

"BAD BREAKS"

Being a Story of Recent Happenings in Which we go 'From Grave to Gay' and Back Again.

Under the heading, "A Chapter of Errors," there appeared in a recent issue of The Catholic Standard and Times an article dealing with mistakes made by writers for the secular press in discussing Catholic subjects, especially in describing Catholic ceremonies.

The errors were of various kinds, most of them being due to the writers' ignorance of Catholic terminology rather than to erroneous notions of Catholic practices or doctrines.

That there are so many persons who give credence to false and ridiculous statements concerning Catholic doctrine, practices and institutions is but an evidence of the amount of misrepresentation that has found lodgment in otherwise well-balanced minds.

The "escaped nun" has been the heroine of many works of fiction, some of which, even to this day, find place on the shelves of "Sabbath school" libraries.

The truth of this statement is illustrated by a recent occurrence at one of the noblest of all the noble conventual institutions in this archdiocese.

At that instant the mother superior, who had been detained for a few minutes (not hours), approached the grill.

In an agony for getting so excited the woman is alleged to have told a friend that the delay of the mother in coming was the cause of her fright, and that this was necessary because the superiors had to be sprinkled with holy water before speaking with one to the world.

There are others besides this unfortunately nervous lady who think that the convents are recruited by gobbling up anybody they can get, but some candidates for the sisterhood who have been sent home because of apparent lack of vocation might be able to tell them a different story.

A JUDICIAL "BREAK" was made by a man and relates to Papi's infallibility. Strange to say, the one to whom this dogma seems inexplicable is a Judge.

isions are binding on Catholics in matters of faith and morals only.

The Pope, in issuing his decree for the observance of the holy year, stated most positively that nineteen hundred was the closing year of the nineteenth century, but this did not deter enterprising newspapers from beginning that His Holiness made the beginning of the twentieth century, and that all good Catholics must accept it as such.

The error of the secular papers was pointed out in these columns, but all non-Catholics do not take this paper. Some of the better informed do.

This decision of those having infallible authority are apt to be unsatisfactory, as in the case, for example, of the recent ruling by a most eminent personage that ninety-nine years make a century.

The decision was published in the Legal Intelligencer, and upon its perusal by a representative of The Catholic Standard and Times a copy of the Papi decree and an extract from an editorial on the blunder made by the secular press was sent to His Honor, and within the past few days a communication reached this office, calling attention to the decision.

The "eminent personage" undoubtedly refers to the Holy Father. Will you please give in your next issue an authoritative statement of what His Holiness said in this matter?

A remark by the foolishness of the original statement in the daily papers is pertinent. Said he: "If one Pope was bright enough to arrange the calendar under which we act, it is scarcely probable that the present one is so dull as to think that ninety-nine years make a century."

One of the local dailies gravely informed its readers on the Monday following the feast of the Immaculate Conception (which occurred on Friday) that the feast was observed in the Catholic Churches yesterday (Sunday) "because it occurred on a week day this year, and many of the people could not go to Mass on that account."

The publication of lists of such blunders has increased the watchfulness of non-Catholic newspaper men, one of whom discovered in an account of a recent ceremony that a rival scribe had moved "the Bible" from the epistle to the gospel side, instead of the reverse, and he was somewhat astonished to learn that the Missal was not a Bible.

THE FUTURE OF CATHOLICITY IN AMERICA.

"America," says Father Doyle, "ought to be Catholic. By every right, by title of discovery, of first occupancy, of claims of truth against error, is the Catholic seal put on this land. The Holy Mass was for a hundred years the only Christian service celebrated on the Western Hemisphere." Here the Church has demonstrated her power and her harmony with the existing conditions by her unprecedented growth, to which the free air of liberty has been peculiarly favorable.

The highest type of manhood has been developed in this country and needs but the touch of the Holy Spirit to supernaturalize it. Protestantism has failed to satisfy the religious cravings of the American people, and there is a void created which only Catholicity can fill. There was never a more attractive field for missionary effort says

the writer, and he quotes as timely the words of the Apocalypse: "Thrust in thy sickle and reap, for the hour has come to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe."

A VOICE FROM AFRICA.

Bishop Augouard, C. S. Sp. - Letter From the Centre of the "Dark Continent." - His Lordship Thanks the Irish Catholics. - Two Caravans Destroyed by Cannibals.

To the Editor of the Irish Catholic: The works of God and of His Church are crossed everywhere without exception by a thousand difficulties. But this seems to me to be more the case in Africa than elsewhere. The devil is still owner in fee of the greater portion of the dark continent.

On his side, Father Gourdy, after escaping death by a miracle as it were, was obliged to wander through the woods for twenty-four long hours, without food or drink, his clothes and limbs torn, but little dreaming of what had happened the caravan travelling by water: a brother killed and a young lad, a Christian also, massacred and eaten by cannibals.

What these events took place I was steaming up the Oubanghi in our little boat, Leo XIII. The death of our most respected Father Alaire obliged me to resume my former post as captain of the steamer, and I can assure you it is not a very easy thing to steer a boat through narrow passes and over reefs for a distance of fifteen hundred or two thousand miles into the country.

The same day Father Gourdy, Superior of the Mission of Saint Paul of the Rapids, had a miraculous escape from being trapped by these fearful man-hunters. He owes his life to a special protection of Divine Providence.

The following is from the columns of the Hert's Advertiser, an English newspaper, issue of December 9: In connection with the St. Albans Branch of the Church Association a meeting was held at the Town Hall on Tuesday evening, which was but sparsely attended.

Asked by the Rev. J. Tierney if he had read that the Church of England was a branch of the Catholic Church of God, the lecturer said it was supposed to be taught throughout the whole Church.

Did you ever try to dodge the rain-drops? Did you not succeed very well, did you? It's just as useless to try to escape from the germs of consumption. You can't do it. They are about us on every hand and we are constantly taking them into our lungs.

Then why don't we all have this disease? Simply because these germs cannot gain a foothold in a strong throat and lungs. It's when these are weak that the germs master.

The body must be well supplied with fat. The danger comes when the blood is poor and the body is thin. If your cough does not yield, and your throat and lungs feel raw and sore, you should not delay another day.

Scott's Emulsion

of Cod-Liver Oil with Hypophosphites at once. It will heal the inflamed membranes and greatly strengthen them as well. The digestion becomes stronger, the appetite better and the weight increases. The whole body becomes well fortified and the germs of consumption cannot gain a foothold.

It's this nourishing, sustaining and strengthening power of SCOTT'S EMULSION that has made it of such value in all wasting and exhausting diseases.

to find a road by land, and to make acquaintance with the savage inhabitants of the mountain districts. Whilst he went by land, Bro. Severinus, who was a bad pedestrian, went by water in a pirogue.

Brother Severinus received three formidable assaigay blows, and his head was nearly severed from the trunk by a fearful battle-knife. His body was shipped across to the other side in a pirogue by cannibals, who landed it, and laid it out in a quiet place, where it was to be discovered by a French soldier sailing by with some recruits.

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PROTESTANT LECTURE IN A FOG.

Protestants in the Audience ask Some Plain Questions and Fail to Get Answers.

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The Rev. J. Tierney said if, as the lecturer had stated, the confessional degraded the people, it must degrade the individual. Did the lecturer think that the Lord Chief Justice of England, Lord Brampton and other leading Catholics, as well as those brave men, the Irish Fusiliers and others who were showing such bravery in the Transvaal, were degraded types of humanity?

The lecturer declined to be brought into a personal conflict. The Rev. J. Tierney wanted to know of individual cases in which this degradation was evidenced. Did the lecturer know that the Pope himself went to confession? Therefore, if the Pope, and Bishop, and priest went to confession, he did not see how it could be argued that they were degraded. Surely by going to their fellow men to confess they were humbled. The reverend gentleman continued to argue that if God could administer justice through human agency, and could govern and reward through men, he did not see why He could not also forgive sins through man.

The lecturer's retort was that there was no authority from the Word of God that He forgave sins through man's agency. The Rev. J. Tierney: "The priest does not undertake to forgive sin of his own power but as the delegate of God."

The Rev. Dr. Power laboring under keen excitement, demanded the name of the Pope, or Bishop, or priest who invented confession; in what country it was invented; in what century it was first practiced; and asked the lecturer to explain the fact that confession, although it was hard to flesh and blood, although it was humiliating to pride, still in spite of all that, it was imposed upon the whole of the Christian world without any shudder whatever and without one word of protest.

The lecturer: "Will you prove, first of all, the whole Christian world was commanded to confess?" The Rev. Dr. Power argued that anybody who knew anything of Church history knew that the whole Christian world, up to the time of the so-called Reformation, did practice confession. If it were an invention of man, it was a most infamous invention.

The lecturer said he could not undertake to say who was the originator of the system of confession. He might as well be asked who was the first idolator. Dr. Power: "But you are an M. A., and you ought to know who invented the confessional."

The Rev. Dr. Power contended that the world would not have submitted to so humiliating a thing as confession if they were not sure it came from God.

The lecturer: "The fact of people submitting to degradation is not the slightest proof whatever that the system must have come from God."

At the close of a lengthy argument the Rev. Father Tierney and the Rev. Dr. Power were leaving the room, when the lecturer, addressing them, said he honored them as open opponents. Their position was honorable, and that was more than could be said of men who went into the Church of England, who swore to conform to her laws, and then conformed to the Roman Church.

You Can't Dodge Them

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