

Grapes and Thorns.

We must not hope to be mowers, And gather the ripe gold ears, Until we have first been sowers, And watered the furrows with tears.

SHORT SERMONS FOR BUSY PEOPLE.

Preached in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York.

The League of the Sacred Heart—its History an Evidence of its Solidity.

The history of the League of the Sacred Heart, dear brethren, the characteristics of whose devotion to our Lord is unselfish, is a gratifying evidence of its solidity. As an organized form of devotion the Holy League began in 1844 in a little Jesuit college in France.

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It is a serious question whether Catholics pray as much as they should for the conversion of their non-Catholic fellow-citizens. There is motive and inducement enough, but somehow we don't seem to enter into it; it does not take hold of us and enter into our lives and influence us at all times as it ought.

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standing of ordinary minds. Souls, the souls of ordinary, everyday people were made to feel that they were parts of a divine mechanism by which souls were to be saved: that they could repay God's beneficence towards them by actually assisting Him in His benevolent designs towards others.

PRAY FOR THE CONVERSION OF OUR SEPARATED BROTHERS.

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of not? And then, if the Catholic Church be, as we believe, the true Church, having the one, true faith and sacraments and ordinances of divine institution, pregnant with the riches of God and imparting the riches of divine grace for the salvation of men, it must be a tremendous loss for any one to be deprived of its privileges even though there was a possibility of his being saved on the ground of invincible ignorance.

We have dwelt so long on this point that we have little room to speak of another very important motive for praying for the conversion of our outside friends: we allude to the fact of the present demoralized condition of the Protestant sects and the direful development in the direction of so-called "Liberal Christianity," which is really only another expression for Skepticism and Agnosticism. Affairs are rapidly reaching a crisis among them. There is a sober, conservative element which is very much exercised with the question of authority. They feel the ground slipping under their feet. They are beating about in their frail barques without chart or compass. They long for peace. They sigh for stability, for certainty of faith, but they find it not. Oh, if they could but be brought to see that their only hope is in taking refuge in the staunch old Barque of Peter, which has outridden the storms of two thousand years and invites them to enter her portals and be forever safe and at peace! For this we should pray. For this every true Catholic should cry nightly to God and with unceasing, daily petitions implore for these our separated brethren the great and unspeakable grace of conversion.

SOME COURT CARDS.

That every people has the government it deserves, is a dictum most emphatically true. So says the writer who calls himself "Politikos," in the preface to his "Sovereigns and Courts of Europe," recently republished by the Appletons of New York.

When a writer opens with a good, sonorous, mouth-filling lie like the above, and calls attention to its character by saying it is "emphatically true," he becomes an object of interest to the thoughtful reader—just as Ananias would.

Proceeding on his theory that every people has the government it deserves, Politikos appropriately begins his sketches of the crowned heads of Europe with the Sultan of Turkey, and ends it with the Queen of England. Of the first he says: "His private life resembles that of an English gentleman. . . . He is practically a monogamist, and has no more legal wives than four." This does not include the three hundred ladies whom Politikos delicately calls "brevet spouses." The picture of Sultan Abdul Hamid, accompanying the sketch, is not an inappreciative one. Abdul wears a fez and has the intellectual cast of countenance which we occasionally see on his countrymen engaged in the retail collar-button business on our sidewalks.

Photography is a terrible disenchancer. The portrait of Czar Alexander III, which comes next, represents not a grim and gloomy tyrant of awe-inspiring mien, but a heavy, thick-lipped, dull-eyed Russian moujik. His clothes are majestic enough, but the face above them is that of a boor. Alexander is the only monarch who does not receive unstinted praise from our author, but that is probably because Politikos is an Englishman.

The Emperor of Austria looks respectable and, strange to say, does not belie his looks. William II. of Germany has the wide-awake countenance of a clever commercial "drummer," but it is a dream of another kind that pleases his fancy. Politikos says very brightly: "Prussia is not a country that has an army, but an army that has a country."

Umberto I. of Italy, is another soldier-king. "He has no political philosophy, no book-learning; and nobody would suspect him of possessing either; but his moustache compensates for the absence of both. The touching anecdote is told of him that, once being advised that tobacco was injuring his health, he nobly said: "On my kingly honor I will never smoke again." And he has kept his word.

The next sketch is that of one who is undoubtedly the second-best monarch of all—the first-best is any dead king you please. Alfonso XIII., of Spain, has done less evil in the world than any of his fellow-kings. He is five years old.

The King of Portugal and His Majesty of Greece look intelligent enough to fill the place of floor-walkers in any ordinary dry goods establishment. They carry on the less exacting duties of their station acceptably. The King of Holland wears a uniform instead of an apron; so that nobody can mistake him for the servitor of Gambirius, that he looks like. Their Majesties of Belgium and Denmark have the genuine "trade" physiognomy, but it is deceptive, as neither of them has ever followed any useful avocation. Oscar II. of Sweden, is unquestionably the most intelligent-looking of all the court cards; which is due, no doubt, to the fact that he is the grandson of a shoemaker and was brought up without any expectation of filling a throne. Nineteen years of monarchy have not

effaced the intellectual expression of his countenance.

It would hardly be accurate to count the minor princelings of Europe among the court cards. They have a certain fictitious value, like the little and big casinos, but that is all. The last of the royalties to whom Politikos devotes his adulatory pen is Victoria, of England. Her picture forms the frontispiece of the book, and represents an old lady with pursed lips and a far-away look in her eyes, which says as plainly as any picture could say, that she is trying to think what in the world became of that other sixpence.

It is interesting to learn that Her Majesty's well-known foresight is an inherited trait. Politikos tells the story with charming frankness:—"When in 1817 Princess Charlotte died, it was perceived with consternation that there was no young heir to the throne. Immediately the royal princes who were still unmarried hurried to look around them for suitable connections, and early the next year the Dukes of Clarence, Kent and Cambridge, married three princesses. Indeed the two former were married on the same day. The Duke of Kent, however, had stolen a march upon his brother, for he had a few months previously married his bride in Germany, the English ceremony being merely a formula to render yet more legal the fruit of the union. For all these men were far advanced in the fifties and had led dissipated lives."

The sharp practice of the Duke of Kent was rewarded, the present Queen of England being, in the words of Sam Weller, "the consequence of that misdeed." Her Majesty has reigned no more than half a century and has accumulated a competency. Her connection with public affairs has not been allowed to interfere with her personal pursuits. Politikos says that she took "a profound and pained interest in the Crimean War," and that "the Indian Mutiny of 1857 was another terrible trial to the monarch." During the few months of the Chartist movement in 1848, she "read no less than 28,000 despatches, sent out or received at the Foreign Office—an amount of work which few of the Queen's made subjects would have accomplished without complaints of over-work, not to mention that she had, besides, given birth to a child, the Princess Louise."

The "Sovereigns and Courts of Europe" is a decidedly an interesting work and fully justifies the remark of Oxenstierna: "Behold, my son, with how little wisdom the world is governed!"—Boston Pilot.

First Communion at Guelph.

Special to the CATHOLIC RECORD. Sunday last was a day of unusual interest in the Church of our Lady. At the early Mass fifty children received their First Communion. Mass was celebrated by His Lordship Bishop Dowling, Father Henchy, of St. Mary's Cathedral, Hamilton, acting as deacon, and Father Devlin, S. J., of St. George's, Montreal, acting as sub-deacon. After Mass His Lordship administered the sacrament of confirmation to over two hundred candidates, among whom were also thirty girls. Immense crowds thronged to the doors, scarcely standing room being available, and the spectacle presented by the large number of girls and boys, the former in white and wearing veils and wigs, was one which could not fail to impress the most worldly. After administering the sacrament Bishop Dowling conferred the total abstinence pledge on all the boys until they reached the age of twenty-one years. He then addressed a few words of counsel to the children, impressing upon them the significance of the step which they had just taken, and urging them to remain true to their vows.

At 10:30 P.M. Holy Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Kenny, S. J., Rev. Father Plante acting as deacon, Rev. Father O'Leary as sub-deacon, Rev. Father Dumontier, secretary of honor, Rev. Father Devlin, sub-deacon of honor and Rev. Father Henchy master of ceremonies. His Lordship did not preach a regular sermon, but again administered the sacrament of confirmation to the boys, and teaching them to remain always united to the Society whom they had that morning received. He dwelt on the great love of our Lord in coming down from His throne in Heaven to dwell in their hearts. He said that the first commandment, "Love the Lord thy God, and the second commandment, "Thy neighbor as thyself," contained the sum and substance of religion. Before concluding he congratulated the congregation on the magnificent temple which they had erected to the worship of God, and urged them to do their utmost to pay off the debt.

The music at all the services was of a very high order and beautifully rendered. At early Mass the children of the Separate schools, under Principal Collins' leadership, sang a number of antems very sweetly, and at High Mass Joseph's beautiful Mass was rendered in a most excellent manner, under Mrs. Keleher's leadership, Miss Glay presiding at the organ. A quartet, "O Queen, Sennah and Bruce, was most admirably sung by Mrs. Keleher, Miss Glay, Miss Keleher, and Miss Bruce. At the grand musical Vespers which were sung in the evening. At this service a most powerful sermon was preached by Rev. Father Devlin, S. J., who gave an account of the life history of St. Alexis Gonzaga, the thirtieth anniversary of whose death was solemnized throughout the entire Catholic world on Sunday.

In the afternoon the children assembled in the church for the renewal of their baptismal vows and to receive scapulars. Rev. Father Plante, S. J., the devoted President of the League of the Cross, then received into this most praiseworthy society the boys who had been confirmed.

Although the day was not soon to be forgotten by the Catholics of Guelph.

Monthly Prizes for Boys and Girls.

The "Sunlight" Soap Co., Toronto, offer the following prizes every month till further notice, to boys and girls under 16, residing in the Province of Ontario, who send the great number of "Sunlight" wrappers, each marked "One cent," in a bundle of ten, to the following addresses: 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 483, 485, 487, 489, 491, 493, 495, 497, 499, 501, 503, 505, 507, 509, 511, 513, 515, 517, 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