

SHORT INSTRUCTIONS FOR LOW MASSES.

N. Y. Freeman's Journal. [Delivered by the Rev. James Donohoe, rector of the church of St. Thomas Aquinas, Brooklyn, N. Y.]

MATTER, FORM, AND NECESSITY OF BAPTISM.

DEAR PEOPLE: The previous preliminary instructions on the sacrament in general were intended to prepare you for the discourses that are to follow on the sacrament in particular. The sources of information we propose to impart are theological text-books, Catechisms, the decrees of various councils, and synods.

To begin our subject, we may state at once that the only valid matter of the sacrament of Baptism is natural water. This is an Article of Faith, defined by the Council of Trent. But what is meant by natural water? Water taken from rivers, wells, fountains, lakes, etc. Milk, blood, tears, oil, wine, and many other fluids are certainly invalid.

The form of the sacrament of baptism is: "I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." This form is prescribed by Christ Himself: "Go forth, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Baptism is absolutely necessary for salvation. Not even an infant dying without it will be saved. This is perfectly plain from the words of our Saviour: "Unless a man be born again of water and the Holy Ghost, he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven."

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Johnston states "that the small place was once the luminary of Caledonian regions, whence savage clans and roving barbarians derived the benefits of knowledge, and the blessings of religion."

The cathedral of St. Mary, the most prominent of these remains, is in the form of a cross, and is one hundred and sixty feet long, twenty four feet broad, and the length of the transept is seventy feet.

Seven years before that awful day, when time shall be no more, a dreadful deluge shall sweep the island of Iona, and shall sink the towers above the flood.

A chapel of the nunnery is in a tolerable state of preservation. Among other interesting objects on the island is a beautiful cross called "Maclean's Cross," one of a great number, which were standing at the time of the Reformation.

"The biggest piece of luck I ever saw," once said Allan Pinkerton, the detective, to a correspondent of the Albany Argus, "happened to a raw Scotoman and his wife that I knew. This Scotoman had been a charmer; a prize was set on his head; he had a sweetheart, Joan Carfax, a book-finder's apprentice, and a lass that had caught his heart a-tinging chartist songs, who married him with his head all but in the noose; and some friends shipped them by stealth to Quebec, he as a ship's cooper and she as a cook on the bark Kent, April 3, 1840.

Mr. Thomas Ballard, Syracuse, N. Y., writes: "I have been afflicted for nearly a year with that most to be dreaded disease Dyspepsia, and at times worn out with pain and want of sleep, and after trying almost everything recommended, I tried one box of Parole's Valuable Pills, I am now nearly well, and believe they will cure me. I would not be without them for any money."

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