DICKENS AND THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

8

(Charles Dickens, unable to escape the anti-Catholic atmosphere of the first half of the nineteenth century, often spoke and wrote things that were calumnious of the old faith of England. The centenary of his birth has, been celebrated this year, and Catholics will think more kindly of the great English writer as they read the following tribute from his pen to the Little Sisters of the Poor. It was published in his paper, House hold Words, on February 14, 1852.)

Almsgiving takes the place of our workhouse system in the economy of a large part of Europe. The giving to the helpful is, moreover, in Catholic countries, a religious office. The voluntary surrender of gifts, each according to his ability as a means of grace, is more promin-ently insisted on than among Protestants, consequently systematic taxa-tion for the poor is not resorted to. Nor is there so great a necessity for it as in this country, for few nations have so many paupers to provide for as we English, who are accustomed to regard them as a natural element in our society. And thus it happens that when, about ten years ago, there was in France no asylum but the hospital for the aged and ailing daughter with a kiss. We are inpoor, the want of institutions for the infirm but healthy was not so severe

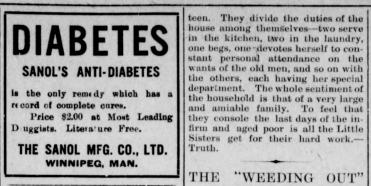
as to attract the public eye. But there was at that time a poor servant woman, a native of the vil-lage of La Croix, in Brittany-Jeanne Jugan was her name—who was moved by her gentleness of heart, and the fervor of her religion, to pity a certain infirm and destitute neighbor, to take her to her side as a companion, and to devote herself to her support. Other infirm people earned by their helplessness a claim upon her attention. She went about begging when she could not work, that she might preserve life as long as Nature would

pions office. These women cherished, as they were able, aged and infirm had her morning coffee and collect paupers, nursed them in a little house and begged for them in the vicinity. The three women, who had so de-voted themselves, attracted notice, and were presently received into the Sisters of Charity, in which they took for themselves the name of Little Sisters of the Poor (Petites Soeurs des Pauvres)

The first house of the Little Sisters of the Poor was opened at Saint-Servan in Brittany. A healthy flower without advertisement or dinner or scattered seed around. We saw that charity sermons, without urgent apforcibly illustrated in the progress from an origin equally humble of the Rauhe Haus' near Hamburg ; we see it now again in the efforts of the by enticing it to balls and to theatri Little Sisters which flourished and food from house to house, and feed fructified with prompt usefulness. the poor with it humbly and tender-On the tenth anniversary of the establishment of Saint-Servan, ten similar houses had been founded in the content being divided into four ten different French towns.

The Petites Soeurs live with their the scraps and waste meat which they can collect from the surrounding houses. The voluntary contributions by which they support their institutions are truly the crumbs falling from the rich man's table. The nurse fares no better than the objects of in this house engaged in attendance her care. She lives upon equal terms with Lazarus, and acts towards him in the spirit of a younger sister.

establishment at Dinan, over which Jeanne Jugan herself presided being under repair, and not quite fit



of Beranger's in a cracked, shaky voice, which sometimes—like a river given to flow underground—is loss entirely, and then bubbles up again quite thick with mud.

ant thought.

We go into a little oratory, where all pray together nightly before the retire to rest. Thence we descend into a garden for the men, and pass thence by a door into the women's court. The chapel bell invites us to witness the assembly of the Sisters for the repetition of their Psalms and Litanies. From the chapel we return into the court and enter a large room where the women are all busy with their spinning wheels. One old soul immediately totters to the Sister (not the same Sister with whom we set out) and insists on welcoming her formed that it is a delusion of her old age to recognize in this Sister really her own child, who is certainly far away, and may possibly be dead. The Sister embraces her affection ately and does not disturb the pleas-

And now we go to the kitchen. the beginning. Preparation for coffee is in progress. The dregs of coffee that have been collected from the houses of the afflu ent in the neighborhood are stewed for a long time with great care. The Sisters say they produce a very toler-The able result, and at any rate every in mate is thus enabled to have a cup of coffee every morning of which love is able to administer the finest Mocha

> ago, Dr. J. J. Doyle, assistant port physician, a Catholic, died, and a Protestant got his place. These are a few notorious cases If the same piace is kept up for

another year or two there will not be a "Roman" left in the public service. The Catholic public official are the advertisements on behalf of our hospitals? What are the collecwill be extinct. Perhaps some other reader of your

tions? What are the dinners, the paper can tell why it should be so. speeches, the charity sermons? A CITIZEN few weak women, strong in heart,

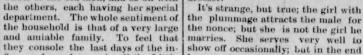
THE C. L. C. A

have no occasion to exercise charity The Catholic Laymen's Culture Association of Toronto, held their cal benefits, patiently collect waste annual election of officers for 1913 in their meeting Hall, De La Salle Institute, on January 7th, resulting as follows : President, Herman The cans are now to be emptied, Mulvogue ; 1st. Vice President, Thos.

Gow; Rec. Sec., Ray Conologue; Cor. Sec., W. Strath; Librarian, H. J. Foley; Orator, Jos. W. Cherrier; compartments, according to their nature - broken meat, vegetables, charges in the most frugal way upon slices of puddings, fish, etc. Each is Treas. Jos. Dolan. The retiring Presiafterwards submitted to the best dent, Eddie Foley, was read an address cookery that can be contrived. The in appreciation of his faithful and choicest things are set aside. "These," said a Sister, "will be for energetic work in the interests of the our poor dear sick.' 1912.

The number of Sisters altogether

peals to a sympathizing public, who



dresser.

Monitor.

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

is flung out. The right woman is ir-resistible. She cannot be withstood. And who is she? Why, the right

woman; not the freak of fashion

not the show-off girl; not the best

sensible man, and stop your non-sense. Put aside the frills of fashion

Style? Why, we love it. But what

served; just keeping your charms

and graces for the inner circle of your friends and admirers: in a word,

BEWARE OF THE "DOPE"

DOCTOR

lics should insist that the physicians

of the soul should be given a chance

'dope' doctors should be rigidly

and be decent and reserved!

they console the last days of the in-firm and aged poor is all the Little Sisters get for their hard work.-Truth

THE "WEEDING OUT" OF CATHOLICS FROM PUBLIC OFFICE

Editor CATHOLIC RECORD:

Dear Sir,—The CATHOLIC RECORD is an influential and independent newspaper, and always ready and fearless in upholding Catholic rights. I therefore want to point out a few undisputed facts for your readers to ponder over. Never at any time have the Catholics of Halifax had anything like fair representation in the principal government offices. For some years past, some influences have been successful in depriving them of the few positions they held, For example, some twenty years ago, the position of agent of the Department of Marine and Fisheries was filled by a Catholic—the only position of the kind held in Nova Scotia by a Catholic. Upon his resignation, the post was promptly filled by the government of the day by the appointment of a man who had no particular qualifications for it except possibly

that he was not a Catholic. That was A couple of years ago, the harbor-master of Halifax—a Catholic—died, and his place was soon filled by a Protestant. Within the past year, Mr. Keating, the chief clerk in the

to do what he can for the spiritual Austin house, a Catholic, died and his welfare of the patient in the last place was soon filled by a Protestant. hours. The man who is dying has Within a year, Captain O'Neil of the government steamer "Argus," a nothing of more importance to attend grant it to her infirm charges. Her example spread a desire for the performance of similar good offices. Two pious women, her healthy and, I think, a handsome Her daily work is to go out to than his eternal welfare and he should not be deprived of the oppor appointed to fill his place. Less than tunity to make his peace with God. The excluded from every Catholic family. Under the pretense of easing the patient's last hours they are inflicting the worst cruelty possible.

McCARBON.—In Guelph, Ont., on Sept. 19, 1912, Mrs. R. McCarron, aged sixty-five years. May her soul rest in

DIED

peace PURCELL-In Guelph, Ont., January 4th, 1913, Michael Purcell, aged seventy-five years. May his soul rest in peace!

WEBSTER. - At her residence, 581 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, on Saturday morning, January 4, 1913, Georg-ina Ross McIntosh, beloved wife of Dr. T. Shaw Webster.

DONOVAN .- In this city, on January 8, 1913, Mrs. John Donovan, at the resi dence of her daughter, Mrs. Daniel Regan, 294 Central Avenue. May her soul rest in peace!

MARRIAGE

Association during the year The C. L. C. A., as it is more popularly known, was organized in Tor-onto in Dec. 1908, by a zealous and Joseph Pocock, London.

devoted band of Catholic laymen, mostly from the parish of Old St. SUBSCRIBER, Guelph.-The address Paul's, Queen and Power streets, for the sole purpose of getting the Cathyou require is Brother Andrew, St. Joseph's Shrine, Montreal, Que. olic young man, and assisting him in

38 TONS OF PAPEI This corrows quantity of paper was used in inting the 1913 Edition of the Na-Dru-Co Almana sti of the Prees As each Almanac weighs a littl st than two ounces, this means that 700,000 copie ere printed-one copy for every ti individuals, or every two families, in Canada. Stronger evi-ence could scarcely be given of the wonderful popu-rity which has aready been won by the Na-Dru o. Almanac now only in its fourth Edition. This use to the rich fund of useful information which in ontains, and to its valuable h nts on health an hysical comfort. Your Druggist has a copy for you e that you get it. hysical connect it.

FAVORS RECEIVED

he marries a home girl, maybe a homely girl, a girl at least who can A reader wishes to return thanks for a favor rekeep a home, not a butterfly or a spender. Wake up, you girls, if you want a

A subscriber in Detroit wishes to acknowledge a temporal favor received through prayers to the Souls in Purgatory and St. Anthony and a promise to pub-lish in the CATHOLIC RECORD.

A reader and subscriber wishes to return grateful thanks to the Sacred Heart the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph. St. Ann and other saints; a so the souls in purgatory, for three intentions granted. I ask the prayers of the faithful for three special intentions. If granted will have Masses said for suffering souls and publish a thanksgiving. Why, just being old-fashioned and

EILEEN.-Amount received is correct. Book will be forwarded.

just maintaining modesty, the at-tractiveness of your girlhood, the **TEACHERS WANTED** charm of your womanhood .- Th WANTED TEACHER FOR CACHE BAY Separate School. Advanced classes, French, English. Reply stating salary wanted and qualifi-cations. Apply to A. G. Simard, sec. treas... Cache Bay. Ont QUALIFIED TEACHER WANTED FOR SEP-arate school section No. 1, Stanley; school opened on the sixth of January, 1073. State salary, Joseph Ran, sec. treas., Drysdale, Ont. 1786-3 The Catholic Sentinel of Portland Dre., says that a pastor of that cit WANTED A TEACHER HOLDING A SECOND class Professional certificate for C. S. S No on the occasion of a recent sick call Class Professional certificate for C. S. Alassi, Glenelg, Grey Co. Duties to commence as soon as possible. Apply stating salary and experience to pames Murphy, Sec. 1 reas., Traverston, P. O. Co. 1787 2. was in time to hear the penitent's confession only because the attending physician had forgotten the which he had intended to ad-FEMALE TEACHER WANTED FOR FORT William (mission's) school (Mountain Road) Dutes to begin immediately. Apply to Rev. J. A Drolet, S. J. Fort William (mission.) Ont. 1787-1 minister, and had to return to his office for it. The patient was in great pain, and the physician pur rendering him unconscious *********************** until death should relieve his suffer ngs. He did not, however, tell his CLIP OUT patient of his intention. "We fear, comments the True Voice, "that instances of 'dopping' by physicians are by no means infrequent. Catho-

WILLIAM EMMANUEL BARON VON KELLETER this small card and send it with your name and address to SHAW'S SCHOOLS, GERRARD AND YONGE STS., TORONTO, HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL O'CONNELL and receive by return mail a copy of our new catalogue which explains the courses given by us Price \$1.50. Postage Extra 12c. leading to a good salary. NAME ... The Catholic Record

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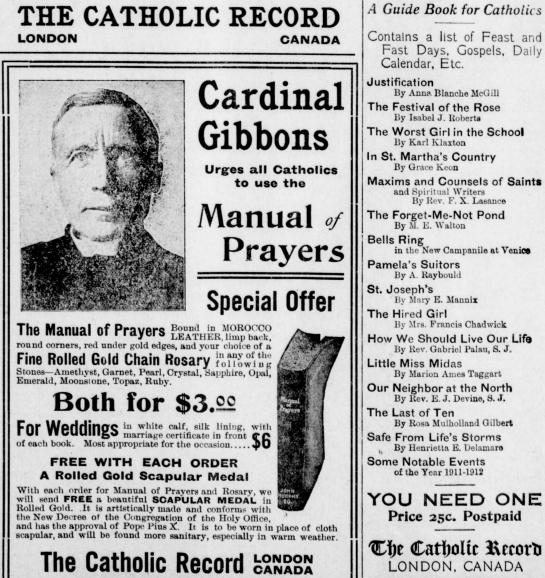
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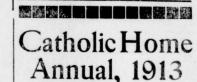
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~ *

PARSONS-POCOCK - At St. Peter's Cathedral, London, Ont., on Tuesday January 7, 1913, by Right Rev. M. F. Fallon, Bishop of London, Frederick G. Parsons, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. I. Parsons, of Sarnia, to Miss Edna Anna, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

for the reception of visitors, we will go over to the Sisters' house at Paris, which is conducted on exactly the same plan.

We are ushered into a small parlor scantily furnished, with some Scripture prints on the walls. A Sister enters to us with a bright look of cheerfulness, such as faces wear when hearts beneath them feel that

they are beating to some purpose in the world. She accedes gladly to our their home study music lessons in desire and at once leads us into every locality the International In-stitute of Music of New York will another room of larger size in which twenty or thirty old women are at this moment finishing their dinner. course of instruction for either Piano It being Friday rice stands on the table in place of meat. The Sister moves and speaks with the gentle-Sight Singing. In return they simply ask that you recommend ness of a mother among creatures who are in, or near the state of second their Institute to your friends after childhood. You see an old dame you learn to play. fumbling eagerly over her snuff-box

You may not know one note from lid. The poor creatures are not denied luxuries, for whatever they another: yet, by their wonderfully simple and thorough method, you can earn by their spinning is their own money, and they buy with it any an advanced player you will receive indulgence they please, among which special instruction. nothing is so highly prized or eagerly The lessons are sent weekly. They are so simple and easy that they are

coveted as a pinch of snuff. In the dormitories on the first floor recommended to any person or little some lie bedridden. Gentler still, if child who can read English. Photopossible, is now the Sister's voice. The rooms throughout the house are airy, with large windows, and those inhabited by the Sisters are distininhabited by the Sisters are distin-guished from the rest by no mark of indulgence or superiority indulgence or superiority. We descend now into the old men's

music department, and enter a warm room with a stove in the center. One old derful offer. Tell your friends about fellow has his feet upon a little footfellow has his feet upon a little foot-warmer, and thinly pipes out that he is very comfortable now, for he is always warm. The chills of age and the chills of the cold pavement re-main together in his memory ; but he is very comfortable now-very com- clear. fortable now. Another decrepit man with white hair and bowed back-who may have been proud in his youth of a rich voice for love songs —talks of music to the Sister, and on being asked to sing blazes out with become wetting and strikes up a song N joyous gestures and strikes up a song N.Y.

Music **Taught Free** Home Instruction Special Offer to Our Readers

and altogether the association is naturally proud of the good it has accomplished among the young men in its short span of life. The new In order to advertise and introduce

officers are a progressive lot who are planning a broad and extensive cam paign for the upbuilding and extension of the C. L. C. A. There is a course of instruction for either Piano, Organ, Violin, Mandolin, Guitar, Banjo, Cello, Brass Instruments or

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graphs and drawings make every thing plain. Under the Institute's pricks. But we do protest that the girls free tuition offer you will be asked are very much in the public eye; that it hurts them where they are most vulnerable, and that is in the estimapostage and the necessary sheet tion of the genus man-we mean the

male kind. All they get for their No one should overlook this wonpains of showing themselves off are averse, not attractive, comments. To be blunt and brutal, the men are

making fun of them. They regard them in the streets as they would their weaker sisters on the stage. The International Institute has successfully taught others and can suc cessfully teach you, even if you know absolutely nothing whatever about They are not looked upon by the music. The lessons make everything male kind as the women who are to be sought after as desirable help-

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BADLY DAMAGED BY FIRE

The plant of the Standaes Paint Co. of Canadi imited, at Lachine, Quebec, where Ru-ber of Roofing is manufactured, was badly damaged b

The plant of the sendors, where Ru-ber old Limited, at Lachine, Que-bec, where Ru-ber old Roofing is manufactured, was badly damaged by fire on Dec. a8th last. Fortunately most of the Company's equipment and some stock were saved, enabling them to continue to supply Ru-ber-old Roofing, Karoid Roofing, Sor-ereign Felt and their other products without delay. Prompt steps have been taken to reconstruct the damaged building and replace the equipment which was cestroyed, so that the users of the Company s products will suffer no inconvenience.