

The CATHOLIC CHRONICLE...

DEVOTED TO FOREIGN NEWS

FRANCE

French and German papers announce that the Septennial Exhibition of Relics will take place in the Minister of Aix-la-Chapelle, or Aachen, from the 9th to the 21th of July next...

The Sovereign Pontiff has sent a message of sympathy and his benediction to Madame Benjamin Constant, widow of the celebrated painter who died last week...

Writing from the Transvaal to The Univers, the Rev. P. Langouet, O. M. I., states that the grave of the gallant Colonel de Villebois-Mareuil, who was shot by the British at Boshoh, has been blessed by an Oblate Missionary and army chaplain resident at Kimberley...

IRELAND

THE CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY. This day two years ago, says The Dublin Freeman's Journal, the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland was inaugurated in fourteen churches of the city and dioceses of Dublin...

UNITED STATES

A feature unique in the history of college commencements in the United States was the conferring of the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence at Villanova. The recipient of this signal honor from the great Augustinian

establishment on occasion of the fifty-ninth annual commencement was the Hon Grover Cleveland. The event and the announcement that the ex-President of the nation would deliver the address to the graduates attracted an assemblage which was the largest in the history of the institution.

Ex-President Cleveland delivered the address to the graduates speaking in part as follows:

Mr President I desire to express in a few words my appreciation of the honor just conferred on me by the College of St Thomas of Villanova. It is certainly a great gratification to be deemed worthy of such notice by the governing body of an institution of learning within whose walls are found in a marked degree opportunities for a thorough, substantial and useful education.

This incident prominently suggests to my mind the imperious edict of education, which forbids the hindrance or disturbance of its high mission by religious discrimination, social intelligence or any of the barriers that to a greater or less extent separate civilized humanity. The republic of education is based upon identical aims, equal rights in its opportunity and impartiality in the distribution of its rewards and honors.

This it seems to me is impressively illustrated when the severely Catholic College of St Thomas of Villanova bestows its highest honorary degree upon one connected with the management and holding an honorary degree in the severely Protestant Princeton University.

The processes of education as they exist in this country of ours have, or always should have, in addition to other characteristics, an especial harmony of purpose and design, as they are related to our government, and this should constitute between our institutions of learning a bond of close fraternity. Whatever other objects and purposes may be involved in educational efforts among us, one of its constant and prominent aims should be the cultivation and maintenance of a high standard of American citizenship. When we recall the fact that the beneficence of our scheme of government depends upon the virtue and education of the units of our citizenship, it is at once apparent that an important duty rests upon every agency that undertakes the instruction of the youth of our land.

It will be a sad day for our nation when the forces of education, and the teachers of moral living, shall cease to strive in unity to leaven the entire mass of our citizenship, or when their influence in that direction shall be divided and circumscribed by religious and sectarian differences.

I hope I may be allowed to say in conclusion a word to you who to-day complete your college course and receive from those who have taught and guided you a certificate of good scholarship. This is, indeed, an honorable decoration and endorsement and one of which you may well be proud. But it means more than this. It involves a solemn and exacting trust, and imparts a pledge on your part that the education you have received shall neither be hid in a napkin, nor held tightly to your breast as a means of self-glorification and self-joyment. Your graduation is merely the entrance upon your life's work and your diploma may be regarded as only a milestone of title by which you are invested in your hands to the end that you may fittingly discharge the service to which you are bound. Selfishness is the use of education and its sordid possession as an instrument of self-indulgence is as sinful and should be as strongly resisted as any other form of selfishness. Some of you will find careers in the duties and ministrations of your Church, and I suppose others will enter the busy and bustling arena of worldly activity. But whether in the Church or in the world none of you will avoid the compact with your fellow-men which brings with it a grave responsibility infinitely more grave and serious as your influence over others is increased by your education—or holy calling and more ever present and exacting as you appreciate the obligations of the trust you have assumed.

You may be sure that you will fail to meet these obligations if you are not constantly and solemnly impressed with the conviction that your educational advantages are only valuable as they better fit you to do your duty to your God, to your country and to your fellow-men.

In the course of his remarks the ex-President paid a feeling tribute to His Grace Archbishop Ryan as a churchman and a citizen, alluding in a special manner to his labors on behalf of the Indians.

"I believe," said the speaker, "there is an incultation nowadays among many of our citizens to pass judgment on the merit of religious records largely according to what their adherents accomplish. It may not be that this is the way to judge. But I distrust the heart of that man who is not stirred with enthusiasm when he

learns that the revered and distinguished prelate who presides for us to-day does not think it beneath the dignity of his high office to assume a personal share in the amelioration of the condition of the Indian wards of our government, and goes even to those behind prison doors, who, to him, are not too wretched nor too forgotten to hear from him words of kindly sympathy and dearest hope."

CHILDREN'S CORNER

IF I WERE YOU.

If I were you and had a friend Who called a pleasant hour to spend, I'd be polite enough to say: "Ned, you may choose what games we'll play."

If I were you and went to school, I'd never break the smallest rule, And it should be my teacher's joy To say she had no better boy.

If I were you I'd always tell The truth, no matter what befell, For two things only I despise— A coward heart and telling lies.

If I were you, I'd try my best To do the things I here suggest. Though, since I am no one but me I cannot very well, you see, Know what I'd do.

—Independent

THE BIRDS OF JUNE

(By Estelle M. Hart, in Sunday School Times)

Was there ever anything more inexpressibly jolly than the bobolink? "A brook o' laughter," that is what Lowell calls him. What a dandy he appears in his sleek suit of black and white! but doesn't he look odd with his breast black and his back white, as if he had changed the proper places of his vest and coat? It doesn't seem possible that this elegant creature is the same one who, in rusty garb, shorn of his grace and beauty, will grow fat and aldermanic in the southern rice-fields by and by.

The king-bird is everywhere to be seen in June. He too is a rather handsome fellow, who wears his dark coat and white vest in the conventional manner. The head is black, and he can raise a crest in which is hidden, like some carefully concealed jewel, a spot of brilliant orange—a jewel which, I warn you, unless you are a wonderful observer, you will never catch sight of. His tail is black and square, with a terminal band of white—his most distinguishing mark.

There is a relative of our familiar Baltimore oriole, not quite so common, his name suggests, we may find among the fruit-trees. He is dressed in black and chestnut—a gleaming metallic shade—and, though inconspicuous, is quite elegant in appearance. The chestnut is on the breast and lower back; the head, neck, and upper back are black, the wings and tail are dark. He has a charming song, rich and sweet. His nest is the daintiest little affair—pensile, like that of the Baltimore oriole, but made of grasses woven with wonderful neatness into a pretty cup-shaped basket.

Do you know the nest of the ruby-throated humming-bird? Was there ever anything more exquisite than that, made of lichens and down, and fastened so securely on the branch of the tree that it looks like part of the branch itself? What a wonder the humming-bird is! The tiniest of all our birds, only three and three-fourths inches in length, it is equalled by no other in powers of flight. It is so emotional that fright alone has been known to cause its death, but so brave that it will defend its nest in the face of the most powerful enemies. There is no bird more easily or quickly tamed. It takes both honey and insects from the deep-hearted flowers about which we are most apt to see it hovering. The vibrations of the air caused by its swiftly beating wings produce the humming noise from which it gets its name. It has no song. The upper parts of the male are a bright metallic green, there are violet shades in the wings and the throat—what words can describe that glowing, jewel-like brightness? The female lacks the ruby throat, but is otherwise not unlike the male.

There is no other of our birds quite so brilliant as the scarlet tanager, which looks like a tongue of flame as he flashes through the green leaves, or like a leaf which the frost has turned to scarlet as he perches quietly on a twig, high up among the branches. The body is all bright scarlet, in striking contrast to the black of the wings and tail. It is about the length of the bluebird and phoebe. The song is not unlike that of the robin, loud and cheerful.

Another very brilliant bird is the indigo bunting. He is much smaller than the tanager measuring about five and a half inches. Unlike our common blue-bird with its chestnut breast, the indigo-bird is blue all over—a very deep, rich, gleaming color; he too flashes like a flame in the sun, a blue flame. The little wife is

very unlike her brilliant mate, her general color is a soft, sunny brown. We ought to be especially grateful to the cheery little indigo bird, for he keeps up his happy song through all the heat of summer, when most of the other birds have long been silent. One of the handsomest birds that visits New England is the rose-breasted grosbeak. He is related to the indigo bird, and both belong to the same family as the little brown sparrows. The grosbeak is fairly good sized—eight inches long. The head, throat, neck, and back are black, the under parts and rump, white, the wings and tail brightly marked in black and white; and on his breast he wears a large shield of rose-red. The wings are lined with delicate rose-color. The bill is very large and strong. His song is a joyous carol; it seems like the very voice of the spirit of a glad summer morning.

Very unlike this loud-carolling bird is the shy cuckoo. The yellow-billed cuckoo is longer than the robin, smooth olive-brown above, rufous on the wings, with a soft whitish breast, and a long tail tipped with white. How stealthily is his flight through the trees, and how quietly he perches among the branches! He has no song, but a strange loud call that resembles the sound of a hammer striking upon wood. "Stake-driver," the boys call him.

We must not close our June record without a note about the goldfinches that are bounding over the sunny fields and singing their sweet little songs. In the winter we saw them in dull olive plumage, but now they wear golden yellow, in striking contrast to their black caps and wings and tails. They sing the whole summer through, and are as gay over the August fields of chicory as over the June meadows.

The meadow larks, the blackbirds, the vireos, the orioles, and all of the birds which we have been welcoming during the spring, except the passing migrants, fill the woods and fields and gardens with life through the month of June. "Now is the high tide of the year" indeed.

There is a chance for study for the bird student all the summer through, and, for that matter, throughout the year; but July and August are filled with heavier cares of life for our bird friends, and no other season has quite the joyous inspiration of the spring and early summer.

THE SHOOL MA'AM ABROAD.

(Montreal Star.)

The school ma'am is abroad in Ontario!

We are in receipt of a letter from the lady teacher of one of the rural schools which are the pride of Ontario. The letter contains such gems as the following:

"This is to Certify this boy is a member of—"

"I am his teacher who teaches in S. S., No.— and boards at—"

"Yours Respectfully."

The boy referred to was not enclosed in the envelope containing the letter, but a composition in his writing was enclosed, and it is only fair to say that it shows him to be a much better master of English than his teacher.

Then, it is only fair to add also that the young lady is in all probability worth as a teacher all she gets in the way of salary.

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