

EIGHT

HOSTS PRESERVED BY MIRACLE

FOR A HUNDRED AND NINETY TWO YEARS THE SACRED PARTICLES WERE KEPT

Sienna, April 27.—The occasion of the International Eucharistic Congress at Rome has drawn attention to a marvellous prodigy which occurred in the ancient city of Sienna 192 years ago, and which concerns the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.

On the evening or night between the 14th and 15th of August, 1730, a thief entered the Franciscan Basilica of Sienna, and stole the sacred Pylx of silver, containing 300 Particles which had been consecrated for administration to the faithful on the morning of the Feast of the Assumption, the special Feast of the City of Sienna.

The following morning the priest preparing to distribute Holy Communion, found the cover of the ciborium forced and the tabernacle destitute of the Pylx and the Sacred Particles.

The Archbishop instituted a search for the Sacred Treasure and prayers were offered in all the churches for its restoration.

On the morning of the 17th of August, in the Church of St. Maria in Provenzano, a server at Mass saw from his place the sparkle of some thing white in the casket for alms donations. A priest was called, who took the box into the sacristy, and upon examination, found there the Particles. Rays of Light proceeded from them, causing the sparkle which the server had observed. The priest who had consecrated them was also called and testified that they were identical with those intended for the Communion of August 15.

Public veneration of the sacred Particles followed in the same church, whence they were solemnly conveyed to the church of St. Francis from which they had been removed. The people and clergy of Sienna celebrated the joyful occasion with fitting ceremonial and there was great rejoicing on all sides. From this time forth the Church became the shrine of pilgrimage, and devotion to the Sacred Particles developed rapidly.

To satisfy the piety of the faithful, the Franciscan Fathers found it necessary either to conserve the Particles or in case of this being impossible, to consume them according to the prescription of the liturgy. But God was pleased to work a miracle, and the Sacred Hosts were wondrously preserved. As they presented neither to the eye nor the taste any evidence of corruption, the Franciscan Fathers decided to preserve them indefinitely.

And after 192 years they are still incorrupt in the ancient Basilica of the Franciscans at Sienna, the devout mecca of thousands of pious and loving souls.

At various periods the ecclesiastical authorities have examined the condition of the Sacred Hosts, and have declared that their preservation is clearly a work of the Most High.

In the name of the Pontifical Theological Faculty of Sienna, and of the Grand Chancellor, Mons. Prospero Scaccia, Archbishop of Sienna, in the year 1917 composed an extensive work in Latin, a study theological, critical and historical, on the miracle of the Hosts. This work was approved by His Holiness, Benedict XV., by Cardinals Billot, Abb. Mazella the theologian Father Lepicier, and others.

The author, in the name of Catholic theology, demonstrated that without doubt the Sacred Species consecrated in 1730 are in perfect condition today after a lapse of 192 years, preserving all the accidents of their consecration and constituting a miracle worthy of being examined, admired and venerated.

The International Eucharistic Congress will doubtless take into consideration the Miracle of Sienna, and pilgrimages be made to venerate the Sacred Particles supernaturally preserved in the Basilica of St. Francis.

SYMPATHY FOR CATHOLICS CREATED BY YOUR SCHOOLS IN SCHISMATIC, JEWISH, AND MOHAMMEDAN CENTRES.

SOLITUDE

How few persons ever just sit down and think! They are eternally doing something—busy in the office, making social calls or, if at home, every moment is taken up in some way or other. In fact, the majority of people have very little love for solitude. As soon as they find themselves alone, they become restless, discontented and prefer any kind of society to their own company.

Now, one of the most pleasant things in the world for a busy person should be an hour's solitude every day out of doors, where nature surely is company enough. There you can think, feel, do just as you please. Yes, if you have to go out under a clear blue sky—in a park that is alive with the songs of birds—and think deeply. The decision you will make in this way will be saner, much better, indeed, than the one you would come to in your ever busy office. There is too much confusion in our lives. A few minutes study in silence will teach you this; it will teach you many things. It will show you, for instance, the folly of many bad judgments, wrong conclusions and reckless deeds made during the busy hours of the day. It will give you a deeper insight into things than you can ever expect to get in any other way.

Work, of course, is in itself a great source of happiness. When we are well employed, how quickly the time passes, while how heavily the idle! Many of the cares and small troubles of life are driven away by occupation. The busy person has little time to brood or to fret. But there is a time for all things; a time to work and a time to rest. We shall work all the better for reasonable change. Escape from the throng when possible; spend a few minutes a day alone in the park and think. The air is full of fragrance, and sound and sunshine, the birds are singing—you are free, rested and it is a pleasure to muse on different matters. Tangled affairs are soon easily unraveled. Your brain becomes more clear every instant and you see wealth, fame and the many things you are wishing for in their true proportions.

A love for the beautiful is the most priceless gift of all. If you are alive to the many beauties and songs about you, what more can you wish for? These hours when the mind is absorbed by the beauties of nature are the hours that are never wasted. They broaden, deepen and enrich our lives, because it is then that the brightest ideas come to us. This is real life—a never-failing source of pleasure and interest which will lift you above the petty troubles and help you to bear the greater sorrows of life. All else is delusion or mere endurance.—E. L., Bethel, Ont.

GAINS BY CATHOLICS IN SCOTLAND

London, Eng.—The Scottish Reformation Society has been meeting recently in conclave, and if the fears of that assembly of our bigots are any indication of the facts, then the Catholic Church in Scotland is making remarkable progress.

About a year ago a convention of Scottish Presbyterians was lamenting that affairs were passing out of their hands, particularly in the matter of the schools, and now the Scottish Reformation Society seems to confirm the worst fears of the Presbyterians.

Of course, a great deal of the present Catholic increase is due to an increasing Irish Catholic population, more particularly in Glasgow. But in the Scottish capital itself there are signs that Catholicism is increasing whilst Protestantism is on the decline. Some of the school figures bear this out beyond all doubt. For example, during the year 1920-1921 there were something like 5,854 Catholic children in the schools in Edinburgh; the number at present is in the neighborhood of 6,029. Now while in this period the number of Catholic children in the schools has increased, the number of Protestant children shows a decrease of 1,348.

In Glasgow something of the same kind has happened. The Catholic children have, in the space of one year, increased by 2,847, while the Protestant children, on the other hand, are 1,812 less in the schools than they were the year before. However, there is a set-back to be recorded in Glasgow, where the recent elections to the Education Council of the city, show that the Catholic representatives have lost six seats, and now only hold six, whereas in the last Council there were twelve Catholic members. The danger—if it be a danger—to Scottish Protestantism does not come from a large influx of Irish Catholics, nor to any insidious attempts on the part of Catholics to

capture the Scottish universities and schools. The whole truth of the matter is that a certain part of Scottish Protestantism is drifting towards a nominal Christianity, that is shedding all positive Christian doctrine, and adapting itself to the doctrinal conceptions of hard-headed Scots lawyers.

The line of cleavage is very apparent. On the one hand both Presbyterianism and Calvinism are rapidly drifting to a state of religious debility, whilst, on the other hand, the Catholic Church is showing remarkable vigor, its organization is splendid, and in both primary and higher education it is rapidly becoming one of the most powerful educational forces in the Northern Kingdom.

OBITUARY

SISTER MARY FRANCES Ouelensburg News, April 4

Sister Mary Frances, member of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, passed away yesterday afternoon at 3.30 o'clock at the Hepburn hospital after a long illness. Previous to becoming a nun she was Miss Justina O'Driscoll, daughter of the late Michael O'Driscoll, a barrister of Pembroke, Ont. She was born in 1879 and entered the convent in 1897 at the age of nineteen years. She took her final vows January 9, 1900. Sister Mary Frances was for many years teacher in schools in Ottawa and for some time principal of the School of Our Lady in St. Bridget's parish. She came here about four years ago and remained at the Hepburn hospital for a time, later going to the City Orphanage and Home for the Aged.

Sister Mary Frances was a close student, a famed literateur and an excellent teacher, loved by all who knew her. She was a particular friend of the poor unknown and friendless and made many a sick room happy by her cheering visits. She had the happy faculty of making friends wherever she was stationed and the still more rare faculty of being able to keep the friends she made. When not actually engaged in her caring for the sick she employed her time as a teacher. She always managed to find out where the sick were and took particular pains to find out those that most needed kindness.

The deceased is survived by two brothers, John of Vancouver, B. C., and Joseph of Sault St. Marie, Ont., three sisters, Mrs. J. P. Morgan of Vancouver, Sister Mary Dorothy of the Grey Nun Community, and Sister Mary of Good Counsel of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Toronto, Ont. Sister Mary Dorothy and Sister Mary of Good Counsel were at the bedside when she passed away as were other members of the Grey Nun community here.

The funeral services will be held at St. Joseph's Chapel in the City Orphanage, Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock. Right Rev. Bishop J. H. Conroy will sing the Pontifical Requiem High Mass, assisted by the clergy. The Sisters of the various houses in this city will sing the music of the Mass. Mother Mary Augustine, Superior General of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, of which the deceased was a member, will be there to attend the funeral as will also many Sisters from neighboring missions. Burial will be in the Sisters' plot in St. Mary's cemetery.

A GENEROUS DONATION

The efforts of the Religious of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of Loretto Abbey, Toronto, to respond to the many calls which come from the North West for the spread of Catholic education, recently met with appreciated cooperation.

The late Mr. George O'Connor generously donated \$500 for the erection of an altar, or towards the building of a chapel in one of their convents in the North West.

The Community gratefully acknowledges the gift and trusts that in the near future a suitable monument will give testimony to the missionary zeal of their deceased benefactor.

"The great question in life is the suffering we cause; and the utmost ingenuity of metaphysics cannot justify the man who has pierced the heart that loved him."—B. Constant. Jesus came upon earth and His coming was the signal for the death of the many thousand Holy Innocents that had never seen Him, or known Him, but had the good fortune to be born about the same time, and thus to be ushered through short, quick suffering into an eternity of happiness; unseen by human eyes, unheard by human ears, undreamt of by human heart.—Canon Sheehan.

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DIED

SHIELDS.—At 40 Stewart St., Ottawa, Ont., on April 26th, 1922, Michael Shields, aged sixty-nine years. May his soul rest in peace.

LAVIE.—At his home in Souris, P. E. I., on Monday, April 8, 1922, J. Daniel Lavie, in his fifty-sixth year. May his soul rest in peace.

DESMOND.—At North Sydney, N. S., Nov. 4, 1921, Daniel Desmond, aged eighty-eight years. May his soul rest in peace.

CRAWFORD.—At her late residence, 297 Montrose Avenue, Toronto, on Saturday, April 22, Mrs. T. J. Crawford, aged sixty-eight years. May her soul rest in peace.

McSHERRY.—In Ingersoll, on Monday, April 24th, 1922, Louis McSherry, beloved husband of Mary Burns, in his thirty-ninth year. May his soul rest in peace.

Died at the Convent of the Good Shepherd, Monterrey, Mexico, Sunday, April 2nd, 1922, Sister M. of St. Joseph, "Daze," aged sixty-one years, in her thirty-fifth of religion. R. I. P.

PARKS.—At the home of her daughter, Mrs. P. J. McGrath, Schriber, Ont., on April 13, Mrs. Alex. Parks, of Eganville, aged seventy-three years. May her soul rest in peace.

POSITION WANTED YOUNG lady, well educated, refined, desires position as companion to elderly lady. Has fair knowledge of music. Good references. Apply to Box 325, CATHOLIC RECORD, Toronto, Ont.

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RECORDS OF DIVIDENDS

(Taken from the Annual Financial Review, 1921 Edition)

The Ogilvie Flour Mills Company, Limited

Preferred Shares 7% per annum regularly paid.

Common Stock Dividend

1917 Cash Dividends.....10 1/4% and 15% 1918 Cash Dividends.....12% and 15% 1919 Cash Dividends.....12% and 15% 1920 Cash Dividends.....12% and 15%

Lake of the Woods Milling Company, Limited

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Common Stock Dividend

1917 Cash Dividend.....8% 1918 Cash Dividend.....10 1/4% and 2 Bonuses of 10% each 1919 Cash Dividend.....12% 1920 Cash Dividend.....12% and 25% Bonus

Maple Leaf Milling Company, Limited

Preferred Shares 7% per annum regularly paid.

Common Stock Dividend

1917 Cash Dividends.....10% and 11 1/4% 1918 Cash Dividends.....10% and 14% 1919 Cash Dividends.....12% 1920 Cash Dividends.....12% 1921 Cash Dividends.....12%

The Maple Leaf Common Shares above referred to were given as a bonus with the Preferred Shares when they were placed on the market. The present market value of the Common Stock is \$15 per share.

Western Canada Flour Mills Co., Limited

Common Stock Dividend

1918 Cash Dividends.....8% and 2% and 10% in Victory Bonds 1919 Cash Dividends.....8% and 2% and 10% in Victory Bonds 1920 Cash Dividends.....8% and 2% and 15% in Stock

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Common Stock Dividend

1914 Cash Dividend.....25% Stock Dividend 40% 1915 Cash Dividend.....30% Stock Dividend 20% 1916 Cash Dividend.....31% of which \$40,000 was invested in Common Stock 1917 Cash Dividend.....47% of which \$250,000 was invested in Common Stock 1918 Cash Dividend.....49% of which \$275,000 was invested in Common Stock 1919 Cash Dividend.....15% and 30% Common Stock 1920 Cash Dividend.....15% and 30% Common Stock

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