THE READER'S CORNER

CONDUCTED BY "COLUMBA"

Rev. Father O'Sullivan's lecture on "Catholic Libraries," delivered before the Peterborough Ladies' Literary Society, and already noted in the "RECORD," is well calculated to afford much food for thought to the Catholic reader. We are so accustomed to hearing the Church denounced as the foe of culture and the opponent of enlightened thought that, all unconsciously, we begin to think there must be some foundation for the charge. Besides it is well to have the facts of the case clearly in mind so that we can refute the charge when made in our presence.

I wonder how many feminine readers of the Corner are members of a Literary Society! Although I do not advocate the multiplication of clubs—many clubs mean a neglected home, and I want my girl readers to be, above all else, home makers — yet some clubs, if not an essential, are at least very useful. And foremost amongst these for the Catholic girls of our cities and towns, is a Ladies' Literary Society. A Ladies' Literary Society is something more than an agreeable way of wasting time. It should be, and the members can make it, an intellectual force in their lives—an institution that will tend to make them better mentally, socially, and morally. Friendly intercourse with our kind has an educational value. It has been said that the best university is the world, and a Literary Society is a little world, with different characters, different minds, different ideas, and different view points, the mingling of which must naturally broaden all our minds and widen our sympathies. Culture is what we all aim at these days. But how few of us are really cultured! We may have read a few books—we may be able to echo a few threadbare platitudes, but that is not culture. A literary society that is worthy of the name will help to make us cultured, and for that reason deserves our support. So, dear young ladies, be up and doing. If your town does not already boast of a Literary Society organize one. And then work to keep it going. If Columba can help you he will be only too glad *to oblige*, and if any of his readers belong to such a society he would be pleased to hear from them and their doings.

"Non-Bigot" writes as follows: "I have been attending a mission given in the Roman Catholic Church of this town, and I must say that on the whole I have been favourably impressed by your services. I like nice pictures, and you appeal to the eye. The sermons were, of course, very learned and very well delivered, but it seems to me that where you have purely Christian teaching and go in for what is purely Catholic you fall flat. All this about confession and image worship and the cult of the Virgin rings false." I am sure my correspondent is sincere and honest enough and not at all unworthy of his name, but he will pardon me if I make a little comment on his letter. My friend finds us all right when discussing upon dogmas and truths held by all Christian denominations in common, but he draws the line at doctrines that are peculiar to Catholicity. He insinuates that these latter must necessarily be erroneous. But will he please tell us when or how they arose in the Church? And as, in common with all good Protestants, he reads his Bible, how does he explain away Christ's promise to his church, "Behold I am with you all days even to the consummation of the world," and this other, "I will send the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of TRUTH to teach you ALL things, and to abide with you FOR EVER." So if my correspondent is logical he will blame the Church's lapse into error, not on the Church, but on Christ and the Holy Ghost.

What subjects for a museum some peoples' cerebral formation would make to be sure! A certain Rev. Mr. Boyd has been doing the circuit recently, and has been received with open arms in many Baptist churches, from whose pulpits (if they have such) he has, in a truly Christian manner, proceeded to libel and calumniate Ireland. Mr. Boyd has read history with a vengeance. He tells us quite seriously that Ireland was good and Protestant (one is the complement of the other, of course) until the advent of the Second Henry. From that dates her misfortunes and her Catholicity (again the one is the natural complement of the other.) He said the Irish people were looking forward to the time when they would be forced from the Papal yoke. He didn't tell us when they expected to realize that vision. He told us the Baptist missions were flourishing over there—but he forgot to give us statistics. He trotted out the old fairy tale of the priest and the forbidden Bible, and as a climax he told his audience that he met one man in Ireland that never heard of the good Book. And these good Christians paid up their nickels and went out breathing maledictions on Pope and Popery. And Mr. Boyd went home—and laughed at his dupes.

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

THE VALUE OF RESEREE POWER

Great business men accomplish marvels with their reserve. Many of them work but a few hours a day, but they have such tremendous physical reserves and so much stored-up mental energy that they are able to accomplish wonders in a short time, because of their ability to work with great intensity and powerful concentration.

People who keep their physical and mental surplus drawn down very low by working a great many hours and almost never taking vacations, who do not fill their reserve reservoir by frequent vacations, and by a lot of recreation and play, do not work with anything like the freshness and mental vigor of those who work less hours and constantly accumulate great reserve power.

There comes into every life worth while a time when success will turn upon the reserve power. It is then a question of how long your stored-up energy will enable you to hold out. There will often arise emergencies when your success will depend upon how much fight there is in you.

Within the last few years several buildings have either fallen down or had to be taken down, because the owner tried to build one or more stories on the top of an old building which did not have a sufficient foundation to carry the new structure.

Similar experiences are constantly happening to men who, in youth, thought they would not require very much of a structure for the conducting of life's business, and then did not lay much of a foundation in their education and early training. But later in life, when their business grew and they tried to build another story or two, they found their foundations would not stand it, and the life structure fell with a crash. They did not have sufficient education to keep track of their accounting department. Their bookkeepers, cashiers, took advantage of their ignorance. They did not have sufficient technical training to keep up with the growth of their manufacturing interests, and they went to the wall. It is the emergency that tests the preparation.

On every hand we see young men starting out in life without being flanked and buttressed on every side with great reserves—preparation, education, training—and they are constantly failing. Like a weak bank there is nothing back of them, nothing behind them to protect them in an emergency, to enable them to meet an unusual run, an unexpected demand. The great secret of success is in being ready for the unexpected.

Many years of every life that is worth while were employed in storing up power which is never used except in emergencies.

A man must be able to answer the unexpected questions and solve problems that are not in the text-books. It is the

Asthma Catarrh
WHOOPING COUGH CROUP
BRONCHITIS COUGHS COLDS

Vapo-Cresolene

ESTABLISHED 1879

A simple, safe and effective treatment for bronchial troubles, without dosing the stomach with drugs. Used with success for thirty years.

The air rendered strongly antiseptic, inspired with every breath, makes breathing easy, relieves the sore throat, and stops the cough, insuring restful nights. Cresolene is invaluable to mothers with young children and a boon to sufferers from Asthma.

Send us postal for descriptive booklet. 210

ALL DRUGGISTS

Try Cresolene Antiseptic Throat Tablets for the irritated throat. They are simple, effective and antiseptic. Of your druggist or from us. 10c in stamps.

Vapo Cresolene Co.
Leeming-Miles Bldg.
MONTREAL

emergency, the unexpected crisis, that tests a man's caliber. The man who is not only ready when he hears the bugle call, but through years of fine training and infinite painstaking has stored up a great surplus power that will enable him to meet any emergency is the man who will come off victorious in the great life-battle.

Most of the training of horses for speed is done for the last few seconds. There are plenty of horses that can come up to this point with comparative ease, but it is the last few seconds that test the reserve of training, of spirits and of blood.

Many a man is drawing a meager salary to day because he did not think it worth while to fit himself for something better. He was not willing to pay the price for the skill and training which would advance him to a first-class position. He never thought it worth while to spend spare time to improve himself or make good the deficiencies of early education. He followed routine and never tried to find a better way of doing things. And now his meager salary, slipshod appearance and doleful outlook on life tell the story of a "don't-think-it worth while" young man.

Everywhere we see men in middle life, with splendid ability, filling very ordinary positions, cramped, handicapped, kept back by lack of early training. We see them stumbling over figures because they skipped the hard problems at school. We see them failing to get promotions because they didn't think it worth while to prepare for the higher place, while others, with much less ability but better prepared, get promoted over their heads.

How many bookkeepers there are, and people doing other clerical work, who can not advance just because they were not willing to pay the price for their advancement by a thorough preparation. They do not write a good hand because they hated the drudgery of practising handwriting. It is so disagreeable to them that they prefer to remain where they are, in poor or mediocre positions.

In other words, a great many people prefer to slide along the line of least resistance, to get along just as easily as they can, to paying the price in preparation for something better. They are not willing to prepare themselves for a wider, larger place. They know that their education is deficient, that they lack special training; and they know that they could manage, somehow, to repair their deficiencies but they lack the energy to do so. They prefer to slide along in an easy-going way, with the least trouble possible to themselves.

How many wrecks, how many incomplete and wretched lives we see everywhere because people did not think it worth while to prepare for much of a career! They thought they would get just a little education to help them along; just enough for practical use. They did not think it worth while to dig down deep and lay broad foundations. They did not see life as a whole.

The reason why the lives of so many people are mean and stingy and juice less is because they put so little into them, they make such a meager preparation in education, in culture, in training, in thinking. Their harvest is small because they sow so little and such inferior seed.

If the youth expects a rich, golden harvest, he must prepare the soil, he must do some good sowing in the seed-time.

You can not take out of your life what you have not put into it, any more than you can draw out of a bank what you have not deposited. — O. S. M. in Success.

THE MINISTRY OF A SMILE

In the vestibule of a certain hospital visitors see a card bearing this advice: "Never utter a discouraging word while you are in this hospital. You should come here only for the purpose of helping. Keep your hindering, sad looks for other places, and if you can't smile, don't go in."

"If you can't smile, don't go in!" It is good advice for others than hospital visitors. Who is beyond the ministry of a kindly smile? It is a tonic to the discouraged. It helps the little child for whom the world holds so much that makes afraid, and it cheers the aged who find life unspeakably lonely. As King Arthur's court was built by music, so the happier life we all hunger for here upon earth is built in large part by the cheerful faces we see as we bear the load appointed for us.

Smiles are as indispensable to true success in life as money, mind and might. As long as a man can smile he is not beaten. Not in hospitals only, then, but in the home and on the street there is call for the kindly sunny smile. The way to have it is to get the heart right with God, and then turn the eyes to the light, for the smile that helps is the smile of heaven, kindled joy and hope east and west.—Casket.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

BUSINESS VALUE OF POLITENESS

In her book, "The Girl Who Earns Her Own Living," Mrs. Anna Steele Richardson says of politeness in business:

"Politeness is a business asset at the command of every girl who must earn her own living. She may not be as expert with the typewriter, the sewing-machine or the drafting tools as her fellow-worker, but she can always hold her own when it comes to courtesy. She may not be able to wear as smart tailored suits and blouses as the girl at the next desk, but she can be just as polite or more so. She may lack the strong personality which is such a factor in scoring business success, but if she will cultivate politeness, the much coveted personality will develop."

The author tells the following story:

Two young men, who had formed a partnership which did not turn out just as well as they had hoped, decided that they must dispense with the services of their stenographer and type-writer. The girl had given entire satisfaction, times were dull all over town and they knew that she had considerable responsibility to meet. The junior partner knew personally a young woman who managed a public typewriting office. He asked her to give the girl the first opening.

She happened to be near the man's office one morning and dropped in with deliberate intention of looking over the young girl recommended for her staff. Things had gone just a little wrong that morning at the office, and then the girl, though she knew nothing of her impending dismissal, felt at odds with the whole world. The appearance of a caller to interrupt the writing of a letter impressed her as added cause of irritation. She glanced up from her typewriter, a frown on her face, interrogation in her position. But she said neither, "Good morning" nor "What can I do for you?" She simply stared at the caller, who finally inquired:

"Is Mr. Blank in?"

"No," was the unnecessarily concise reply of the stenographer.

"What time do you expect him back?"

"He didn't say," replied the stenographer, deliberately returning to the contemplation of her notes.

For a few seconds the caller hesitated. The girl never raised her glance from her note-book. Then the head of the public typewriting office went out. With her went every chance of that girl's securing the opening which she would need in two brief weeks.

"She did not ask me to sit down," was the caller's comment when she again met the junior partner. "She did not ask whether she could take any message for you, whether she could do anything for me in your stead. Doubtless she was feeling unusually irritable about something. Probably she can be quite pleasant when she is so inclined. But how do I know the mood in which she will receive my customers in my absence. If she was as rude to your customers as she was to me, she was one factor in your business failure. I can't afford to have a rude girl in my office."—Sacred Heart Review.

THE BOY WE ALL LIKE

The boy who never makes fun of old age, no matter how decrepit or unfortunate or evil it may be. God's hand rests lovingly on the aged head.

The boy who never cheats or is unfair in his play. Cheating is contemptible anywhere and at any age. His play would strengthen, not weaken, his character.

The boy who never calls anybody bad names, no matter what anybody calls him. He cannot throw mud and keep his own hands clean.

The boy who is never cruel. He has no right to hurt even a fly needlessly. Cruelty is the trait of a bully; kindness is the mark of a gentleman.

The boy who never lies. Even white lies leave black spots on the character.

The boy who never makes fun of a companion because of a misfortune he could not help.

The boy who never hesitates to say "No," when asked to do a wrong thing.

The boy who never quarrels. When your tongue gets unruly, lock it in.—Church Progress.

BACK ON EVIL

Boys sometimes get the notion that only a coward turns his back on the foe. But turning one's back on evil, or on those who tempt us to wrongdoing, is a proof of the finest kind of courage—moral courage, the courage to face toward the right anywhere and anytime.

ALL SOULS' MONTH

If we consider the processes of human justice, we see that it punishes different offences with different degrees of severity; it sometimes abstains from instituting any legal proceedings against one who voluntarily goes into exile; it sometimes commutes a sentence of capital punishment already passed into a sentence of imprisonment for life, because of a petition for mercy; it sometimes shortens the term of imprisonment because a petition has been presented on the prisoner's behalf.

Now, human justice and law are based upon the justice and law of God, Who punishes mortal sin with eternal punishment and venial sin with temporary punishment; who sometimes inflicts no punishment on him who punishes himself; who sometimes commutes the eternal punishment, which was due, into temporary punishment; who sometimes shortens the term of petition beseeching Him to do so.

We are all criminals in the eyes of God, all worthy of some punishment. The saints are those who voluntarily punished themselves to such a degree that God required nothing more from them and they went straight to heaven after their death. For those who have not done this, the only hope is that the eternal punishment which they have deserved may be commuted into temporary punishment. This is why we assume that all those who depart this life, after having come to the use of reason, are in purgatory, unless the Church has declared them to be in heaven by enrolling them in the calendar of saints. We take it for granted that they are serving a term of imprisonment, how long a term we do not know. But we do know that their term may be shortened, if we who are in this life sent up a petition on their behalf. For the Church, in teaching us that there is a purgatory, a place where some souls suffer for a time before they can go to heaven, also teaches us that these souls may be assisted by our prayers, and especially by offering of the holy sacrifices of the Mass. Again, their position may be regarded as imprisonment for debt, which if some kind friends will pay in whole or in part, the prisoners may be released at once, or at least their term of imprisonment may be considerably shortened.

Being still children of God and members of the true Church, they share in the communion of saints, and the Scripture says that "it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead."

PATRON SAINTS

In olden times England looked reverently upon St. George as her patron and understood what was meant by his victory over the dragon. Spain's armies were fired with courage on the battlefield by the vision of Santiago de Compostela in the sky above them, which they saw at least in thought; and France was proud of the glory of having for its tutelary saint the great philosopher of the Areopagus who a name to Montmartre, the great hill of its metropolis, by consecrating it with his blood.

But men are changing with the times. St. Patrick still appeals to the Irish, thank God, but it is doubtful if the name of St. George calls aloud to the vasty deeps of an Englishman's spirituality. Whether the war cry of Santiago de Compostela would make the blood tingle in the veins of a Spanish conscript may be doubted. Certainly St. Denis will soon be a name of unknown import in France if the Government can carry out its scheme of giving new models and new ideals to humanity. The solicitous statesmen are rapidly multiplying the saints. The latest is Proudhon.

Who is Proudhon? He is the knight of the pen who about the middle of the nineteenth century gave utterance to the Socialist's battle cry of "Property is robbery." Nevertheless the President of the Republic, Fallieres, who is a very tenacious property-owner, accompanied by his Socialist Minister, Viviani, uttered pompous speeches in honor of the ineffable Proudhon when that worthy's statue was unveiled the other day at Besancon. No doubt it was done according to the usual ritual of the men with the apron.

But that is not the only claim which Proudhon has to be the patron saint of the present party in power in French politics. There is another. He hated Almighty God with the malignity of a fiend. "We were as nothing before your invisible majesty," he exlaims. "We gave you heaven for your throne and the earth for your footstool. Lo! to-day you are dethroned and shattered. Your name which was for ages the last word of the savant, the sanction of the judge, the strength of the prince, the hope of the poor, the refuge of repentant guilt, yea, that incommunicable name of yours, shall be henceforth a scorn, an anathema and a hissing among men. For God is cowardice and stupidity; God is hypocrisy and falsehood; God is wretchedness and tyranny." We spare our readers the rest of the horrible blasphemy.

Nor was this mere rhetoric; for when Louis Napoleon by his *coup d'etat* became Emperor, Proudhon invited him—we use his own words—"to assume the role of anti-Christ and to be the champion of the great movement of religious and social impiety." This crazy man, for one can scarcely regard him as anything else, also assured his readers that he was going to "change the basis of society, to displace the axis of civilization, to make the world which had hitherto under the divine impulse moved from west to east, henceforward under the impulse of man who is God's eternal rival move from east to west. I plant my fulcrum on nothingness and make my thought the lever."

To this madman they have erected a monument and culled out a holiday for the rabble of the town. It is noteworthy, however, that in spite of all this mental and moral obliquity Proudhon in his private life is reported to have been an example of rigid honesty, and a good son, husband and father. He was, besides, a very faithful friend to the few he admitted to his intimacy. So that after all, we might make him the patron saint of these inconsequent people—for we are told there are such—who ignore or even hate God, but practice some of the natural virtues, an achievement which is possible for the higher grades of the animal creation. They can love their own brood, protect their own rights and not invade those of others—but that would not give them any claim to virtue, for no one can be a good man who ignores, and reviles and teaches others by word or example to treat with contempt the Source of all goodness and justice; nor can he be an intelligent man. To take no account of God in one's life is, like Proudhon, to plant a fulcrum on nothingness and make one's thoughts the lever to move the universe. —America.

The shell on the beach has witnessed all the wonders of the deep, but its secret is never known.

BRAIN WORKERS
who get little exercise, feel better all round for an occasional dose of
"NA-DRU-CO" Laxatives
They tone up the liver, move the bowels gently but freely, cleanse the system and clear the brain. A new, pleasant and reliable laxative, prepared by a reliable firm, and worthy of the NA-DRU-CO Trade Mark.
25c. a box. If your druggist has not yet stocked them, send 25c. and we will mail them.
NATIONAL DRUG & CHEMICAL COMPANY OF CANADA, LIMITED, MONTREAL. 21

Professional

JOHN F. FAULDS, Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public, &c. Money to Loan. Robinson Hall Chambers, Opposite Court House, London, Canada. Telephone 907.

JOHN FERGUSON & SONS
180 King Street
The Leading Undertakers and Embalmers
Open Night and Day.
Telephone—House, 373. Factory 543.

W. J. SMITH & SON
UNDERTAKERS AND EMBALMERS
113 Dundas Street
OPEN DAY AND NIGHT Phone 586

Just Six Minutes to Wash a Tubful!
This is the greatest washer the world has ever known. So easy to run that it's almost fun to work it. Makes clothes spotlessly clean in double quick time. Six minutes finishes a tubful.

Any woman can have a 1900 GRAVITY WASHER On 30 days' free trial.
Don't send money. If you are responsible, you can try it first. Let us pay the freight. See the wonders it performs. Thousands being used. Every user delighted. They write us bushels of letters telling how it saves work and worry. Let the 1900 Washer pay for itself. Just send us 50 cents each week out of the money it saves you. Write to-day for our Free Washer Book. It explains the "easy payment plan." Tell us your nearest freight station. Address me personally for this offer. C. R. D. BACH, Manager, The "1900" Washer Co., 357 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ont. This offer is not good in Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg or Vancouver and suburbs, as we have branch offices in these places. Special trial arrangements are made in these districts.

Home **DYEING** Is the way to **Save Money** and **Dress Well**
Try it! Simple as Washing with

DY-O-LA
ONE DYE FOR ALL KINDS OF GOODS
JUST THINK OF IT! Dyes Wool, Cotton, Silk or Mixed Goods Perfectly with the SAME Dye—No chance of mistakes. Fast and Beautiful Colors 10 cents, from your Druggist or Dealer. Send for Color Card and STORY Booklet. 76
The Johnson-Richardson Co., Limited, Montreal.

LAMENESS from a Bone Spavin, Ring Bone, Splint, Curb, Side Bone or similar trouble can be stopped with

ABSORBINE
Full directions in pamphlet with each bottle. $2.00 a bottle at dealers or delivered. Horse Book 9 D free.
ABSORBINE, JR., for mankind, $1 a bottle, removes Painful Swellings, Enlarged Glands, Goitre, Wens, Bruises, Varicose Veins, Varicocities, Old Sores, Allays Pain.
W. F. YOUNG, P. D. F., 299 Temple St., Springfield, Mass.
Canadian Agents: Lymans' Ltd., Montreal.

BLACK KNIGHT STOVE POLISH
Look how much "Black Knight" Stove Polish you get for 10c.
None of your stingy little tins of fine powder (that must be mixed with water) or a hard cake (that must be scraped)—but a big generous tin of coal black paste, that is easily applied, and bursts into a brilliant, lasting shine after a few rubs.
You certainly do get 10c. worth of the best stove polish, in the big 10c. cans of "Black Knight."
Send us 10c. for a large can postpaid if your dealer does not handle "Black Knight."
THE F. F. DALLEY CO. LIMITED, Hamilton, Ont.
Makers of the famous "2 in 1" Shoe Polish. 21

Two Minute Talks About
PANDORA RANGE
for Coal or Wood

Getting the Oven Ready

YOU can quickly get the Pandora oven ready for the baking. It is made of *Nickel Steel* which is much more sensitive than a cast or gray iron oven. It heats up more rapidly and thereby saves you many precious minutes.

After you've used the *Nickel Steel Oven* for a week you'll congratulate yourself that you invested in a Pandora Range. Get one this week. Make up your mind you'll enjoy its many conveniences at once. Our agents in your locality will fill your order promptly.

McClary's
Stands for Guaranteed Quality 75
London, Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg
Vancouver, St. John, N.B., Hamilton, Calgary

CURED OF DRINK BY SIMPLE REMEDY

A Devoted Wife Helps Her Husband to a Cure Through Samaria Prescription

Mrs. S., of Trenton, was in despair. A loving father and a careful provider when sober—her husband had gradually fallen into drinking habits which were ruining his home, health and happiness. Drink had inflamed his stomach and nerves and created that unnatural craving that kills conscience, love, honor and breaks all family ties.

But read her letter:

"I feel it my duty to say a few words about your Tablets. As you are aware, I sent and got a bottle, thinking I would try them in secret. My husband had only taken them a week when he told me he was going to Port Arthur for the summer, so I had to tell him all about the Tablets. He said he would take them just the same, so I sent and got the second bottle for fear one would not be enough. He writes me saying that he has taken the contents of both bottles, and he feels splendid, does not care for drink. In fact, he has not taken any liquor from the first of my giving it to him. I feel I cannot say too much in favor of your wonderful Remedy.
"Mrs. S——, Trenton, Ont."

Samaria Prescription stops the craving for drink. It restores the shaking nerves, improves the appetite and general health, and makes drink distasteful, and even nauseous. It is used regularly by Physicians and Hospitals, and is tasteless and odorless, dissolving instantly in tea, coffee or food.

Now, if you know any home on which the curse of drink has fallen, tell them of Samaria Prescription. If you have a husband, father, brother or friend on whom the habit is getting its hold, help him yourself. Write to-day.

A free trial package of Samaria Prescription, with booklet, giving full particulars, testimonials, price, etc., will be sent absolutely free and postpaid in plain sealed package to anyone asking for it and mentioning this paper. Correspondence sacredly confidential. Write to-day.—The Samaria Remedy Co., Dept. 11, 49 Colborne st., Toronto, Canada.

METAL EPITAPHS
Our epitaphs are solid metal, heavily rust-proofed and richly finished,—will retain their appearance and last practically forever. We supply them with the inscription and all ready to set up.
Write for Catalogue No. 1 of different patterns and prices
A. BELANGER
Established since 1867
201 at MONTMAGNY Que.