme importance. On the announcement of a Holy Year a religious enthusiasm; a holy emulation, a salutary excitement in reforming morals and in strengthening faith, was visible amongst all people. He was witness of such effect when, still very young, he assisted at the memorable Jubilee of 1825 promulgated by Leo XII. He remembered with the greatest pleasure what happened then, and the consoling spectacle that Rome presented that year. The Holy city seemed animated and thoroughly penetrated with sentiments of deep compunction and the spirit of prayer. In the streets of Rome there were unceasing processions of penitence; it was an edifying spectacle to behold persons of the highest rank mingled with the throng, clothed in the humble habit of penance and joyfully consecrating themselves to works of charity and mercy. To day, alas! how vastly changed is the condition of Rome. How sorrowful a parallel does the Rome of to-day offer to the Rome of that period. To-day the revolution has planted its tents here and exercises its maleficent action; here is largely and publicly spread the venom of criminal principles and of the worst examples; here, is impudently preached and the most angust truths and mysteries of religion are turned into derision, whilst a press in the service of secretaries daily pours forth outrages against God and against His Church.

At sight of all that," said the Pontiff "our heart is pierced with the deepest sorrow, and we greatly fear that, the measure being henceforward filled up we may behold the moment of Divine

justice approaching—the avenger of the abominations committed in the holy place. It is then to you, parish Priests of Rome, witnesses as we are and spectator of so many evils, that our words are fittingly addressed, and, with our authority, we say to you: Awaken in yourself the sacerdotal spirit; and, this year above all, redouble your activity and zeal in the accomplishment of your grave duties. Favor with the greatest care and encourage good work and exercises of piety in your parishes. Shake off of the apathy and in difference which dominate in many souls in matters of religion watch earnestly and solicitously over the young, a prey by all sorts of artifices and insidious snares, to the intrigues of evil doers. In one word be so many apostles of Rome. You also, secret orators, should be so many apostles in this holy time of Lent. By the evangelic words of which you are the ministers, defend and elucidate the truth of faith; increase amongst the people the respect and love of religion; combat vice and error with energy and holy courage. Your word which fructified as it is by grace from on High, is the word of God, has such a power that it may heal minds, sanctify souls, and lead back the wanderers into the way of salvation.

And here, for your consolation let us add that, in spite of the efforts of the impious, the ancient faith is maintained living and constant in a great portion of the Roman people, who do themselves the honor on every propitious occasion to furnish public and solemn testimony of it. Thus the vineyard in which you are called to labor is good, and you will sow the good seed upon a soil which is not barren. Go, then, dearly beloved and act in harmony and unanimity. Thus you will respond fully to our wishes and intentions, and thus Rome, under the shadow of the glorious Princes of the Apostles St. Peter and St. Paul, its heavenly Patrons, and also through your work, will know how to resist the severe trials of the present hour, and may with confidence, promise itself a better future."

His Holiness then, in the last place gave them a passing recommendation. Among the works enjoined for the gaining of the jubilee, we have specially called to mind and inculcated that of coming forwards to assist the schools and seminaries. The seminaries in Rome are sufficiently provided for; but it is not so with the schools, in spite of the important sums which we consecrate each year to their support. They produce good fruits they are still insufficient to respond fully to the request of Catholic families, desirous, of having their children instructed in them. The witness of this is Monsignor the vicegerent here present, who exposes constantly to us in presence of the whole school commission, the need of increasing the number of these schools or improving their localities, of increasing the classes and of increasing the pay of the teachers who with laudable zeal and activity, give their efforts to teaching. We deem it then most important and fitting that during this holy year, and above all, during the Lenten season, appeal be made to the generosity of the Romans. It is a question for a work supremely beneficent and salutary, having for its end the bestowal on the young of an instruction and education frankly Christian. Ye parish priests, use all kinds of holy efforts and employ all your influence to this end. And you, preachers destined some feast days, when the affluence of the faithful in the churches is more considerable, to gather alms for this same end."

The Pontiff then blessed all present.

**WOMAN.**

Mgr. Pinto de Campos, Bishop of Para one of the most zealous members of the hierarchy in Brazil, is also numbered among the distinguished writers of that country. We present a page from one of his charming works:

"What noble being is that who, after having viaified with her own blood the new born babe, nourishes, caresses, smiles upon it, teaches it to prattle, to walk and to pray! It is a woman—a mother.

"What beautiful form is that—beautiful in mind and body, and whose perfection reveals the power of the Almighty—what strong heart, which so generously represses its natural impulses in order to attain perfection! It is a woman—a virgin.

"What blessed creature is that, the gentle companion of man in his sorrows and in his joys,—who counsels him, encourages him, refines him and loves him, who, formed of love and devotedness, lives by loving! It is a woman—a wife.

"Who is that affectionate being that takes her stand by the pillow of old age soothes its sorrows, alleviates its long hours of suffering, closes the eyes whose light has fled, the ears deaf for evermore the lips that never again shall open? It

is a woman—a daughter

"Who is that heroine traversing the field of battle, like an angel of peace, in order to relieve the dying, heedless of the leaden hail or cannon's deep mouthed roar,—that heroine who is present wherever disease holds sway, where in fancy is to be instructed, where pain is to be assuaged, and tears to be dried? It is a woman—a Sister of Charity.

"What celestial form is that, so like a delicate, perfumed flower, although endowed with a more than human power singing canticles of praise to God amid excruciating tortures, knowing that to die for Jesus is to live with Him eternally? It is a woman—a martyr.

"Who is that privileged being whom alone God has designed to preserve from the stain of original sin; that being whom Jesus Christ in becoming man chose for His Mother,—abode whom is God only, below whom is all that is not God! Hail Mary! full of grace, blessed art thou amongst women?"—The Ave Maria.

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