

MAY 24, 1884

Child-Nature.

A man may be noble and great, And a woman tender and pure, But their knowledge, if deeper, is less divine Than childhood's innocent lore. Ah! why should we wonder at this? For God on the little ones smiled, And we often lose with the lapse of years The flawless faith of a child.

AN EXAMPLE WORTHY OF Imitation BY YOUNG CATHOLICS.

EDIFYING REMINISCENCES, OF THE LATE FR. WILSON'S CONVERSION TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH.

At the request of Father Byrne, O.S.D., Mr. Jacob Costigan, of Somerset, one of the oldest and most respected citizens of Perry county, has written his recollections of Father Wilson's early life in the following truthful and simple manner:

My acquaintance with the good Father Wilson, lately deceased, was formed in June, 1825. In Zanesville, Ohio, we were apprentices in the same shop. He was my senior by two years; he being in his 19th year and I in my 17th. He was born on the 1st of January, 1807, in Morgantown, Va., now West Virginia. Previous to the time I first met him he had been a member of the Methodist Church, but not at the time I first knew him. It was the doctrine he believed in, and he was very much opposed to Catholic doctrine, as he understood it. He was fond of controversy, and as I was the only Catholic in the shop, and but a boy, I felt to my lot to receive his charges and answer them as best I could. It was not a very hard task for me, as I had just come from St. Joseph's, where I had been for two or three years with the early Fathers of our Order in Ohio—that is to say—Fathers Dominic, Young, Martin, O'Leary, De Rymacher and Hill, the distinguished convent. All these are now gone to their final reward. When he (Mr. Wilson) found that what he supposed to be Catholic doctrine was not so in fact, his views changed, and he was honest and candid enough to admit that he had been wrongly informed as to the teachings of the Church. Then he began to read and investigate for himself and it was not long before he was so convinced of the truth of our holy religion that he resolved to become a Catholic. He was instructed by Father Stephen H. Montgomery, then pastor of Zanesville, and was baptized in the fall or winter of 1826. I was present at the baptism, and it may have been conditional.

He had very respectable family connections. His mother was a venerable old lady, and his brothers and sisters were of our best society in those days. Of course they thought he had made a false step, and were much opposed to his joining the Church. It was indeed a trying thing for him to oppose their wishes, especially those of his mother. But God gave him grace to persevere; and by degrees their opposition ceased, and he was kindly treated by his relations. In 1827 we parted, to meet in Cincinnati, where we worked at our trade as carpenters. I fell sick at that time and he nursed me as tenderly as if he had been born brothers. In the fall of 1828 he made up his mind to study for the priesthood, and with the consent and approbation of the good Bishop Fenwick, he went to St. Rose (near Springfield, Ky.), and commenced his studies under Father Munoz, who was then Prior of that convent. There were in the convent at that time Father Miles, afterwards Bishop of Nashville; Fathers Polin, Tuite and Samuel Montgomery. As students he found there Fathers Jacob, still living, Boling, Bullock, and C. P. Montgomery.

I met Father Wilson again at St. Joseph's, Perry county, in 1837, soon after his return from St. Rose's, where he had just been ordained a priest. It was a pleasant meeting for both of us; and strange to say, his first mission was to Zanesville, to officiate in the church which his hands had helped erect. In conclusion I must say that from the time he became a Catholic he was the most scrupulous and conscientious person I ever knew. You know what a zealous priest he was; and, as you say, he was a true friend. I will indeed miss him very much. May his soul rest in peace. JACOB COSTIGAN. Somerset, March 3, 1884.

The above letter speaks for itself; and it shows plainly what a pious young man, who was well instructed in their religion and who practice it, may exercise beneficially over their companions. The Lime Kiln Club. As the meeting opened the president announced that the following spring mottoes would be hung on the walls during the coming week. "Pay cash." "Deal on de square." "Sell your dog." "No man can sit on de fence an' plant onions." "Time wasted am shillins lost out of a hole in de pocket." "If it am pollyticks against 'tatters, take de tatters." "An hour wid de saw-buck am more valuable dan an hour wid de statesman." "De man in debt am a swimmer wid his butes on."

The janitor announced that some evil-minded person who had sought to enter Paradise Hall the evening before by way of the side door had put his foot in a bear trap waiting for such an emergency. The jaws and teeth of the trap were stained, proving that the fellow had been considerably astonished in his mad career. He had managed to pry open the jaws and drag himself away, leaving nothing behind by which his identity could be suspected. A vote of thanks was given the janitor

for his vigilance, and the secretary was instructed to advertise for information concerning the victim. If he will come forward and state how it feels to step suddenly into a bear-trap the club will present him with a receipt for removing the marks left by the teeth.—Detroit Free Press.

Living Too Fast.

Men are living too fast. Idleness and indulgence have begotten pride and discontent. The age is thirsty for luxury. The very paupers of our cities scorn the patched garments and simple fare which once satisfied the well-to-do; as the young clerk must live in a house about as luxuriously furnished as his employer's, though he steal to support his establishment; the servants rival their mistresses in the costliness and elaborateness of their attire. By thus doing, they waste the savings they need to keep them from want and ruin. The young couple who begin a home must have it as richly decorated as that of those who have labored for years; and there is an utter unwillingness on the part of too many to be content with simple surroundings.

We must change our standards of living and learn to rate people at what they are and what they have. This is a money-worshipping age; men of vicious principles, through the clink of gold, summon hosts of admirers; others are tolerated for the bangles the mob scramble for; and still others are permitted to occupy posts of honor in the church and state, which they only obtain by their wealth. Men live in the fear of gold and not of God, and ask the honor of man and not the honor that cometh from above. There should be a return to more simple, more honest ways of living. It should be deemed dishonorable to live beyond one's means; no man should be encouraged to spend a feverish year in luxury at the risk of breaking down and making a dishonorable ending.

"Notes on Ingersoll."

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS:

The following excerpts are from some of the many and lengthy notices which these "Notes" have received from the Press—Protestant and secular as well as Catholic—throughout the country. "They are written by the hand of a master."—Washington Catholic. "Remarkable for keenness of logic and (these Notes) play havoc with many of the infidel's pet theories." "The author completely turns the table on the doughty Colonel. We commend the volume to all who would see the assumptions and crudities and mistakes of Ingersoll turned inside out, upside down, and over and over."—Chicago Star and Covenant (Leading Universalist paper in the Western States). "There is neither truth, nor life, nor argument left in Ingersoll when Father Lambert has done with him."—Chicago Western Catholic. "The author takes up and thoroughly riddles the impious blasphemer."—Louisville Western Recorder (Protestant). "It is a book that should be in the hands of every Catholic."—Notre Dame Scholastic. "Reader, get this book, and after reading it yourself, pass it to your neighbor."—Donahoe's Magazine. "Should be read by Christians of all denominations. Father Lambert scourges the little infidel with his own whip."—Springfield (Miss.) Herald. "Father Lambert has completely upset all the infidel's sophistry and exposed the shallowness of his eloquence."—Catholic Columbian. "We hope this pamphlet will find numerous readers among non-Catholics who desire to see the rot and rant of Ingersoll rubbed out by the learning and logic of Father Lambert."—San Francisco Monitor.

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