

# HIS MOTHER.

## Sunday Observance

(By An Occasional Contributor.)

Recently Cardinal Gibbons delivered a very important sermon on "The Proper Observance of the Sunday." In view of the encroachments weekly made in this country upon the duties that belong to the Sunday, we feel that we can do some good by reproducing a few of the pertinent remarks that came from His Eminence of Baltimore. In his introduction, the Cardinal said—

"It has been the boast of our country that in no nation in the world was the Christian Sabbath better respected than in the United States, at least as far as outward observance is concerned. I have visited many of the cities of Europe, and I am persuaded that in neither Paris, nor Brussels, nor Berlin, nor even Rome, was there so great a regard for quiet and orderly tranquillity on the Lord's Day as in Baltimore. But a close observer can not fail to note the dangerous inroads that have been made on the Lord's Day in this country during the last thirty years. If these encroachments are not checked in time, the day may come when the joyous sound of the church bell will be drowned by the echo of the dray and the hammer; when the Bible and prayer-book will be supplanted by the magazine and novel; and the votaries of the theatre and saloon will outnumber the religious worshippers, and when the salutary thoughts of God will be checked by the pleasures and dissipations of the world."

These general reflections led up to the consideration of the growing number of men who are excluded from Sunday worship by reason of their occupation. While he considers that movements of passenger trains (and we might add of street cars) might be necessary on Sunday, still the freight traffic, "involving the employment of thousands of conductors, firemen, and engineers, as well as freight-handlers, on the Lord's Day," could not be viewed in the same light. He then dwelt upon Sunday excursions which are unduly fostered by transportation companies. This is an evil from which we suffer in Canada, and especially in this large city of Montreal. Our readers will recall how, last summer, His Grace the Archbishop was obliged to condemn certain excursions which drew the people away from church and to reports that were not all they should be. In every pulpit in the city—at least in the Catholic churches—severe sermons have been preached in which the priests pointed out the folly and danger of this Sunday excursion mania. We are not of those who claim that the Sunday must be spent in seclusion and that no innocent and harmless recreation should be allowed; but there is a vast difference between honest recreation, or the seeking of open air to invigorate and recuperate after a long week of labor, and the absolute neglect of all Sunday duties for the sake of holiday excursions.

The Cardinal then referred to the Sunday newspaper in language that is decidedly forcible. We know how the Church considers this evil—for evil it becomes when carried to its present extent. He said that the Sunday paper so saturated the business man with unhealthy diet that, "like animals gorged with food, he spends the morning in a comatose condition. There is no class of people on the face of the earth that is more in need of the repose and spiritual refreshments of the Christian Sabbath than the citizens of the United States. Now, the best antidote for relieving this spiritual fever and for removing the dust which adheres to the soul from daily contact with the world will be found in the refreshing and invigorating bath of religious meditation."

There are so many ways of failing to observe the Sunday that it would look as if the very devil was constantly inventing fresh attractions to draw away men from God on that special day of the week. It has often seemed to some Catholics a severe rule of the Church which commands, under pain of mortal sin, the hearing of Mass upon Sunday. But we must remember that had not the Church established such a rule there are tens of thousands who would not scruple to pass the entire Sunday without even a prayer. There is a deep and remarkable wisdom in every rule laid down by the Church, and experience teaches that she is a merciful, as well as a wise mother.

The vacillator is a man who swings back and forth like a pendulum, never a firm, independent stand on any question.

Men of great achievement are characterized by their ability to grasp situations quickly and to seize opportunities. Their vision is clear; they understand conditions thoroughly; they act without hesitancy or doubt of results; hence, in many instances, they carry their projects to a successful issue.

The cold gray shadows of the wintry twilight had enveloped tree and meadow and sluggish forest streams in their uncertain mist, the factory chimneys fung their fiery banners of smoke against the leaden sky, a basso-rilievo that would have made Rembrandt himself rejoice, and the hum of never-ceasing machinery in the little town rose above the rush of the river like the buzz of a gigantic insect.

Charles Emery, the day superintendent in the rolling mills, was just retiring to his home, having been relieved by the night superintendent, and as he walked along, his feet sounding crisply on the hard, frozen earth, he whistled softly to himself, as light-hearted as a bird.

"You're going with us to-night, Charley, to the opera?" cried a gay voice, and two or three young men came by.

For upon that especial evening there was to be an opera in the little town, a genuine New York company, with a chorus, a full orchestra, and all the paraphernalia of scenery and costume which provincial residents so seldom enjoy, and the younger population were on the qui vive of delightful expectation.

"I am going," said Emery, slowly; "but not with you!"

"But you will change your mind, though," said Harrison, "when you hear that Kate Marcy is to be of our party—Kate Marcy and the Miss Hollowells and Fanny Hewitt. There are eight of us going. We've kept a seat on purpose for you!"

"I have engaged myself to another lady," said Emery, Harrison laughed.

"Well, I'm sorry for it," said he; "but Miss Marcy is not a girl who need pine for a cavalier. We'll keep the seat for you until a quarter of eight. And let me give you a warning, old fellow! Kate Marcy is a high-minded girl—it won't do to trifle too much with her!"

Charles Emery went on his way rather grave and more self-absorbed. He had asked his mother the day before to go, and his mother's eyes had brightened with genuine delight.

"Your father often used to take me, Charley," she said, "when we were young people and live in New York. But it is twenty years and more since I have been to an opera. And if you're quite sure, dear, that there is no young lady whom you would rather take—"

"As if any young girl in the world could be to me what my own darling mother is!" replied Emery, smiling across the table to her.

"Then I shall be delighted to go," said Mrs. Emery. And her voice and eyes bore witness to the truth of her words.

But now that a regular party had been organized, and Kate Marcy had promised to join it, things looked different to the young man. For a moment he almost regretted that he had engaged himself to take his mother.

"She would be as well pleased with any concert," he said to himself, "and I should have the opportunity of sitting all the evening next to Kate Marcy. I'll ask her to let me off this time. She won't care."

sweet affectionate dependence, than any blooming damsel whose eyes shone like stars and whose cheeks rivalled the September peach.

"Going with some one else!" said Kate Marcy, rather surprised and not exactly pleased.

She was a tall, beautiful maiden, the bell of C—, and rather an heiress in her own right. She liked Charles Emery, and she rather surmised that he liked her. And when she had been studying up her toilet for the opera, she had selected a blue dress, with blue flowers for her hair and ornaments of turquoise, because she had once heard Mr. Emery say that blue was his favorite color.

"Going with some one else!" she repeated. "Well, he has a right to suit himself."

And she kept within her own soul the jealousy that disturbed her all the while she was sitting waiting for the great green curtain to be drawn up, until, of a sudden, there was a slight bustle on the row of seats beyond, and Emery entered with his mother.

Then Kate's overgloomed face grew bright again. She drew a long breath of relief and turned to the stage; it was as if the myriad gaslights had all of a sudden been turned up, as if all the mimic world in the opera house had grown radiant.

Never was a voice sweeter to her ears than the somewhat thin and exhausted warble of the prima donna; never did scenery glow with such natural tints or footlights shine more softly. Kate Marcy declared that the opera was "perfection!"

"Yes; but," said pert little Nina Cummings, "do look at Charley Emery with that little old woman! Why couldn't he have come and sat with us?"

Kate said nothing. In the crowd now surging out of the aisles of the little opera house she could scarcely venture to express her entire opinion, but she said in a low, earnest tone—

"I don't know what you think of it, Nina; but I, for my part, respect Mr. Emery a thousand times more for his kindness to his mother."

And, almost at the same second, she found herself looking directly into Charley's eyes.

For a moment only. The crowd separated them almost ere they could recognize one another, but Kate felt sure—and her cheeks glowed scarlet—that he heard her words.

"Charley," said little Mrs. Emery, looking into her son's face as they emerged into the veil of softly falling snow which seemed to envelop the whole outer world in a dim, dazzling mystery, "who was that girl with the large blue eyes and the sweet face wrapped in a white, fleecy sort of hood—the one who said she respected you?"

"It was Kate Marcy, mother," said Mrs. Emery, softly.

The next day Charley went boldly to the old Marcy homestead, whose red brick gables, sheeted with ivy rose up out of the leafless elms and beeches, just beyond the noise and stir of the busy village.

"Miss Marcy," he said, "I heard what you said last night."

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## Society Directory

A.O.H. DIVISION NO. 8, meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month, at 1853 Notre Dame street, near McGill. Officers: Alderman D. Gallery, M.P.; President, Fred. J. Devlin, Vice-President, Fred. J. Devlin, Sec.-Secretary, 1328F Ontario street, L. Brophy, Treasurer, John Hughes, Financial Secretary, 65 Young street; M. Fennel, Chairman Standing Committee; John O'Donnell, Marshal.

ST. ANN'S T. A. & B. SOCIETY, established 1868.—Rev. Director, Rev. Father Flynn, President, D. Gallery, M.P.; Sec., J. F. Quinn, 625 St. Dominique street; M. J. Ryan, treasurer 18 St. Augustin street. Meets on the second Sunday of every month, in St. Ann's Hall, corner Young and Ottawa streets, at 8.30 p.m.

A.O.H. LADIES' AUXILIARY, Division No. 5, Organized Oct. 10th, 1901. Meetings are held in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander, on the first Sunday of each month, at 2.30 p.m., on the third Thursday at 8 p.m. President, Miss Anne Donovan; vice-president, Mrs. Sarah Allen; recording-secretary, Miss Rose Ward; financial-secretary, Miss Emma Doyle, 68 Anderson street; treasurer, Mrs. Charlotte Birmingham; chaplain, Rev. Father McGrath.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY.—Established March 6th, 1856, incorporated 1868, revised 1864. Meets in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander street, first Monday of the month. Committee meets last Wednesday. Officers: Rev. Director, Rev. M. Callaghan, P.P. President, Hon. Mr. Justice O. J. Doherty; 1st Vice, F. E. Devlin, M.D.; 2nd Vice, F. J. Curran, B.C.L.; Treasurer, Frank J. Green, Corresponding Secretary, John Kahala; Recording Secretary, T. P. Tansey.

ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY organized 1885.—Meets in its hall, 157 Ottawa street, on the first Sunday of each month, at 2.30 p.m. Spiritual Adviser, Rev. E. Strubbe, C.S.S.R.; President, M. Casey; Treasurer, Thomas O'Connell; Secretary, W. Whitty.

ST. ANTHONY'S COURT, C. O. F., meets on the second and fourth Friday of every month, in their hall, corner Selgnaux and Notre Dame streets. A. T. O'Connell, C. R., T. W. Kane, secretary.

ST. PATRICK'S T. A. & B. SOCIETY.—Meets on the second Sunday of every month in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander St., immediately after Vespers. Committee of Management meets in same hall the first Tuesday of every month at 8 p.m. Rev. Father McGrath, Rev. President; W. P. Doyle, 1st Vice-President; Jno. P. Gunning, Secretary, 718 St. Artois street, St. Henri.

C.M.B.A. OF CANADA, BRANCH 26.—(Organized, 18th November, 1878.—Branch 26 meets at St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander St., on every Monday of each month. Its regular meetings for the transaction of business are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, at 8 p.m. Spiritual Adviser, Rev. M. Callaghan; Chancellor, F. J. Curran, B.C.L.; President, Fred. J. Sears; Recording Secretary, J. J. Costigan; Financial Secretary, Robt. Warren; Treasurer, J. H. Feeley, jr.; Medical Adviser, Dr. H. J. Harrison, E. J. O'Connell and G. H. Merrill.

**CAPITAL AND LABOR.**—Archbishop Ireland was a prominent figure at the annual convention of the Civic Federation, at New York, last week. The object of the Federation is to promote more friendly relations between employers and employed. In his address Archbishop Ireland said:—

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