JANUARY 8, 1920

any one. They could say what they liked. There it stood with its bolts There it stood with its bolts and bars celd on my peor heart, waiting for him to come and take the curse off it . . and he never came-he never came !" She threw her arms across the table and buried her working features from the stranger's gaze. He waited until her sobs ceased before he spoke.

There was no curse on the door,"

"There was no curse on the ador, he told her gently, "except the sad curse that pride and temper always bring, and that your own suffering lifted long ago. And tonight his for-giveness came to you through the unhappy portal. He was coming back to you-let this comfort you, but death occurtor him on the Way." but death overtook him on the way.'

"It does comfort me." She sat erect again, but drooped her head "You are very kind, sorrowfully. sir.

He often talked of you," the " of your visitor went on to say, "of your early days together when you were so happy. No one was sweeter or kinder, he told me, than you were then, and he loved to recall how good you were to the poor, the sick, and the forsaken. You were never cross to any one but him, he used to remark, with that queer, whimsical smile of his; you remember? And

did she remember the clock ticking on the wall, the sun that struck through her kitchen window every morning, the rug on which her eyes were bent. Did she remember that odd twisted smile of his, his gentle, deferring ways, the dear familiar look of love in his kind blue eyes ?" I In a moment the present fell away from her as a cloak discarded, and she was walking with Jim Reagan through those early enchanted perfect days, before dissension had

stepped in to mar their loveliness. It was Spring, nowhere so radiant as in this rolling land of fertile fields and flowing streams, and in the hearts of these two just beginning their life together. What a May day that was in the orchard when the apple trees were in full bloom, mak ing a rosy glory against the dappled They were walking, she and eky ! Jim, hand in hand down the lane. and she stopped, catching her breath in sheer rapture. "Look, Jim, at the apple blos-

soms !" she had exclaimed, clasping his arm. "Aren't they beautiful ?" Then, her voice sinking a little in the fullness of happiness: "Isn't the world a wonderful place ?"

And we are going to make our life wonderful, aren't we dearest?" her young husband had whispered tenderly.

the apple blossoms! How Ob, sweet they were, and how softly they brushed against her cheeks which Jim in his fondness likened to How long was it that them! they walked through the fragrant orchard and down by the little stream at its foot. where the rippling waters threw back broken reflections of their happy faces and gurgled dreamily over the white pebbles in its bed? A long time, mayba; for

here, miraculeusly, it was Summer. Again she felt the peace of the long Summer days, the sweet scourity of the evening with her husband by her side. And here she was en her way to the harvest field where the afternoon sun. She had always read sgain, a lonely wayfared loved the harvest field, the happiest the threatening wintry skies. memories of her childhood were connected with it, and these eccived their crown teday, she thought proudly, as her kandsome husband came toward her through the golden sheaves.

In his whimsical way, and out of

kitchen put forth a few late lovely buds. Along the grass-ridged read that led to the woods beyond the far meadow the sumach lifted its flaming torch, and its more lissome rival, the bittersweet twined itself around the stake-and-rider fence, finding here and there a young tree for its clinging, from the top of which the red berries gleamed gaily

on prodigal, graceful branches. In the mellow sunlight of a bland October day they were coming home through these dear familiar ways,

made doubly dear to the young wife by the companionship of one who loved them as she did. The peaceful landscape rested under the golden haze which folded itself about the low hills like a bridal veil. "How many years," she wondered in dreamy content, "shall we walk

together like this-how many?" And as she spoke something of a dread portent shook her soul with an answering question.

"Forever and a day," Jim had "coplied lightly;" forever and a day!" Yet winter came quickly with frosty breath, bringing, however, an access of inner cheer to heart and hearth. This was the perfection of peace, her husband assured her, a man's own fireside, shut away from the storm and stress of the night. She had smiled across at him happily, and as they heard the wind

rise they had spoken regretfully of those who might be out in the night, or those who were homeless, or less fortunate than they. The wind blew shrilly, and shook the shutters. and roared down the chimney with a hollow call. . . The figure of her husband across the hearth became strangely indistinct, and under her drooping eyes formed the red, and green, and black circles of the rug at her feet.

a quiet strange voice saying as from afar off, "how dearly he cherisbed the memory of those happy days."

She stirred uneasily in her chair. Oh God, it was only a dream then. only a dream ! But how real it had seemed ! Could it be possible that it was forty years agone ? "We were happy, Jim, weren't we?" folding her hands together " Thank the good God-" the

words were almost inaudible-for those days and for my lost Jim's forgiveness. Thank . . God . . thank The quiet voice of the stranger

had ceased. At these low breathed words a glow as from within lit up his grave features, and the kind eyes, luminous with tenderness, rested on the pathetic bent figure with a look

softly.

that was like a benediction. The cheerful glow of the fire had faded into grey ashes. In the dim chimney the lampwick sputtered and smoked drearily. The cat arose

and with a sleepy yawn, curled himself up more enugly at his mistress feet, pre-empting also a warm corner of her dress. Slowly and with an unexpectedly musical sound the clock began to strike : One-twothree-four-five-six-seven-eight -nine -

The man listened, looking up at the broad, flowered face, showing pallid and disconselate in the gath. ering gloom. On the heels of the last stroke there was a curious jar ring metallic rumble, then-silence. Directly the deor had closed upon reapers were working under the hot the stranger, and he was out on the read again, a lonely wayfarer under He had brought comfort to a sorrowing soul.

GENERAL INTENTION

FOR JANUARY

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

and give alms to have Masses offered for dead soldiers, for they understood that the saving Sacrifice had virtue for the everlasting redemption of soul and body.

It is a happy coincidence that one of the classic arguments employed by Catholic theologians to prove the

existence of Purgatory and the need of prayers for the dead is drawn from the example of men who fell in battle. Jewish soldiers slain while fighting for God's cause had been guilty of taking and concealing idols of the enemy and had fallen with this sin on their souls. Evidently fighting for God's cause had not been sufficient to justify their sinfulness, and they were explating it in Purgatory when their leader Judas Machabeus sent twelve thousand drachms of silver to Jerusalem for sacrifice to be offered for their souls realizing, as the Sacred Records inform us, that it was a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the

souls of his dead soldiers that they might be loosed from their sins. St. Augustine commenting on this incident says, "In the Book of the Machabees we read that the sacrifice was offered for the dead, but even if this were found nowhere in the ancient Scriptures, we have from it the great authority of the Universal Church which clearly adheres to the

custom when, in the prayers offered by the priest at the altar of God. amemoration is made for the dead." Tradition and the principles of theology upheld this ancient practice, and we know that the Council of Trent asserted that the sacrifice of the Mass is not only one of praise and thanksgiving, or the bare commemoration of the sacrifice

he told me," she heard offered on the Cross, but that it is also propitiatory and ought to be offered for the dead as well as for the living How many sorrowing parents and

relatives should this doctrine console, had they the strong faith prevalent in the early centuries. Prayers and Masses are just as efficacious now as they were then. The Catholic Church prays for the dead and commends them to God every time a Mass is offered, believing that the

Precious Blood, "which was shed for the remission of sine," is available not only for the welfare of the living but also as suffrage for the dead. The dead are not cut off from the Church, otherwise the memory of them would not be made at the The Church reigns with Christ altar.

in her living and her dead, for Christ died that He might be Lord both. There is the fact of explation after death always staring us in the face "It is clear as the light," St. Gregory tells us, " that the souls of the who are perfect are received into heaven as soon as they leave the prison of the flesh ;" but, we may ask, what of the thousand who die daily and who are not perfect? What of the hundreds of thousands of poor soldiers who fell in Europe during the late struggle? Were they so

filled with light and grace that they entered at once into eternal rest? Nay rather, how many of them are l lingering in Purgatory, atoning for sin as yet unatoned for and enduring chastisement uptil the last farthing of their debt is paid? We may put the question in another way and ask, Were the cirrumstances of their going out of this world suffi cient to justify us in thinking no more of them or of their eternal destiny? In our optimism so often mani

own-risked their lives and all their lives stood for. We feel assured that are unnaturally kept down by the many soldiers in their dying hours felt the sweet influence of His pres-ence and received the strength to ack the supreme pardon; but how many which consists in its necessary going

past at a moment when its efficacy would have counted in the eternal order of things. For these reasons the Holy Father

invites us to think of those who died in Europe during the past five years. Friends and relatives of dead soldiers will need no such invitation; their friendly co-operation. loved ones are not forgotten in their

prayers. But it may be that the rest this is precisely the teaching of the world is unmindful and thinks little of the hundreds of thousands who were hurled so quickly and so tragically before their Maker. The present Intention comes as a gentle warning that we have a duty to perform in this regard, and we feel sure that the members of our Canadian League will not neglect the souls of those who can no longer merit and consequently can no longer help themselves. They did their duty as they understood it; as Catholics we should not delay in doing ours.

E. J. DEVINE, S. J.

A NEW YEAR'S THOUGHT

Here's a bright new year for me, Every page of it unsoiled Here's a book in which shall be Records of the way I've toiled. Here are pages I must fill, Scribble down the good and had They will show if well or ill I have used the chance I've had.

Just before I leave the old To adventure in the new I resolve with faith to hold To the work I have to do. Day by day I will be fair, Strong and steadfast in the fight ; All that shall be written there I, alone, have power to write.

Nothing good or nothing bad Has the new year stored for me ; Never any year has had Favorites it came to see. 'Twill be fine if I am fine And with splendor it will glow : But the chance it brings is mine alone must make it so.

Let me then resolve to be Faithful to the trust I find ; Good in others I must see, Honest I must be and kind And at last when this year ends I shall find that every test Brought me happiness and friends, If I've always done my best.

-EDGAR A. GUEST

THE REAL REMEDY

When we speak of a remedy in connection with social conditions we chiefly come from the training suppose that something is wrong youtb. Old pagans of worship with the social organism. And he would indeed be a blind optimist who while the unspoiled soul, which would in these days contend that "all's well with the world." We need not go beyond the boundaries of our own country to discover symptoms of disease. Or are the the divine power revealed in Chrisnumerous strikes normal phenomena tianity .- S. in The Guardian. of the nation's life? Or is it healthy sign when employers and employees cannot come to an agree ment in a matter that intimately concerns the welfare of the whole people? What about the sores of conspiracy against the government that have been laid bare? Or of a fested during the bloody days of the Congress, for that, which after War, "patriotism was seized upon and months and months of deliberation discussed as if it were the only could not come tegether on a essential virtue that men should formula of peace a year after the

authority-which is an echo of His they lack bodily strength or energy dred Returned Soldiers' Committees from coast to coast. others were there who did not ask ahead, over the necks of men, to its that grace or feel contrition ol the own aggrandizement—this is wrong, and this is what we call capitalism

> Now religion would check avarice would eliminate usurious profits would leave some room for the other man to fix his abode, build his home and find his comfort. Selfish exploitation would be replaced by

Why, some of our readers say Socialism. Well an industrial system based on religion would have all the good features of Socialism, plus the power to carry it out in practice.

Were all men imbued with religion they would consider the weal or woe of their neighbor as their own; and from this fundamental doctrine of Christianity, considered in its social aspect, there were bound to spring, by the innate force of religion, such mutual regard as would insure to each individual the full share of earthly happiness of which he were capable and deserving.

Of course, this would suppose such a hold of religion on mankind as we can scarcely hope to be ever realized Perfect religion perfectly embodied in the human race would make a paradise of earth. But if we cannot expect the full realization of the possible effects of religion, it remains nevertheless true that whatever progress religion makes among men will have a corresponding growth of justice, temperance, fortitude, charity and all the other virtues that make for social well-being. Let the great mass be colerably religious and the police and courts can manage the rest: but if the multitude have no other god than material prosperity, no coercive power of the State will be able to guarantee the well-being of the community. For this reason thoughtful men in

this country have come to the con-clusion that the religious training of youth cannot be neglected with immunity. From the standpoint of the individual religion is, of course, absolutely essential. For each one has a soul to save. But even from the standpoint of human society it is being more and more realized that its salvation cannot be achieved without religion. In Milwaukee, for instance. Catholics and non-Catholics have joined hands to raise a fund of five million dollars to further Christian education. Out of the nine colleges that are to have a share in the common fund two are Catholic. May the same appreciation of the signs of the times impair American citizens elsewhere to foster religious education with both purse and patronage. For, after all, if an improvement is to come it must chiefly come from the training of mammon are not easily converted. according to a saying of the Tertullian is "naturally Christian," by its kinship to God, readily takes to the divine wisdom and yields to

TO ASSIST SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

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to the owners if baggage checks are forwarded to the Secretary of the K. of C. Catholic Army Hut.

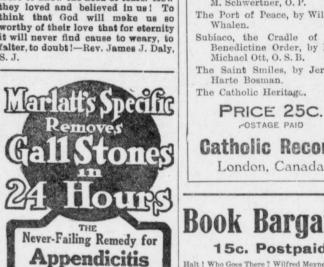
LIVES OF THE SAINTS

When we read the Lives of the Salnts, it is often easy to embody the spirit of a particular Saint in some form of landscape. With St. John of the Cross, for example, we are climb-ing a barren but lofty mountain peak sun-scorched and snow-covered St. Francis transports us at once to the soft green hills of Umbria: to the background of a picture by Perugino. If we would visit St. Benedict, we will find him in a wood that clothes a

mountain slope, where the foliage is thick overhead, where there is a refreshing coolness, and where the silence is broken only by the humming of bees, by a soft breeze in the treetops and by the gentle murmur of a distant torrent. With certain of the mystical saints, we are in a luxuriant ungle of tropical climes, where bloom strange flowers of rich perfume, of brilliant hue, and of fantastic form. To find St. Bernard we must journey to a cave in the rocks, or to the walled gardens of Popes and kings. Other saints again take us into country lanes where violets and other wild flowers blossom : where the dew yet lingers, and where the lark sings the blue sky. So altogether fascinating are the lives of the Saints that w cannot understand why all Catholics are not enamored of them .- Catholic Columbian.

OUR HOPE

This hope is also laid up in our osom, that we shall meet again those who are dear to us and are here no longer. Kind, beautiful eyes, that in a distant past kindled into a rare light at our approach and filled with tears at our going forth, closed now these many years and withdrawn beyond the veil of death, will light again with the joy of meeting, nevermore to know th e need of tears. How they loved and believed in us! To think that God will make us so worthy of their love that for eternity it will never find cause to weary, to falter, to doubt !- Rev. James J. Daly S. J.



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e refinement of his more sophis ticated rearing, he had coined for her odd and characteristic names She was seldom Margaret to him ; but "My provident Peg,"--" Queen but "My provident reg, --- queen Meg of the Fairies," with a pointed dig at her height: "Margie," or sometimes it was "Brownie." To-day a brown straw hat shaded her face, there were brown flecks in the white lawn dress she wore and a brown valvet ribbon bound her brown velvet ribbon bound her waist.

You're a real Brownie today, he had observed, brushing her cheek with a spear of wheat as he threw himself on the ground at her side. She had waited for him under a majestic oak, and in its shade a cooler breeze touched them kindly. The sunlight sifted downward admitted to their place in heaven. through the leaves in curious arabesques, and the reapers' voices, softened by the distance, blended in with the innumerable familiar small sounds of the drowsy Summer fields. On the silence rose and fell the occasional piercing sweet call of the meadow lark. It was so paaceful . . so peaceful . . Suddenly an un-wary woodpecker knocked loudly on an oaken door far above. Jim Reagan laughed softly.

Brownie? Not into our Paradise, and reaching for her hand he held it caressingly to his lipe. She leaned and was in chains. And yet, however over him with a smile . .

Strange that it should be Autumn | certain hour each day were always when she began to wonder uneasily if she had answered Jim that day. reproach, and have prolonged the sweetness of that all-parfect moment ; for now the Fall was here and know," said the young seldier, " that the fairness of these Summer days he thinks me dead and says Masses marvest gathered into the wide barns. The fall roses nodded their vari-colored heads at the corner of the house and the Virginia cresper crimsened over the smoke-house door, while decoyed by the mild

RECOMMENDED AND BLESSED BY HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XV.

reminds us of a duty that perhaps we are liable to forget, that of praying

for our dead who gave up their lives during the recent War. Their, bodies lie beneath the ground somewhere in Europe, but their souls still live. atoning possibly for sins committed

The Venerable Bede relates a story which shows the efficacy of Masses and pravers for men slain in battle. A young soldier named Imma, he tells us, had been made prisoner and put in icons. He had a brother who was a priest and abbot, who, having heard that Imma had been killed in battle, went to seek for his bedy Finding one very like it, he brought it to the monastery and buried it, and for the release of his soul took

"He can't come in, can he, care to say many Masses. Now it rownie? Not into our Paradise," happened that Imma had not been fast he was bound, his chains at a

found to have fallen off. The keeper, whose prisoner he was, wondering at knew nothing about charms, but that he had a brother a priest. "I

practise. Patriotism, and military War was over? Was it perhaps a heroism, and the rest of it, do not logical necessity that, as we had been necessarily predicate holiness of life. the last to join in the War, we should be the last to conclude peace ? Something more is required from soldiers to earn Heaven than to fight Now where will you find a remedy and die for the integrity of even the for Uncle Sam's rheumatism? For greatest commonwealth the world evidently he does not walk with his evidently he does not walk with his The General Intention for the has even seen. Empires come and go with the centuries, they rise and wonted brisk step. The healing must come from within if we are not fall in the course of ages, but while they are useful in their day for the satisfied with palliatives and crutches. Legislative bodies, police welfare of human society, they are not such stable things that men forces, courts of justice are all right in their place, but they never can be should risk eternity for their pre-servation. "Happy they who die for fatherland" is a pagan aphorism blick priferer the sources of a nation's life. A State, like the head of a family, is then best off when it has to make the which writers in recent years have smallest use of its ruling and tried to raise to the dignity of a coercive power, i. e., when the bulk dogma, but we Catholics know that a of its citizens do the right thing distinction should be made Justice and charity oblige us to defend the spontaneously. This, however, supposes that they are animated with a country that protects us by its laws and renders easy our task of serving spirit that is aglow with a passion for the common welfare.

and renders easy out then to the struct the Lord of all; but, in final count, and in view of the interests that are and in view of the interests that are at stake, we also know that the only the old, old remedy which we would the old of the signing and certifying of documents prescribe for the ailments of the signing and certifying of documents social organism. Religion, first of by a Justice of the Peace will also be ie the land beyond the grave. For ne pilgrime of the valley Heaven is our final home and consequently the only real one, the loss or gain of heart an unsatiable thirst for happi-wishes to communicate with any which means so much, and the quest ness. If this life offers the only opportunity to quench that thirst, then indeed the chances are very of which involves such perils, that we must deplore the blindness of unequal, with the consequence of many being naturally dissatisfied with their lot. But when religion mation and Service Office are absothose who at the fateful hour of death practically ignore the goal and allow their aspirations to rise no higher than fostering of glory of sheds its consoling ray into a human lutely free of charge. some transitory empire.

heart there is no lot so humble but has its redeeming features. This Shedding the blood of our fellow does not mean, of course, that relig-ion has a tendency to curb the legitimen in defence of this or that She should have answered him, she this, asked him if he had about him country may earn us monuments of reasoned, with an odd sense of self- any charm. Imma replied that he bronze or granite, but after all it is a poer preparation for entry into the land beyond. At the hour of death is not a matter of large possessions men's minds should be concentrated but of a heart imbued with faith and hope and love. To such a heart the on the dread plunge they are soon to preaching of confiscation of wealth

has no appeal. Religion in the second place, would diminish the number of the poor. and spent their lives in it, have every claim to our prayful sympathy. always be, but they would not crimsened over the smoke-house dropt off. When he gained his Undoubtedly the mercy of God is suffer because charity would be infinite; He did not abandon those abundant. But under actual condiweather her own rosebush by the he found that he had conjectured who at the call of legitimate tions many are poor, not because

and sailors in London, Ont., and vicinity, in the many difficulties encountered in the change from military to civilian life, is the aim of the returned Soldiers' Committee of London Council, Knights of Columbus who have opened an office at the Catholic Club for the carrying on of the work. All returned men

acquainted with the Knights of Col-umbus, through the Catholic Army Huts at the front, in England, and in Canada, and the local Returned Soldiers' Committee has been formed with a view to broadening the field of the activities of the Knights of Columbus for Canada's fighting men The Information and Service office opened here is only one branch of the Committee's work. Here the returned fighter may find advice and assistance in his military and semi-military Government department with which he has business. The work is under the charge of Mr. E. V. Hession, who

The local hospitals will also come under the activities of the returned Soldiers' Committee, and will be vis entertainments for the various local military homes and hospitals during the coming winter.

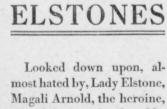
Recreational work among dis charged men generally is also being discussed by the Committee, and it is possible that general work may be done along this line.

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