

The QUIET HOUR

FIRST AND LAST COMMUNION. (By the Rev. Ma'thew Russell, S.J.) Yes, I remember well the time, the place, Of First Communion—date of rarest grace, Sweetest of childhood's happy days!

FRIENDSHIP AND IDEALIZATION

In the light of idealism alone is the deepest and most fruitful friendship possible. It is sometimes said that love is blind. There never was a more misleading statement.

FRIARS IN THE HOP FIELDS

The hop fields of Kent will this year witness sights which have been absent for centuries. When the hopping season commences, about the first week in September, a small party of the friars of the Order of St. Francis, accompanied by a large party of members of the Third Order and several Sisters of Mercy, will proceed to the fields to look after the spiritual welfare of the Catholic portion of the hoppers.

SWEET FACES

The most expressive face is not the one which writhes or agonizes with every sorrowful feeling, or twists and squirms with every amusing situation; it is rather the one which retains a calm exterior while the strongest emotions of the soul play upon it with their lights and shadows.

FEAR NO LONGER NECESSARY

I have always been puzzled at the extraordinary calm, peace and freedom from anxiety that I have observed in the dying, even in those who have not been models of virtue, says the Rev. John S. Vaughan, and since it is a subject which has always possessed a certain fascination for me I have again and again questioned other priests regarding their experience, which has in no case differed from my own.

to live He wisely infuses into his soul a certain natural dread and horror of death in order that he may be induced to take ordinary care of himself and to guard against danger and needless risks. But when God intends a man to die there is no longer any object for such fear. It can serve no further purpose. What is the result? Well, I take it, God then simply withdraws it.

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POPE PIUS ON HABIT

Talking the other day to the cardinals who had come to congratulate him on his seventieth birthday, Pius X. said: "I never thought I would learn as much in my old days as I am doing. For instance," he added, with a sunny smile, "I can now write my name without musing up a cassock worth 200 francs."

A PEN PICTURE OF CHRIST

The following is the only reliable pen picture of Christ as seen in actual life, and is an exquisite piece of word painting. It is taken from a MS. now in the possession of Lord Kelly, and in his library. It was copied from an original letter of Publius Lentulus, at Rome, it being the usual custom of Roman governors to advise the senate and the people of such material things as happened in their provinces in the days of Tiberius Caesar. Publius Lentulus, procurator of Judea, wrote the letter to the senate:

The English Martyrs

(From the London Tablet.) The appearance of the second and final volume of "The English Martyrs" is an event of more than merely literary importance. It was a lover of paradox who said that a book was a greater event than a battle. There are books and books, and there are battles and battles, but here the alternatives do not clash for this is a book and a battle—a battle for the faith. Historians in general have been very reticent about these heroes of Tyburn. And how many of the "noble army," now written about with finality in this new volume by Dom Bede Camm, Father Philip of Ushaw, Father Sebastian Bowden and Father John Pollen, find a record, a mention even, in the boasted "Encyclopaedia Britannica?" Speaking

from memory, we shall answer two at the most. Well, indirectly, the appearance this week of this book of martyrs under Queen Elizabeth has helped to change all that, and we have reason to know that in the new edition of the "Encyclopaedia" now in preparation at the "Times" office every name on this glorious roll-call of Dom Bede Camm's editing will find at last its proper place.

All popular stories about the winners of the Victoria Cross pale before these tales of Tyburn. In the excitement of conflict a brave soldier sallies out to the rescue of a comrade. The deed is well done, and so all the people say while the King publicly pins the cross onto the breast which is the breast of valor. Yet one wonders how many of even these gallant men would have endured, in cold blood and for an intangible good, the Elizabethan rack. Take the typic case of Alexander Briant, son of a Somersetshire yeoman. At eighteen he matriculated at Hert Hall—the Hertford College of to-day—and went from Oxford to Douai. In 1581, while on a mission, he was brought into the Tower.

Catholics will read these things, and will find in them the tonic that in easy and complacent days perhaps they need. But one cannot help wondering what will be the effect of a book like this upon Anglican readers. To no poor controversial uses would we put the records of a human tragedy; all mankind has its share in the treasury of human endurance. But every sigh—rather every song of defiance—of these Tyburn martyrs is controversial. The spiritual independence asserted by Anglicans to-day at Church House meetings was won for them, if only as a boast, by the endurance of our spiritual ancestors under tortures inflicted by theirs.

One of Dublin's most charming beauty-spots—the Hill of Howth—has been devastated by fire, and its attractiveness spoiled for many a long day. Howth has become a very favorite place with Dubliners—as it well deserves to be, with its splendid sea air, and bold scenery, and since the electric tramway now runs right to "the summit," it is visited by great numbers for a day's outing, while it has also become the chosen spot for "campers" for the summer holiday.

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