

(Written for the Review.)

COMFORTS OF RELIGION.

There are many who have passed the age of youth and beauty, who have resigned the pleasures of that smiling season, who begin to decline into the vale of tears, impaired in their health, depressed in their fortunes, stript of their friends, their children, and perhaps still more tender connections. What resource can this world afford them. It presents a dark and dreary waste, through which there does not issue a single ray of comfort.

Every delusive prospect of ambition is now at an end; long experience of mankind,—an experience very different from what the open and generous soul of youth had fondly dreamt of, has rendered the heart almost inaccessible to new friendships. The principal sources of activity are taken away, when those for whom we labour are cut off from us, those who animated and who sweetened all the toils of life.

Where then can the soul find refuge but in the bosom of Religion. There she is admitted to those prospects of Providence and futurity, which alone can warm and fill the heart. Such as retain the feelings of humanity are here addressed; whom misfortunes have softened, and perhaps rendered more delicately sensible; not such as possess that stupid insensibility which some are pleased to dignify with the name of Philosophy.

It might therefore be expected, that those philosophers who think they stand in no need themselves of the assistance of religion to support their virtue, and who never feel the want of its consolations, would yet have the humanity to consider the very different situation of the rest of mankind, and not endeavor to deprive them of what habit, at least, if they will not allow it to be nature, has made necessary to their morals and to their happiness.

It might be expected that humanity would prevent them from breaking into the last retreat of the unfortunate, who can no longer be objects of their envy or resentment, and tearing from them their only remaining comforts.

The attempt to ridicule religion may be agreeable to some, by relieving them from restraint upon their pleasures, and may render others very miserable by making them doubt those truths in which they were most deeply interested; but it can convey real good and happiness to no one individual.

In conclusion, I may well assert that religion is the guardian of the true Christian soul, and the harbinger of its future eternal bliss.

CATHOLIC NEWS.

The Vatican at Rome contains over 16,000 apartments of various sizes.

A rich Spaniard has bequeathed a large sum of money to found a Spanish college at Rome.

Another "clerical" victim to the duty of attending the cholera suffers is reported in the death of the Archbishop of Aix, France.

Archbishop Riordan, of San Francisco, was invested with the pallium on the 20th. Archbishop Gross, of Oregon, preached the sermon.

Charleston, S. C., has six Catholic schools, with an aggregate attendance of 1,091 pupils. Over 15 per cent. of these are colored.

The Church of St. Benedict the Moor, for colored Catholics, New York City, in the first year of its existence reduced a debt of \$40,000 to \$14,000.

The municipal elections in Venice have ended in a victory for the Catholics. Out of eighteen candidates, no less than eleven Catholics have been elected.

Right Rev. Bishop Krautbauer, of Green Bay, attended by Father Leccia, will leave for Rome in December and remain during the winter months.

A new church at Portland, Oregon, recently dedicated under the patronage of Our Lady Immaculate, is said to be the finest ecclesiastical structure on the Pacific coast.

Bishop Baltes is a hopeless invalid in the Hotel Dieu, at Montreal, and the doctors agree that his life cannot be prolonged beyond six months, and his death may be expected at any time.

On Sunday afternoon, 6th inst., 5,000 persons assembled at Sixth and Monmouth streets, Jersey City, to witness the laying of the corner-stone of a new Polish Catholic Church. Bishop Wigger officiated.

Bishop Neraz visited Presidio del Norte last month and had a grand reception. During his stay he and two priests heard confessions from dawn till midnight, and he confirmed 3,000 persons, among whom

was an old Mexican 95 years old. Presidio had never before seen a bishop.

The objects stolen from the Treasury of the Holy House of Loretto have been sold in different cities. The Ordine of Ancona relates that four chalices were found in Florence, in the shop of a dealer in antiquities, and they were recognized as having belonged to the Treasury of the Holy House.

Rt. Rev. J. O'Sullivan, the new bishop of Mobile, was consecrated last Sunday by Archbishop Gibbons, in Washington, at St. Peter's Church, where for many years Father O'Sullivan was pastor. This is the first Catholic bishop ever consecrated at the capital of the nation.

The Abbe Cap, a native Chinese priest, was martyred on April 6. He was buried alive by the Chinese. The circumstances of his execution, as related by Mgr. Pugnier, show that unless the compact which has taken place between the Holy See and the Emperor of China be carried out expeditiously, other murders of the same kind may be committed.

There is a rumor afloat in clerical circles that the territory of Utah is soon to be erected into a Vicariate Apostolic, with the Episcopal seat at Salt Lake City. The reverend gentlemen prominently set forth as candidates for the Mitre in this western field are: Rev. Father Scanlon, of Salt Lake; Rev. P. J. Clabby, of the Diocese of Dubuque, and Rev. D. V. Collins, of Dakota.

The good Sisters of Charity, of Altoona, Pa., recently celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of their arrival in the Pittsburgh Diocese. The original number, six, but one of whom remains, have grown to one hundred and twenty, scattered throughout the Diocese. Their principal work consists in conducting the parochial schools and visiting the sick.

The Archbishop of Quebec has issued a circular to his clergy calling their attention in a very special manner to the letter of Leo XIII. to the Cardinal Archbishop of Paris on the evils arising from the discussion of religious questions in the press, and especially from the tendency of certain Catholic writers in Europe and Canada to claim a sort of infallibility for themselves in condemning as bad Catholics all whose lives do not exactly coincide with theirs.

The honor of organizing the first temperance society on the Continent belongs to the Jesuits. In the year 1684, Jesuit missionaries gave a mission of Silvery, near Montreal, Canada, and after the celebration of Holy Mass one of the Fathers preached on temperance. The result was that Algonquin, with other chiefs and members of their tribes, organized a temperance society, and took the pledge to abstain from intoxicating liquors.

Benziger Brothers, of New York, have published an excellent life of Father Isaac Jogues, S. J., written in French originally by Rev. Felix Martin, S. J., and translated by that veteran Catholic historian, Dr. John Gilmary Shea, who has in addition not only carefully edited it, but also added invaluable notes, drawn from his own vast store-house of knowledge, concerning the early history of America. Father Jogues was a missionary to the American Indians from 1636 to 1646, meeting his death at a place now called Auriesville, New York.

The Vatican has been informed that on August 31, the ninth anniversary of the elevation to the throne of Sultan Abdul Hamid Khan, his majesty received in particular audience Mgr. Louis Rotelli, Archbishop of Farsaglia and Apostolic Delegate of His Holiness to the Porte, who presented the congratulations of the Holy See to his sublime majesty. The sultan conversed for quite a while with Mgr. Rotelli, inquiring especially about the Pope's health. The sultan was very affable in his manners, and sent, through the apostolic delegate, a message to His Holiness expressing his high regard for the Head of the Catholic world.

Before long the Cardinalial Commission for historic studies will begin the publication of an important and splendid work, to be entitled "Monumenta Vaticana," in which will be given in full, not summarily noted as in the "Regesta," the most valuable documents of Church history and of general interest, selected from the Secret Archives of the Holy See. This work is under the immediate supervision of Mgr. Louis Tripepi, secretary of the Commission above named, who is also charged to collect the manuscripts on historic matters forwarded by various writers of Italy for examination, and premiation by the Cardinalial Commission, which manuscripts, when approved, will be published by the new Vatican press, which is amply provided with all the latest improvements of modern inventive science.

Ordination at St. Boniface College.

Father Philip Bellivau, S.J., was ordained priest last Tuesday, Sept. 29th, by His Grace Archbishop Tache, in the St. Boniface College Chapel, in presence of the assembled Faculty and Students. Father Bellivau is an Acadian, born at Memramcook, N.B., within walking distance of Beausejour, made famous by Longfellow's Evangeline. He read the classics in the College of the Fathers of the Holy Cross in his native town, and then passed to the theological Seminary of the Sulpicians in Montreal. After two years in that great training school for priests, he felt himself called to enter the Society of Jesus. To answer this call was to put off his ordination for many years—for ten, as it turned out; but he bravely left home and country, and went to the novitiate of St. Acheul in the north of France, where he remained four years. The last six years were spent in Montreal. There he reviewed his theology and taught Latin with marked success. Since the opening of schools at St. Boniface, he has been devoting his talents and experience to the elementary Latin class. His pupils wished to congratulate him on his elevation to the priesthood. Accordingly in the course of the forenoon, they assembled, together with the masters and students of the other classes, in the College reception-room, and presented him with two addresses, one in French, read by Alex. LaRiviere, son of the Minister of Agriculture, the other in English, read by Alexander McDermot. The boys also sung a French hymn, composed for the occasion. Another of his pupils, Gustave Jean, read an exquisite French poem, written by one of Father Bellivau's brother-Jesuits in Montreal. A sapphire ode, composed by Fr. Blain of St. Boniface College, was beautifully and distinctly rendered in song by the Rev. Fr. Lory. As it may interest our occasionally-minded readers, we give it here—

Quem placentia numeris, sodales,  
Ite nunc primam meruit sacerdos  
Hostium Paris manitus tenere  
Lactus ad aras.

O nimis felix, nimis O beatus!  
Qui sacro fulget oleo perunctus.  
O manus dulcis tibi quae superna  
Munera praestat.

Ergo levitum flagitemus omnes  
Ut Deum nobis precibus faventem  
Reddat: exatit Dominus recentis  
Vota Ministri.

Conferat Christus tibi sancta dona,  
Sanguis et Jesu nitidis te inundet  
Fuctibus crescant tibi sic perennis  
Gaudia vitae.

It was easy to see that this homelike festival was a spontaneous outburst of joy and gratitude on the part of the college boys. And its import was deeply felt by the newly-ordained priest. He thanked them in a few eloquent words. He had, he said, at last reached the goal he had been aiming at for twenty years; and, with his long trial now behind him, he could tell them that no vocation on earth was comparable to that of a priest. He hoped and prayed that the sacerdotal crown might in after years be set upon the brows of many who now were so cordial in their sympathetic joy.

The assembled college then knelt for the Reverend Father's blessing, which was, to quote from the English address, "strong with the fresh fragrance of the priesthood." We trust we may be allowed to add our congratulations and best wishes to those which were heaped upon Fr. Bellivau on this the brightest day of his life, or rather on this day which was to him the beginning of God's special mercies, a day, which, unlike the joyous days of worldlings, knows not the morrow of sadness and grief, but repeats itself with ever-increasing blessings till it shall be merged in the splendors of eternity.

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