

Current Comment

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enormous. The facades have been shored up and the work of restoration will be at once begun. Rain is believed to have hastened the crumbling, but the architects blame the German Romanesque builders of the thirteenth century. For the columns are found not to be solid pillars, but pilasters or piers. Of these at least 400 blocks are found to be loose.

Cologne cathedral is almost as well known in America as in Europe. So greatly is it admired that two of the finest churches on this continent, St. Patrick's cathedral in New York, and the Church of Our Lady in Guelph, Ont., have followed its main lines. It took over 600 years to complete, largely because of the neglect and apathy of the church authorities in the three centuries preceding the nineteenth. The cathedral is acknowledged to be one of the finest specimens, and probably the largest, of Gothic architecture in the world. There have been modern critics who, while conceding its beauty and terming it a noble and impressive example, still declare it disappoints because the compass had been too much for the creative genius. The cathedral stands on the site of a previous structure built in the early ages of the Christian era, but burned down in the twelfth century.

In 1248 the present cathedral was begun. The choir was finished in 1322, the nave in 1390, and the south tower in 1447. Then came centuries of neglect. In 1796 the French army used the cathedral to store hay in, and also stripped the leaden roofs in order to make bullets.

In 1823 an attempt was made to renovate and complete the structure, but little work was done until 1842, when the work was seriously taken in hand. The final touches were given in 1880, and on October 15 of that year, the completion was celebrated by a service at which the kaiser, William I., was present. The building has cost over \$10,000,000. The cathedral is 440 feet long, and the famous spires, the highest in the world, are 528 feet. The central portal is 93 feet high and 31 feet wide, and the south portal 38 feet high and 18 feet wide. These are the two portions at present in imminent danger. In shape the cathedral is a cruciform basilica. There are two choirs, the eastern dedicated to St. Peter, the western to St. Mary. Surrounding the choirs are eight chapels. A feature of great beauty is an external gallery round the apse.

There is not much danger of any such crumbling process as is now depicted in Cologne ever taking place in the new St. Boniface Cathedral. So great are the precautions taken to ensure the solidity of the foundations that these latter have already cost many thousand dollars more than the original estimate. This reminds us of what happened to one of our friends. He was building himself a roomy mansion, and thought his architect was digging the foundations too deep. In one place the workmen had gone down more than twenty feet. So he complained to the architect, saying: "Why, the new Jim Jam church on Broadway has foundations only four feet deep." "Yes," replied the prudent architect, "and, mark my words,

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that building will collapse some day." When it did, the architect invited his employer to take a walk down Broadway and see the result of four-foot foundations.

The Catholic Summer School of America entered upon its fifteenth season on Monday, July 2, when its new president Rev. John Talbot Smith, LL.D., formally declared the session opened. The Summer School is a settlement on the shores of Lake Champlain, N. Y., where Catholics may associate, having all the conveniences of a modern summer resort and enjoying, further, the education of lecture courses by the most brilliant Catholic clergy and laymen of America. The school continues the lectures from the first week in July till September.

Rev. Peter Prando, aged sixty-one years, a noted missionary of the Pacific Northwest, died of Bright's disease recently at St. Michael's Mission, seven miles east of Spokane, Wash. Father Prando spent twenty-three years among the Crow Indians. He lived their life, and gained their confidence, and at the end of that time had established a large mission. He personally baptized 1,400 Indians. He was known by the Indians as "Istiumate," "the man with the iron eyes." He was a graduated physician, and practiced medicine among the Indians. Several times when the Indians threatened to go on the war-path he was able to pacify them, and it was through him that the Government irrigated the lands of the reservation. Father Prando was born and educated in Italy, but came to the United States for the purpose of working with the Indians.

He finds no weal who flees all woe.

Detective—"Did you see a man and woman driving past here in a dog cart about an hour ago?"
Mrs. Blank—"Yes."
"Ah, we're getting on the track of them! What kind of a horse was it?"
"They were driving so fast that I didn't notice that. But the woman had on a Scotch mohair and wool jacket of turquoise blue, last year's style with stitched lines, a white pique skirt with deep circular ruffles, a satin straw hat, tilted and rather flat, trimmed with hydrangeas and loops of pale blue surah, and her hair was done up pompadour. That's all I had time to see."—Exchange.

"You say both his legs were shot off?"
"Yes."
"How did he ever get home—seven miles away?"
"Why, he said the shrieks of the wounded made his flesh creep so that he got home in a very short time."

Rufus Choate once tried to get a Boston witness to give his idea of absentmindedness. "Well," said the witness, who was a typical New-England Yankee, "I should say that a man who thought he'd left his watch to him, and took it out'n his pocket to see if he'd made it go hum and get it, was a leetle absentminded."

A little city boy was on his first country excursion. Some birds were flying overhead, and his hostess, a young woman, said:
"Look up, Tommy. See the pretty birds flying through the air."
Tommy looked up quickly, and then he said in a compassionate tone:
"Poor little fellers! They ain't got no scage, have they?"

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A young lady one day entered a railway carriage where three Englishmen were seated. They began talking about the Irish, when one of them was heard to say—"Why, the Irish sleep with the pigs!" "Yes," interrupted the young lady, "and travel with them, too."

A Sound Reason

Robert, aged five, was irritated by the crying of Clara aged two.
"Sister," he said with seriousness, "why don't you stop crying? You must be sick. You don't look well, and you don't sound well."—Lippincott's Magazine.

This would be a dreary world indeed if there were no rainbows to chase occasionally.

Nell—Of course Miss Prim is awfully slow—
Belle—Oh, awfully! Why, for the past forty years or more—
Nell—What? She told me she was only twenty-five.
Belle—That's just it. It's taken her all this time to get to be twenty-five.—Catholic Standard and Times.

"Young lady, you are not suited to our business."
"Not suited to your one horse business?" said the young typewriter, angrily, "Why, I'd have you know I worked for Mr. Carnegie once."
"That may be. However we are not interested in phonetic spelling."

The class of men who disturb and distress the world are not those born and nurtured amid the hallowed influences of Christian homes; but rather those whose early life has been a scene of trouble and vexation—who have started wrong in the pilgrimage, and whose course is one of disaster to themselves and trouble to those around them.—Friend's Intelligencer.

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