

The Saint John Monitor

Published Every Saturday Morning.

Subscription one dollar a year, payable in advance; to foreign countries \$1.50, postpaid.

Single Copies, Two Cents.

Advertising rates on application.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., DEC. 15, 1906.

THE INTENTION FOR DECEMBER.

A fitting intention surely for the month of December is "Christian Disinterestedness." Self-interest is the very keynote of worldly action. On all sides we see people doing acts which are good and benevolent, but what is the motive back of it all? Is there not a selfish motive lurking somewhere in the background? If a man does me a favor today, is he not looking for some reward tomorrow? This self-interest is not sinful. It is part of the instinct of self-preservation. Without it as a moving power there would be no progress. God implants it in our heart for a good purpose, but, like others of his gifts, we turn it to ignoble uses. We allow it to grow and develop until it rules our lives, until we have no more room left for that disinterestedness of which Christ gave us an example. The constant seeking of our own ends, without regard to others, is disastrous to our spiritual advancement. We should broaden our vision so as to take others. We should try to look at things from their standpoint. In doing good, we should try to do it for the honor and glory of God, rather than for what material good it will bring in return. We should be charitable and kind, not for our own sake, but for the sake of Christ, who promised us reward a hundredfold for a cup of cold water given in His name.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT.

As Christmas approaches, the Liturgy of the Church grows more exultant in the spirit of expectant longing with which she desires her children to await the great solemnity. On the third Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday, as it is called, because the first word of the Mass is "Gaudete" or "Rejoice"—this spirit is very evident. The organ, which at other times during the services proper to Advent, may only be used to sustain the singing, today peals forth in joyful strains as on a feast. In the larger churches and cathedrals, vestments of a peculiar tint known as "rose-colour"—a kind of brownish red—are allowed to be used in place of the sombre purple of the season. The Deacon and Sub-Deacon resume their duties instead of the folded chaubes proper to penitential occasions, and the Bishop, if assisting with solemnity, wears his precious mitre.

The Church would have us look forward to the coming of Christ as though He were really to be born for us on the approaching festival; for, to "men of good will" who really desire Him, Our Lord will truly come, being born anew in their hearts by abundant outpourings of grace.

As a preparation for the coming solemnity, the Divine Office for the days immediately preceding Christmas has certain peculiar features. One of these is the singing of what are known as the "Greater Antiphons." These are the special antiphons for the octave "Magnificat," in the week-day Vespers for the seven days which come before Christmas Eve. Each of them is a beautiful expression of the longing of the soul for the coming of the Redeemer; "O Wisdom that proceeded from the mouth of the Most High... disposing all things with strength and sweetness, come and teach us the way of prudence!" "O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver... come and save us, O Lord Our God!" Other similar invocations occur in these devout formularies. Our Lord is styled "Sun of Justice," "King of the Nations," "Root of Jesse," etc., and

is earnestly invoked to hasten to the help of His people.

In cathedrals and monasteries where the Vesper Office is sung these antiphons are surrounded with more elaborate ceremonial than usual. The celebrant, or priest appointed to intone one of them, assumes a purple cope, and is accompanied by acolytes with lighted tapers; the bells of the church being rung in a joyous peal while the singing of the antiphon lasts. In some monasteries the old custom is still maintained of assigning each of these antiphons to one of the more dignified members of the community, beginning with the abbot.

In the Middle Ages it was customary to observe a like practice in cathedrals also, the Bishop intoning on the first day and the Canons following in their respective order for the remaining antiphons. Each dignitary was expected to entertain the rest of the members of the choir, after the service, at a modest refectory in honor of the occasion. This came to be known under the title of "Celebrating the O," each antiphon commencing with O, as "O Rex," "O Oriens," etc.

The same frugal rejoicing took place in monasteries when the abbot sang his antiphon. We find in the usage books of the Middle Ages directions for providing "raisins and good wine" for the brethren, to enable them to celebrate the occasion with innocent rejoicing. In such ways did Christians during the ages of faith follow in the spirit of the Church with regard to their simple pleasures.

DEATHS AND BURIALS.

Timothy Collins, who was injured in Hilyard's shipyard on Tuesday, died at the Public Hospital on Wednesday morning. The young man, who was twenty-four years of age, never regained consciousness after the accident. Mr. Collins, it will be remembered, was crushed beneath a large iron crane used by the Messrs. Fleming, by whom he was employed. From the first it was seen that his recovery was impossible. He is survived by a mother and sister.

Mrs. Theresa P. Whelly, wife of Mr. Richard Whelly, died Thursday morning at her residence 92 St. Patrick street, after a protracted illness. She was the daughter of Mr. James McInerney and thirty-one years of age. Besides her husband, one son survives.

The death is announced at Charlottetown, P. E. Island, on Tuesday morning, of Dr. James Handrahan. He was in his forty-first year and leaves a wife and four children.

KEITH'S ST. JOHN THEATRE.

Mr. J. E. Moore, who represents the theatrical interests of Messrs. Keith, Moore and Albo, who have leased the York Theatre, says that the performers coming to St. John will be the best seen on the circuit and will be the same as appear at Keith's Theatre in Boston. Performances will be given every afternoon and evening excepting Monday afternoon. Mr. Moore says the York Theatre will be renovated and redecorated in a befitting manner. Special scenery will also be installed and everything put in the best of shape.

A PLEASANT FUNCTION.

On Wednesday afternoon, over one hundred gentlemen, prominent in the various walks of life, were entertained at luncheon on board of the "Empress of Britain." This magnificent steamship is owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, who invited the guests. They found a hearty welcome from General Superintendent Downie, Mr. Piers, manager of the C. P. R. steamship lines, who came here especially for the luncheon; Captain Walsh, the company's shore captain, and Captain Murray, of the Empress of Britain. The beautiful ship came in for unanimous praise and certainly the surroundings were inviting as the guests took seats in the handsomely appointed saloon. The banquet itself was a most delightful function and was carried out with that careful attention to detail that has gained for the C. P. R. its reputation as the greatest caterer on the face of the globe. Mr. Piers, General Supt. Downie, Capt. Murray and Capt. Walsh presided over the four tastefully and beautifully decorated tables and saw personally to the wants of their guests. The service was excellent. This and the many tempting dishes were the subject of most favorable comment from the company. The nationalization of the port was the principal topic and it was generally agreed by all speakers that it should take place.

THE LATEST FROM FRANCE.

Despatches to Morning Papers. Paris, Dec. 13.—There was a total absence today of any of the sensational or dramatic incidents anticipated in alarmist quarters in connection with the execution of the law of separation.

The parish priests everywhere celebrated mass in the presence of an unusually large congregation, but the actions of the authorities were confined to noting infractions of the law and citing the priests and vicars to appear before justices of the peace.

Everywhere legal notices have been served for the evacuation of ecclesiastical residences, the seminaries, etc. Several of these buildings were abandoned without further ado, but a majority of the prelates, while fully prepared to go, announced that they would not depart except under duress.

In many parishes in Paris and the interior, Catholic laymen came forward today and spontaneously filed declarations for the holding of services in the designated churches during the coming year. If this practice is generally followed it will be a distinct victory for the government, relieving it from the necessity of closing churches and throwing on the clergy the responsibility for the continuance of the public worship.

In the meantime the cabinet has prepared measures to be introduced before parliament tomorrow.

The net result of the uncompromising attitude of the Vatican in this conflict with the French government seems to be that the clergy will lose its pension, 38,300 of which have been granted and distributed since the beginning of this year; that all aspirants to the priesthood will be compelled to perform military service and that the taking over of the episcopal mansions, rectories, seminaries, etc., by the state department and the communes will occur immediately instead of in December, 1907.

Rome, Dec. 13. The Giornale D'Italia today publishes an article in which Mgr. Montagnani, referring to his expulsion from France, is quoted as follows:

"My expulsion was painful, but not unexpected. France is going through unhappy hours. The present situation is due to Free Masonry, which succeeded in getting the upper hand through the indolence of the French middle classes. Although deeply Catholic, these classes are unorganized. I am the humble agent of the Pope, and I only did his will. Nobody can say what the consequences of what is transpiring in France will be, but God's will be done. Upon returning to Rome I placed myself at the orders of the Pope; these I execute loyally no matter what the outcome may be."

"OLD TIMES."

We clip the following item from Mr. Clarence Ward's interesting letter on "Old Times," in Saturday's Globe:

The priest in charge of St. Malachy's chapel at this time was the Rev. Jas. Dunphy. Father Dunphy was popular with and well liked by all denominations; he was a very witty man of great good nature. He calls for tenders for improving the church: "Contract—Tenders will be received by the Rev. James Dunphy at his house adjoining the Roman Catholic church until Tuesday, the 22nd inst., at noon, for contracting and erecting an Altar Piece in said church. Plans and specifications may be seen every intermediate day (Sundays excepted) from 3 to 4 o'clock in the afternoon, by applying to Mr. B. Gale, architect, Horsfield street. St. John, April 12, 1834."

A REMINDER.

The season is nigh when good people puzzle their brains about Christmas presents. If you wish to benefit your friends religiously, morally, intellectually, socially, politically, economically, historically and delightfully, piously and devotedly, send them THE SAINT JOHN MONITOR.

NOTICE

A Series Of

Free Lectures

—ON—

Steamship

Navigation.

Will be delivered in the Examination Rooms, at the Port of St. John, N. B., EVERY TUESDAY AND FRIDAY EVENING, during the months of December, January, February and March 1906-7, commencing at 8 p.m. sharp. All persons interested in the above subjects are cordially invited to attend.

F. GOUDREAU,

Deputy Minister.

Department of Marine and Fisheries, Ottawa.

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CUSTOMS SALE—On Monday next, 17th inst., there will be sold by PUBLIC AUCTION at the Appraisers' Rooms, in the CUSTOM HOUSE, at 11 o'clock a.m., a lot of Unclaimed Goods and sundry other goods, to be sold under the provisions of the Customs Act of Canada.

Customs, St. John, N. B., 13th December, 1906.

A. T. DUNN, Collector.

F. L. POTTS, Auctioneer.

Christmas Gifts in Jewellery.

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