#### CATHOLIC RELIGION.

Cardinal Gibbons Tells What it has Done for Humanity.

In the Congress of Religions the following paper on "The Needs of Humanity Supplied by the Catholic Religion," prepared by Cardinal Gib-bons, was read by Bishop Keane, of Washington, the Cardinal being indis-

posed:
We live and move and have our being in the midst of a civilization which is the legitimate offspring of the Catholic religion. The blessings re-sulting from our Christian civilization are poured out so regularly and so abundantly on the intellectual, moral and social world, like the sunlight and the air of heaven and the fruits of the earth, that they have ceased to excite any surprise except to those who visit lands where the religion of Christ is little known. In order to realize ade quately our favored situation we should transport ourselves in spirit to ante-Christian times and contrast the condition of the pagan world with our

own.

Before the advent of Christ the whole world, with the exception of the se-cluded Roman province of Palestine, was buried in idolatry. Every strik-ing object in nature had its tutelary divinities. Men worshipped the sun and moon and stars of heaven. They worshiped their very passions. They worshiped everything except God, to whom alone divine homage is due. In the words of the Apostle of the Gen-tiles, "They changed the glory of the incorruptible God into the likeness of the corruptible man, and of birds and beasts and creeping things. They worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator who is blessed

the prophets of Israel had sighed and prayed, and toward which the pagan sages had stretched forth their hands with eager longing, arose and shone That them "that sat in darkness and the shadow of death." The truth con-cerning our Creator, which had hitherto been hidden in Judea, that there it be sheltered from the worldwide idolatry, was now proclaimed, and in far greater clearness and fullness unto the world. Jesus Christ taught all mankind to know one true God-a God existing from eternity to eternity-a God who created all things by His power, who governs all things by His wisdom, and whose superintending Providence watches over the affairs of nations as well as of men, without whom not even a bird falls to the ground." He proclaimed a God infinitely holy, just and merciful.

This idea of the Deity so consonant to
our rational conceptions was in striking contrast with the low and sensual notions which the pagan world had formed of its divinitie

The religion of Christ imparts to us not only a sublime conception of God, but also a rational idea of man and of his relations to his Creator. Before soon as the body is animated by the the coming of Christ man was a riddle vital spark. Infanticide was a dark and a mystery to himself. He knew not whence he came nor whither he was going. He was groping in the dark. All he knew for certain was that he was passing through a brief such eminent Greeks as Plato and Arisphase of existence. The past and the totle, Solon and Lycurgus. The defuture were enveloped in a mist which struction of infants was also very the light of philosophy was unable to common among the Romans. Nor was penetrate. Our Redeemer has disthere any legal check to this inhuman pelled the cloud and enlightened us regarding their origin and destiny and father had the power of life and death the means of attaining it. He has over his child. And as an evidence rescued man from the frightful labyrinth of error in which paganism had with time and is everywhere the same,

involved him.

COMFORT TO THE HEART.

The gospel of Christ as propounded by the Catholic Church has brought not only light to the intellect, but comsprings from the conscious possession of truth. It has taught us how to enjoy that triple peace which constitute true happiness, as far as it is attain able in this life—peace with God by the observance of His commandments, peace with our neighbor by the exer cise of charity and justice towards him and peace with ourselves by repressing our inordinate appetites, and keeping our passions subject to the law of reason, and our reason illumined and con troled by the law of God.

Judaism, or State religions, like Pagan-The Catholic religion alone is world-wide and cosmopolitan. embrac ing all races and nations and peoples and tongues.

Christ alone, of all religious founders, had the courage to say to His dis "Go, teach all nations, Preach the gospel to every creature "You shall be witness to me in Judea and Samaria, and even to the uttermost bounds of the earth." Be not restrained in your mission by national free and universal as the air of heaven. "The earth is the Lord's and the full ness thereof." All mankind are the children of my father and my brethren. I have died for all, and embrace all in my charity. Let the whole human race be your audience and the world be the theatres of your labors.

It is this recognition of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of Christ that has inspired the Catholic Church, in her mission of love and This is the secret of her all-pervading charity. The idea has been her impelling motive in her work protect helpless infancy and decrepit mother. She rocks her children in the old age. I will feed the orphan and cradle of infancy, and she soothes them nurse the sick. I will strike the to rest on the couch of death.

shackles from the feet of the slave and will rescue degraded women from the moral bondage and degradation to which her own frailty and the passions of the stronger sex had consigned her.

Montesquieu has well said that the religion of Christ, which was instituted to lead men to eternal life, has contributed more than any other institution to promote the temporal and social happiness of mankind. The object of this Parliament of Religions is to present to thoughtful, earnest and inquiring minds the respective claims of various religions, with the view that they would "prove all things, and hold that which is good," by embracing that religion which above all others commends itself to their judgment and of God, I am conscious that I have found it; instead of hiding this treasure in my own breast, I long to share it with others, especially as I am none the poorer in making others the richer

But for my part, were I occupied in this investigation, much as I would be drawn toward the Catholic Church by her admirable unity of faith which binds together in common worship 250,000,000 souls-much as I would be attracted toward her by her sublime moral code, by her world-wide Catho-licity and by that unbroken chain of Apostolic succession which connects her indissolubly with Apostolic times-I could be drawn still more forcibly toward her by that wonderful system of organized benevolence which she has established for the alleviation and comfort of suffering humanity.

WORK OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. Let us briefly review what the Cath olic Church has done for the elevation and betterment of humanity:

1. The Catholic Church has purified

ociety in its very fountain, which is She has invari the marriage bond. ably proclaimed the unity and sanctit and indissolubility of the marriage ti by saying with her Founder "Wha God hath joined together let no man put asunder." Wives and mothers, put asunder." Wives and mothers, never forget that the inviolability of the marriage contract is the palladium of your womanly dignity and of your Christian liberty. And if you are no longer the slave of man and the toy of his caprice, like the wives of Asiatio countries, but the peer and partners of your husbands; if you are no longer tenants at will, like the wives of pagan Greece and Rome, but the mistresses of your household; if you are no longer confronted by uprising rivals, like Mohammedan and Morman wives, but the queens of the domestic kingdom you are indebted for this priceles boon to the ancient Church, and par ticularly to the Roman pontiffs, who in flexibly upheld the sacredness of the nuptial bond against the arbitrary power of kings, the lust of nobles and the lax and pernicious legislation of civil governments.

The Catholic religion has proclaimed the sanctity of human life as stain on pagan civilization. It was universal in Greece with the possible exception of Thebes. It was sancti crime except at rare intervals. The unless it is permeated with the leaven of Christianity, the wanton sacrifice of field or by the clash of arms or the infant life is probably as general to-day in China and other heathen countries as it was in ancient Greece and Rome. The Catholic Church has

"that peace of God which surpasseth all understanding," the peace which ure and murder of innocent babes. She has denounced it as a crime more revolting than that of Herod because committed against one's own flesh and blood. She has condemned with equal energy the atrocious doctrine of Malhus, who suggested unnatural methods for diminishing the population of the human family. Were I not restrained by the fear of offending modesty and of imparting knowledge where "ignorance is bliss," I would dwell more at length on the social plague of antenatal infanticide, which is insidiously All other religious systems prior to the advent of Christ were national, like and systematically spreading among us in defence of civil penalties and of the divine law which says, "Thou shalt

not kill." 3. There is no phase of human misery for which the Church does no provide some remedy or alleviation. She has established infant asylums for the shelter of helpless babes who have been cruelly abandoned by their own parents, or bereft of them in the mys terious dispensations of Providence before they could know and feel a mother's love. These little waifs, like the infant Moses drifting in the turbid Nile, are rescued from an untimely death, and are tenderly raised by the daughters of the Great King, those consecrated virgins who become nursing mothers to them. And I have known more than one such motherless babe who, like Israel's law-giver in after years, became a leader among his

HOMES FOR THE AGED. 4. As the Church provides homes for those yet on the threshold of life, so, too, does she secure retreats for has asylums in which the aged men and women find at once and the same of the social regeneration of mankind. time a refuge in their old age from the I behold, she says, in every human storms of life and a novitiate to prepare creature a child of God and a brother them for eternity. Thus from the or sister of Christ, and therefore I will cradle to the grave she is a nursing

famous Hotel des Invalides for the became a slave that we might enjoy veterans of France who had fought in the glorious liberty of children of God. tenderly nursed in their declining | Slave owners were admonished to be

years by devoted Sisters.

The Little Sisters of the Poor, whose congregation was founded in 1840. have now charge of 250 establishments 30,000, upward of 70,000 having died under their care up to 1889. To these asylums are welcomed not only mem bers of the Catholic religion, but those also of every form of Christian faith, of person or nationality or color or creed: for true charity embraces al Are you oppressed by age and penury? If so, come to us and we will provide

for you.
5. She has orphan asylums where children of both sexes are reared and taught to become useful and worthy

6. Hospitals were unknown to the pagan world before the coming of which had been branded upon it. Be-Christ. The copious vocabularies of fore Christ appeared among men man-Greece and Rome had no word even to ual and even mechanical work was reexpress the term. The Catholic garded as servile and degrading to the Church has hospitals for the treatment freeman of pagan Rome, and was conand cure of every form of disease. She sends her daughters of charity and mercy to the battle-field and to the plague-striken city. During the Crimean war I remember to have read of a Sister who was struck dead by ball while she was in the act of stoop ing down and bandaging the wound of a fallen soldier. Much praise was then deservedly bestowed on Florence Nightingale for her devotion to the sick and wounded soldiers. Her name resounded in both hemispheres. But n every Sister you have a Florence Nightingale, with this difference-that, like ministering angels, they move without noise along the path of duty, and like the Angel Raphael, who concealed his name from Tobias, the Sis ter hides her name from the world.

Several years ago I accompanied to New Orleans eight Sisters of Charity who were sent from Baltimore to re enforce the ranks of their heroic com panions or to supply the places of their devoted associates who had fallen at the post of duty in the fever stricken cities of the South. Their departure for the scene of their labors was neither announced by the press nor heralded by public applause. They rushed calmly into the jaws of death, not bent on deeds of destruction like the famous six hundred, but on deeds of mercy They had no Tennyson to sound their praises. Their only ambition was and how lofty is that ambition !- that the recording angel might be their biographer, that their names might be inscribed in the Book of Life, and that they might receive the recompense from Him who has said. "I was sick and ve visited Me, for as often as ye did it to one of the least of my brethren ye did it to Me." Within a few months after their arrival six of the eight Sisters died victims to the epidemic.

These are a few of the many other instances of heroic charity that have fallen under my own observation. Here are examples of sublime heroism not culled from the musty pages of ancient martyrologies, or books of chivalry, but happening in our own day and under our own eyes. Here is a heroism not aroused by the emulastrains of martial hymns or by the love for earthly fame, but inspired only by a sense of Christian duty and by the love of God and her fellow-beings.

REDEMPTION OF FALLEY WOMEN.

7. The Catholic religion labors no only to assuage the physical distem-pers of humanity, but also to reclaim the victims of moral disease. The re-demption of fallen women from a life of infamy was never included in the scope of heathen philanthropy: and man's unregenerate nature is the same now as before the birth of Christ He worships woman as long as she has charm to fascinate, but she is spurned and trampled upon as soon as she has ceased to please. It was reserved for Him who knew no sin to throw the mantle of protection over sinning woman. There is no page in the Gospel more touching than that which records our Saviour's merciful judgment on the adulterous woman. The Scribes and Pharisees asked our Lord to pronounce sentence of death upon her in accordance with the Mosaic law 'Hath no one condemned thee?" asked our Saviour. "No one, Lord," she answered. "Then," said He, said He, neither will I condemn thee. Go,

sin no more. Inspired by this divine example, the Catholic Church shelters erring females in homes not inappropriately called Magdalen Asylums and Houses of the Good Shepherd. Not to speak of other Good Shepherd. institutions established for the moral reformation of women, the congregaion of the Good Shepherd at Angers founded in 1836, has charge to-day of 150 houses, in which upward of 4,000 Sisters devote themselves to the care of over 20,000 females, who had yielded to temptation or were rescued from im-

pending danger. 8. The Christian religion has been the unvarying friend and advocate of the bondsman. Before the dawn of Christianity slavery was universal in civilized as well as in barbarous nations. The apostles were every where confronted by the children of oppression. Their first task was to mitigate the horrors and alleviate the miseries of human bondage. They cheered the slave by holding up to him

Louis XIV. erected in Paris the the example of Christ, who voluntarily the service of their country. And so has the Catholic religion provided for those who have been disabled in the battle of life, a home in which they are consolation which religion affords. in different parts of the globe, the aged inmates of those houses numbering Catholic religion down the ages sought conscience. I am not engaged in this and even those without any faith at away before the noonday sun of the search for the truth, for by the grace all. The Sisters make no distinction gospel. No Christian country con-The only question proposed by the Sisters to the applicant for shelter is this:

Irish jurist — as soon as the bondman puts his foot in a Christian land, he

it from the stigma of degradation which had been branded upon it. Be-

till it's extinguished; she has founded asylums for the training of children of both sexes and for the support of the aged poor; she has established hos-pitals for the sick and homes for the redemption of fallen women : she has exerted her influence toward the mitigation and abolition of human slavery she has been the unwavering friend o the sons of toil. These are some of the blessings which the Catholic Church has conferred on society.

I will not deny—on the contrary, I

am happy to avow-that the various Christian bodies outside the Catholic Church have been and are to-day. zealous promoters of most of thes works of Christian benevolence which I have enumerated. Not to speak of the innumerable humanitarian houses established by our non-Catholic brethren throughout the land. I bear cheerful testimony to the philanthropic in stitutions founded by Wilson and by John Hopkins, Enoch Pratt and George Peabody, in the city of Baltimore. But will not our separ ated brethrenhave the candon acknowledge that we had first possession of the field, that these beneficen movements have been inaugurated by us, and that the other Christian com munities in their noble efforts for the moral and social regeneration of mankind, have in no small measure beer stimulated by the example and emulation of the ancient Church?

Let us do all we can in our day and generation in the cause of humanity Every man has a mission from God to help his fellow-being. Though we dif fer in faith, thank God there is one platform on which we stand united, and that is the platform of charity and benevolence. We can not, indeed, like our Divine Master, give sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf and speech to the dumb and strength to th paralyzed limb, but we can work mir acles of grace and mercy by relieving the distress of our suffering brethren And never do we approach nearer to our Heavenly Father than when we alleviate the sorrows of others. do we perform an act more God-like than when we bring sunshine to hearts that are dark and desolate. Never are we more like to God than when we cause the flowers of joy and of gladness to bloom in souls that were dry and barren before. "Religion," says the apostle, "pure and undefiled before God and the Father, is this: To visit the fatherless and the widow in her tribu lation, and to keep oneself unspotted from this world." words of the pagan Cicero: "Homines ad Deos nulla re propius accedunt quam salutem nominibus dando.' ("There is no way by which men can approach nearer to the gods than by contributing to the welfare of their fellow-creatures.")

A LEAMINGTON SENSATION.

ne Terrible Effects of Typhoid Fever — Mr. Joseph Robson, a Weil known Farmer is Restored to Health and Strength after Nine Years of Terrible Suffering — All Hope of Recovery had been Abandoned and he Looked upon Life as a Burden.

From the Leamington Post

The bondman had an equal participation with his master in the secraments of the Church, and in the priceless consolation which religion affords. Stave owners were admonished to be kind and humane to their slaves by being reminded with apostolic freedom that they and their servants had the same Master in heaven, who had no respect of persons. The ministers of the Catholic religion down the ages sought to lighten the burden and improve the condition of the slave as far as social prejudices would permit, till at length the chains fell from their feet. Human slavery has at last, thank God, melted away before the noonday sun of the gospel. No Christian country contains to day a solitary slave. To paraphrase the words of a distinguished Irish jurist. — as soon as the bondman puts his foot in a Christian land, he stands redeemed, regenerated and disenthralled on the sacred soil of Christendom.

9. The Saviour of mankind never conferred a greater temporal boon on mankind than by ennobling and sanctiffed many before a greater temporal boon on mankind than by ennobling and sanctiffying manual labor, and by rescuing it from the stigma of degradation which had been branded upon it. Before Christ appeared among men manual and even mechanical work was regarded as servile and degrading to the freeman of pagan Rome, and was considered the mechanic's shop. If the profession of a general, a jurist, and a stateman is addressed by the example of Christ. What Die Toequeville said sixty years ago of the Uniced States is true to day—that with us every honest labor is landable, thanks to the example and teaching of Christ.

A SUMMARY.

To sum up: The Catholic Church has taught man the knowledge of God and of himself; she has brought comfort to his heart by instructing him to bear the list of life with Christian philosophy; she has a sanctified the marriage bond; she has proclaimed as which had been a sanctified the sancting and invisibility of human life from the moment that the body is animaned by the example of the sanctified the bo

poverished condition of the blood, or an impairment of the nervous system, such as rheumatism, neuralgia, partial paralysis, locomoto ataxia, St. Vitus dance, nervous headache nervous prostration, and the tired feeling arising therefrom, the after effects of la grippe influenza and severe colds, diseases depending no humors in the blood, such as scrotula chronic crysipelas, etc. Pink Pills give thealthy glow to pale and sallow complexions and are a specific for the troubles peculiar to the female system, and in the case of men they effect a radical cure in all cases a rising from mental worry, overwork or excesses of an nature.

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