

CHATS BY THE FIRESIDE.

Gentle reader, draw your chair within the radius of our Fireside Circle and join in the literary and social gossip of the day.

In the reign of Louis XIV—Le grand Monarque—of France, conversation was studied as an art.

There came lately to my desk a volume bearing the title "Maple Leaves."

"Maple Leaves" consists of a series of exceedingly scholarly papers on Canadian history, literature and ornithology.

Rev. John Watson, "Jan MacLaren," the author of "Beside the Bonny Brier Bush," has come and gone.

Miss Kate Madeleine Barry, of Ottawa, author of "Honor Edgeworth" and "The Doctor's Daughter," has recently brought out, through a Dublin publisher, a very interesting little volume dealing with the life and labors of Mother Catharine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy.

Very soon will be issued the Catholic Almanac for Ontario for 1897. It is being edited by Mrs. Emma O'Sullivan, whose literary scholarship and good taste are a guarantee that the work will be well done.

Speaking of literary work reminds me that a little more literary development might be reasonably expected from the graduates of our convents—after they have left school.

I have been favored by the publishers, Benziger Brothers, with a copy of Walter Lecky's novel, "Mr. Billy Buttons."

The characterization in the novel is most admirable. If I am not mistaken the publication of this book is the beginning of real fame for its gifted author.

Then again the humor in this novel is of superior quality and brand. It consists, as much of the best humor does, frequently in the situation.

Neuralgia is the prayer of the nerves for good blood. Hood's Sarsaparilla is the One True Blood Purifier and nerve builder.

give readers of the RECORD something of the personality of the author of Mr. Billy Buttons.

It is sufficient to say that Walter Lecky has done in this book for the Adirondack county what Richard Malcolm Johnson has done for Georgia, Cable for Louisiana, and Miss Murfree for Tennessee.

There is but one institution in Ontario which is looked upon by many as an ark of the covenant—and that is our school system.

The secular press is just now very much exercised over the change in the rectory of the Catholic University of Washington.

There have just reached me from D. H. McBride and Co., publishers, Chicago, three handsome little volumes containing the lectures delivered at the Catholic Summer and Winter Schools of last year.

The same firm has issued recently "Essays Educational," by the late Brother Azarias.

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The Jewish Idea of Purgatory.

In a deliverance upon "The Future Life," the Jewish Chronicle declares that hell has no place in the religion of Judaism, but that the idea of a purgatory is not un-Jewish.

There is a Jewish tradition that the judgment of the wicked in Gehenna lasts for a period of twelve months; but the Kaddish is recited for only eleven months in order to indicate that the deceased is not to be classed among the wicked.

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PURGATORY.

Words to a Protestant Friend—Views of Protestants—Testimony of Saints.

Philip O'Neill in Catholic Mirror.

VIEW OF ANGLICAN DIVINES.

In the first liturgy in the Church of England, which was drawn by Cranmer and Ridley, and declared by Act of Parliament to have been "framed by inspiration of the Holy Ghost," there is an express prayer for the departed, that "God may grant them mercy and everlasting peace."

The venerable Bode relates that it was revealed to Drithelm, a great servant of God, that the souls of those who spend their whole lives in the state of mortal sin, and are converted only on their death-bed, are doomed to suffer the pains of purgatory to the day of the last judgment.

SAINTS ON PURGATORY.

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St. Severinus, Archbishop of Cologne, was a prelate of great sanctity, so much so that God wrought through him many great miracles.

It is related in the life of St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi that one day she saw how the soul of one of her deceased sisters was kneeling in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament in the church, all wrapped up in a mantle of fire, and suffering great pain.

The venerable Sister Catherine Paluzzi offered up, for a long time and with the utmost fervor, prayers and pious works for the soul of her deceased father.

The Holy Ghost, being the Spirit of Truth, can only inspire truth—one and unchangeable.

In this article, and others before it, has been shown that the reformers under Cranmer and Luther parted with their reform with prayers for the dead in their church manuals and confessions of faith, while, in their downward course, to the present day, these doctrines have all been abandoned in profession and practice!

It is to be admitted to a young and guileless Protestant seeking a religion that the Church was wrong for fifteen centuries, and that reform sanctified and made it right, by introducing truth, what excuse can be offered for reformers so suddenly changing their professions on prayers for the dead?

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INDULGENCED PRAYERS. The system of indulgenced prayers

have in all ages stimulated prayer. When men cease to pray they soon forget God.

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The LORD'S SOLICITUDE. One day as St. Margaret of Cortona was praying for the souls in purgatory Our Lord appeared to her and said: "Dearly beloved daughter, go to the Brothers of St. Francis, and ask them in their spiritual exercises to be ever mindful of the souls of the faithful departed, and never to forget them, as is often done by their relations and friends."

Power of Catholic Worship.

There is something in Catholicism so poetic and attractive—I was about to say so material—that it will ever exercise a charm over the minds and hearts of men.

I see a clock in motion and notice a force inherent to it, causing the various wheels to perform their respective revolutions, the one counting the seconds, another the minutes, another the hours, another the days, another the weeks, another the months, another the years.

God's Clock. I see a clock in motion and notice a force inherent to it, causing the various wheels to perform their respective revolutions, the one counting the seconds, another the minutes, another the hours, another the days, another the weeks, another the months, another the years.

An Important Office. To properly fill its office and functions, it is important that the blood be pure. When it is in such a condition the body is almost certain to be healthy.

COMPLAINTS OF THE POOR SOULS. Blessed Mary Villani, a Dominican nun, at the thought of the great forgetfulness of the dead, continually occupied herself in aiding the souls in purgatory. As a reward of her charity God allowed one of these souls to

appear to her clad in a garment of flames. The holy nun asked if it received any help from the prayers of its relations and friends. "Alas!" was the reply, "since my sojourn in purgatory no one has come to my aid; my relations, my friends, and even my own children, all have forgotten me! No one prays for me, thus does God oblige me to expiate my worldliness and love of luxury."

Blessed Henry Suazo made a pious compact with one of his brethren in religion that whoever should die first should have a certain number of Masses said for him by the survivor.

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FIVE-MINUTE'S FEAST OF THE PATRIOT BLESSED VIRGIN

On November 8, the Church celebrates the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the most immaculate and most beautiful of all creatures.

But there is another to understand her part in the whole; and this is of her protection of each one in our own special and in the war which we are waging for our salvation.

You know that we choose certain saints, bear, or to whom devotion, as patron of the blessings and honor as well as spiritual aid.

But it is quite pertinent to note, and custom of Catholics of the Blessed Virgin, patron saints, and chosen with her, establishing this feast to officially constitute the patron of each of whom we are to have our difficulties, may be, that we are through them.

And let us not forget that above all is the advocate of sinners ourselves to escape some temptations are threatening to forget to go to her herself has more to a mother for us; full help of her in; ask also her to may be, are ourselves.

And it seems to reason that the month of November, member that the ing for sin in Pur dear to our Bless she wishes us to present our pray their patron Hood at least some Hall (the beads?) ever she may bring many souls, who her intercession be in the same r

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