

The QUIET HOUR

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN.

(Catholic Union and Times.) Sing loud, sing strong, each Christian heart;

On earth she watched o'er all mankind Her Son had freely died to save;

But those she helps with double aid Who on her power always call,

Rejoice, rejoice each faithful soul; Look up to her, enthroned on high,

CONFIDENCE IN GOD.

It is true there are times of trial and days of darkness, when the best of us are apt to mistrust the providence of God over us,

BISHOP CASEY AND HIS INDIANS.

At the dedication of a church recently at Kingsclear, New Brunswick, with an Indian maiden presiding at the organ,

REVIVAL OF FAITH IN PORTO RICO.

Following is an extract from a letter of the Right Rev. James H. Blenk, Bishop of Porto Rico:

"The last parish I visited on the round just finished was Adjuntas. Its mountain climate is bracing and its spring water is delicious.

MARK OF PREDESTINATION.

The truth is that the commonest sin of our lives is ingratitude to God. It is like the very germs in, or the poison in the air, or the venom in blood of fallen man.

is heartily detested by all good Christians. They endeavor to practice the virtue of thankfulness at every turn. They are careful to give at least a quarter of an hour thanksgiving after Communion; but not only make novenas for favors, but novenas in thanks for them;

SUNDAY IN THE COUNTRY.

Sunday is a great day. As the crematory lady said: "The Catholics always go to church." They are down on the piazza with their books and rosaries long before starting time, and have leisure to note the carriages whirling by before the tally-ho or mountain team draws up,

BISHOP LUDDEN AND SUNDAY OBSERVANCE.

Bishop Ludden of Syracuse, N.Y., has ruled that henceforth in his diocese persons who meet death by accident while on Sunday excursions, etc., and who through their own fault have not attended to their religious duties before going on such excursions, will not be buried with the rites of the Church.

GLAD HE WENT TO ROME.

In a recent number of the "Young Man," of London, England, the Rev. R. J. Campbell, minister of the London City Temple, discussing Catholicism, gives some particulars of his visit to the Pope:

"I have for years past," he writes, "made a point of availing myself of such opportunities of studying Romanism from within as might come my way. I have friends among the priesthood and the laity in England and out of it, and have taken careful note of much that they have told me. In the early part of the present year I visited Rome itself, where I was received with great kindness, and allowed to see a good deal of Catholic life in the Eternal City.

"On the general question of Catholicism, he admits that, in spite of all his efforts at Rome to look on things from a Catholic point of view, he was unable to discover the 'secret of the power of Rome over so many minds.'"

THE MUSIC OF NATURE.

Nature, through all her depths, is full of music, varied in its tone and rich in its harmony. There is music in the stillness of the twilight hour, in the voices of the balmy breeze as it sighs amid the rustling leaves of the starlit grove, or sleeps upon the calm bosom of the reposing waters;

tain and the thundering of the foaming cataract; in the rippling of the mountain rill and the majestic voice of the storm-touched sea. There is music in the glad warblings of the joyous songsters of the grove beneath, and in the mutterings of the pealing thunders above; in the solitary dell and on the veiled mountain's cloudtops, where human footsteps have never left an echo; in the deep cells of the passion-stirred heart and the inanimate depths of the material world; in the dim rays of earth lights, which gem the high firmament and light the angels to their evening orisons.

THE GENERAL OF THE JESUITS

Of Father Martin, the general of the Jesuits, a Roman correspondent says: "He might have been seen almost every afternoon this week (until yesterday, when he left home) taking his usual afternoon walk with Father Chandler, and wearing, instead of the customary 'greco' or long coat, a light cloak which concealed the pitiful absence of the right arm removed by the surgeons a couple of months ago.

The Religious Card Player

(Although the following sketch is old it is worth repeating.)

A private soldier, by the name of Richard Lee, was taken before the Magistrates of Glasgow for playing cards during divine service. A sergeant led the soldiers to the English Church, and when the minister had read the prayers he took the text, "Those who had Bibles took them out; but this soldier had neither Bible nor Common Prayer Book, and pulling out a pack of cards, he spread them out before him. He first looked at one card and then at another. The sergeant of the company saw him, and said:

"Richard, put up the cards; this is no place for them."

"Never mind that," said Richard. "When the services were over the constable took Richard a prisoner and brought him before the Magistrate."

"Well," said the bailie, "what have you brought the soldier here for?"

"For playing cards in the church."

"Well, soldier, what have you to say for yourself?"

"Much, sir, I hope."

"Very good; if not, I will punish you severely."

"I have been," said the soldier, "about six weeks on the march. I have neither Bible nor Common Prayer Book. I have nothing but a pack of cards, and I hope to satisfy you: Worship on the purity of my intention."

"Then, spreading the cards before the bailie, he began with the ace. 'When I see the ace it reminds me that there is but one God. When I see the deuce, it reminds me of the Father and Son. When I see the three, it reminds me of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. When I see the four, it reminds me of the four Evangelists that preached—Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. When I see the five, it reminds me of the five wise virgins that trimmed their lamps. There were ten, but five were wise, and five were foolish and were shut out. When I see the six it reminds me that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth. When I see the seven, it reminds me that on the seventh day God rested from the great work He had made, and hallowed it. When I see the eight, it reminds me of the eight righteous persons that were saved when God destroyed the world, viz., Noah and his wife, his three sons and their wives. When I see the nine, it reminds me of the nine lepers that were cleansed by our Saviour. There were nine out of ten that never returned thanks. When I see the ten it reminds me of the Ten Commandments which God handed down to Moses on the tables of stone. When I see the king it reminds me of the great King of Heaven, which is God Almighty. When I see the queen, it reminds me of the queen of Sheba, who visited Solomon, for she was as wise a woman as he was a man. She brought with her fifty boys and fifty girls, all dressed in boys' apparel, for King Solomon to tell which were boys and which were girls. The king sent for water for them to wash. The girls washed to the elbow; the boys to the wrists; so King Solomon told by that."

"Well," said the magistrate, "you have described every card in the pack except one."

"What is that?"

"The knave," said the bailie. "I will give you Honor a description of that, too, if you will not be angry."

"I will not," said the bailie, "if you do not term me to be the knave."

"The greatest knave I know of is the constable that brought me here."

"I do not know," said the bailie, "if he is the greatest knave, 'but I know he is the greatest fool.'"

"When I count how many spots there are in a pack of cards, I find three hundred and sixty-five—as many days as there are in a year. When I count the number of cards in a pack I find fifty-two—the number of weeks in a year. I find there are twelve picture-cards in a pack, representing the number of months in a year, and, on counting the tricks, I find thirteen—the number of weeks in a quarter. So, you see, a pack of cards serves me for a Bible, an almanac, and a Common Prayer Book."

Be There a Will Wisdom Points the Way.—The Sick man pines for relief, but he dislikes sending for the doctor, which means bottles of drugs never consumed. He has not the resolution to load his stomach with compounds, worse. But if he have the will to deal with his ailment, wisdom will direct his attention to Parmentier's Vegetable Pills, which, as a specific for indigestion and disorders of the digestive organs, have no equal.

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