

Calendar for Feb., 1908

MOON'S PHASES.

New Moon 2.4. 37m. a. m.
First Quarter 9d. 0h. 23m. a. m.
Full moon 17d. 5h. 5m. a. m.
Last Quarter 24d. 11h. 24m. p. m.

Table with columns: Day of Week, Sun, Moon, High Water, Low Water. Rows for days of the month.

Science and Its Counterfeit.

Those who vainly imagine that the genuine scientists of the world are atheistic, will do well to ponder what one of the greatest scientists of modern times, who has just passed away, Lord Kelvin by name, an Irishman, but not a Catholic, had to say in regard to the existence of God.

"Science," he declared, "positively affirms creating and directive power." He admitted further that "one word characterized the most strenuous of the efforts for the advancement of science that I have perseveringly made in the last fifty-five years. That word is failure. I have not arrived at any other solution than that there must be a God."

Under the title "Science and Its Counterfeit," the Editor of that excellent Catholic publication, The Month (London), contributes a paper to his magazine. The value of science, he says in effect, as an explanation of first principles, has been overdrawn. Science in its way has become somewhat of a specious cloak for ignorance and ignorance of the most pernicious kind, namely, that which plumes itself on being wisdom. It is not to be denied that we know more concerning nature than we did our forefathers, but it is not to be said that they were therefore, necessarily inferior to us intellectually.

We have easy means of acquiring without any merit of our own, large funds of knowledge, and as a result of this there is the grave danger of our study of science becoming thoroughly unscientific.

We are not always qualified to understand clearly how much of what we learn is fact, and how much is hypothesis. And as nearly every self-respecting person desires to be up to date in the matter of knowledge, it inevitably follows that a vast multitude must have recourse to those who will supply them with a mental outfit ready-made, and nurture their minds on what has been "predigested" for them.

It is unfortunate that those who expound science to us are, in the majority of cases, persons who are dependent for a living on the work of their pens; they rarely have any great interest in science itself, and often than not they refer the creation of the world and the existence of natural phenomena to a purely mechanical or spontaneous origin.

These "teachers of science," at a few dollars an article, to countless masses of readers, are invariably more certain of everything than men like Kelvin are of anything.

Their ordinary tendency is to vastly exaggerate the achievements of science. Thus, for example, in the matter of the origin of life, they assume facts where even Darwin himself could only find hypothesis. Darwin on many occasions declared that he knew nothing and never hoped to know anything as to how life originated.

Yet we get "men of science" of the illustrated magazine order assuring us that "the origin of life is not a more stupendous problem than the origin of water; it hides no profounder mystery than the lifeless; it is only a local and temporary arrest of the universal movement towards equilibrium" which means, of course, to say that any one can understand it.

Itching Skin

Distress by day and night—That's the complaint of those who are so unfortunate as to be afflicted with Eczema or Salt Rheum—and outward applications do not cure. They can't.

The source of the trouble is in the blood—make that pure and this scaling, burning, itching skin disease will disappear.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

"I was taken with an itching on my arms which proved very disagreeable. I concluded it was salt rheum and bought a bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla. In two days after I began taking it I felt better and it was not long before I was cured. Here never had any skin disease since." Max Ida E. Ward, Cove Point, Md.

The late Mr. Grant Allen was another of the "popular scientific men" who were wont to tell us that lungs were acquired by certain fishes who at one time in the history of the earth took a fancy to living out of the water. Consequently they "grew" lungs, just as a man might fancy to "grow" his hair long.

Nothing is more amusing than the explanations vouchsafed to the humble enquirer by these apostles of peony science. Thus, the cause of the hatching of a chicken is "explained" to be due to inherent forces in the natural germ, which is not a tenth part as satisfactory as the explanation why a wet hen crosses a muddy road. Yet this is about as far as the scientific gentry get, and in their specious terminology the very scientific fact wished for is itself shrouded.

Huxley declared that the genesis of every chick that we see hatched is as far beyond our understanding as the mystery of the universe.

One ever notices the grandiloquent language of our little exponents in the explanations of life. A certain Mr. Clodd sets forth the theory that the universe is an automatic self-sufficing piece of mechanism which having started of itself, will continue going everlastingly without any help from God. Here is his language:

"The ultimate transference of all energy to the ethereal medium involves the end of the existing state of things. But the ceaseless redistribution of matter, force, clasped and energy-riven, involves the beginning of another state of things. So the changes are rung on evolution and dissolution, on the birth and death of the stellar systems—gas to solid, solid to gas, yet never quite the same—mighty rhythmic beats, of which the earth's cycles and the oracles and graves of her children are minor rhythms."

Nice language, if you will, but far from being intelligible to ordinary minds, and, as it stands, susceptible of several readings.

The Gaelic Catholics of Nova Scotia.

In connection with the information which we reprinted from The Oban Times on Gaelic-speaking Catholics in Nova Scotia, a clerical correspondent sends us further valuable details. In the diocese of Antigonish there are at present 80,000 Catholics, of whom no fewer than 45,000 are Gaelic speaking, the descendants of those who were evicted from the Highlands of Scotland. Some 25,000 are Acadicians, who, in the words of Longfellow, said, "Down with the tyrants of England," from the unfortunate treatment they received at the hands of England's representatives, and 15,000 are of Irish descent. There are 60 Gaelic-speaking priests, and 50 Gaelic-speaking nuns, at the head of whom is the venerable Gaelic-speaking Bishop, the Right Rev. John Cameron, D.D. What is equally satisfactory is that the best Highland Catholic traditions are nurtured and fostered by these people. Home Highland Catholicity cannot hold a candle to the sturdy Gaelic Catholicity of Nova Scotia.

Our correspondent then goes on to give an instance of this as follows: "In Antigonish an old woman brought out from her breast a beautiful pectoral cross, a peculiar cross with two cross bars like an archiepiscopal processional cross with an inscription, 'S. Ignati, ora pro me,' on the reverse

side of the cross. I asked if she knew anything of the history of the cross. She replied no, only that she had heard that it once belonged to the Eschingtons, the fair Bishops. Now, the fair Bishops were Bishops John and Aeneas Chisholm, Vicars-Apostolic, who are buried in the Island of Lismore near Oban. She had it from her mother-in-law, a Mrs. MacQuarrie, from the Island of Eigg, in the Old Country, whose maiden name was MacDonnell. With these data, I wrote to the parish priest of Judique, in Cape Breton, the Rev. Archibald Chisholm, who seems to have the Highland traditions on his fingers' ends. I asked him if he could help me to trace the beautiful relic back to the Eschingtons. Mrs. MacQuarrie being a MacDonnell I got a reply by return of post stating that he had no doubt that the cross belonged to the 'fair Bishops.' They had a sister who married a MacDonnell of Glengarry. She had three daughters, one married a man in Skye, another married a MacQuarrie in Eigg, and a third came out to Ontario with Father MacDonnell, who was afterwards the first bishop of Kingston, Ontario. She was not more than six weeks in America when she married an Allan MacNab, who was later, or his son Sir Allan MacNab, Prime Minister of Canada at Ottawa. This same priest has in his possession the book of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, as also a flask which was once the property of Father John Farquharson, in Strathgairn. Another venerable ecclesiastic has been a subscriber of The Tablet for the last forty years, and his father before him, Father Colin Chisholm, of Port Hood, Iverness Co., Cape Breton. The Diocese of Antigonish is the most Catholic of all the British dioceses, Ireland not being British. For the first time in his life our correspondent was privileged to give a Gaelic conference to a community of Gaelic-speaking nuns in the town of Antigonish."—The Tablet.

A Doctor's View of Total Abstinence.

What, one may ask, is the teaching of the Holy Scripture on Total Abstinence? Does it enjoin Total Abstinence or forbid it? The truth is that the Church does neither one thing nor the other, as a rule, for general observance, she did not legislate on this point for the present state of society, which is so different from that of the period when the Scriptures were written.

Wine is spoken of as "having been created from the beginning to make men joyful, and not to make them drunk, wine drunken with moderation is the joy of the soul and the heart. Sober drinking is health to soul and body. Wine drunken with excess raiseth quarrels and wrath and many ruins." (Ecclesiast. xxxi, 35-38). By abuse it has, however, come to be a source of evil, rather than of good, and this being so, we are not commanded to use wine. As to the wives of the Jews: They had no spirits, probably no beer. Their wines were pure, as a rule, but fermented and intoxicating. Undoubtedly there was much drunkenness even in the old days, and in times of festivity, religious or domestic, the offence was condoned as pardonable. The Scriptural text is full of warnings against its abuse. In the Proverbs (ix, 1), we are assured that "whosoever delighteth in drink shall not be wise," and "he that loveth wine shall not be rich." Yet though warnings abound, there are no express commands even as to moderation. On the other hand, there is clear evidence that Total Abstinence was pleasing to God—more pleasing than even the moderate use of strong drink. Thus: "When a man or woman shall make a vow to be sanctified, and will consecrate themselves to the Lord, they shall abstain from wine and from everything that may make a man drunk." (Numbers vi, 1-3). The Nazirites were pledged abstainers and they were of two kinds: Nazirites for life, as Samson, Samuel, St. John the Baptist, and Nazirites "of periods," for a length of time according to choice, during which time they had to abstain.

Abstinence from wine formed part of the Jewish fast, and in the New Testament, we find the principles of Total Abstinence clearly laid down

"It is good not to eat flesh and not to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother is offended or scandalized, or made weak." (Romans xiv, 21) St. Paul, who says, "neither drunkards nor adulterers shall enter Heaven," was a total abstainer, yet he advised Timothy who was a water-drinker "to use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thy frequent infirmities." If we look to the motive why Christ chose to eat and drink according to the customs of the time and of the people with whom He lived, we may say that His motive was to win their hearts the more easily. Yet there is no argument against Total Abstinence in Christ's having partaken of wine. For though the moderate use of wine at the time of Christ, was perfectly lawful and innocent, and is so still, yet owing to the altered state of society, it cannot be denied that it may be more perfect, at the present time, to abstain from wine and strong drink, that we may encourage those to whom Total Abstinence is necessary.

To sum up, the teaching of the Holy Scripture is: 1. Total Abstinence is not forbidden. 2. Neither is it commanded to be practiced by all. 3. It was commanded under certain circumstances, was practiced by many of the Scripture Saints, and the exhortation to practice Total Abstinence as a means of preservation from danger, and an exercise of zeal and charity, is sanctioned by Gospel principles.

Priest Risks Life to Prevent Wreck.

Writing of the recent floods in France, in which many lives were lost, and a vast amount of property destroyed, the Paris correspondent of The Irish Catholic, describes a thrilling act of heroism by the Abbe Pastre, the parish priest of Allisais.

One morning after assisting some of the parishioners whose houses had been flooded in the night, the priest hurried in the blinding rain to the railway line, which he feared was inundated. On reaching it he found his apprehensions were only too well founded. A breach of about thirty yards had been made in the railway embankment. He had scarcely noted this fact when he perceived in the distance a passenger train burrying with its human freight at full speed to its perdition. He waved his handkerchief and hat, shouting to the engine-driver to stop. Perceiving that no notice was paid to his signals (the engine-driver thought he was a mad-man), the priest, at the imminent risk of his own life, placed himself in the middle of the line between the rails at about three hundred yards from the abyss into which, if he had not done so, a hundred or more human beings would have been plunged. Still advancing at full speed, the engine-driver set the whistle going with the object of frightening the "madman" off the line. But the Abbe Pastre remained motionless with his up-stretched arms. Still with the whistle screaming, on came the train. There seemed absolutely no hope of stopping it, yet the abbe remained like a statue awaiting his fate, knowing that if he was killed the engine-driver would draw up, and thus the lives of the passengers would be saved.

At last, however, the engine-driver, seeing the supposed madman would not move, reversed the steam, put on the brakes and stopped the train within a couple of yards of the priest, who had mentally sacrificed his life to save the travellers. To explain his conduct he had but to point to the embankment which had been carried away by the flood. The breach was so situated as to be invisible to the advancing train till it would have been too late to avoid a catastrophe.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

FLUENCY OF SPEECH.

The common fluency of speech in many men and most women is owing to a society of matter and a scarcity of words, for whoever is a master of language and has a mind full of ideas will be apt in speaking to hesitate upon the choice of both, whereas common speakers have only one set of ideas and one set of words to clothe them in, and these are always ready at the mouth, so people come faster out of church when it is almost empty than when a crowd is at the door.

Muscular Rheumatism.

Mr. H. Wilkinson, Stratford, Ont., says:—It affords me much pleasure to say that I experienced great relief from Muscular Rheumatism by using two boxes of Milburn's Rheumatic Pills." Price a box 50c.

Minard's Liniment Cures colds, etc.

THE OVERCOAT. Probably in no other department of art is there exhibited so much indifference to hygienic considerations as in the overcoat. The great fallacy of all perhaps in regard to the choice of an overcoat is that the terms "weight" and "warmth" are synonymous. As a matter of fact, they are nearly always diametrically opposed. Moreover, the heavy overcoat is a tax on the resources of the organism and destroys the economy which a good insulating cloth is intended to secure.

Fairville, Sept. 30, 1902. MINARD'S LINIMENT CO., LIMITED.

Dear Sirs,—We wish to inform you that we consider your MINARD'S LINIMENT a very superior article, and we use it as a sure relief for sore throat and chest. (When I tell you I would not be without it if the price was one dollar a bottle, I mean it, Yours truly, CHAS. F. TILTON.

Canada is certainly the land of the young woman. She has gripped the reins and means to drive. Chivalry is tested to its utmost. The gallant meets the fair one, not in the sweet seclusion of some scented arbor, but in office and factory, where she is slowly but surely elbowing him aside.

There is nothing harsh about Laxa Liver Pills. They cure Constipation, Dyspepsia, Sick Headache, and Bilious Spells without griping, purging or sickening. Price 25c.

Minard's Liniment cures Neuralgia.

Beware Of Worms. Don't let worms gnaw at the vitals of your children. Give them Dr. Low's Pleasant Worm Syrup and they'll soon be rid of these parasites. Price 50c.

ONLY A Common Cold

BUT IT BECOMES A SERIOUS MATTER IF NEGLECTED. PNEUMONIA, BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, CATARRH OR CONSUMPTION IS THE RESULT. Get rid of it at once by taking Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup.

Obstinate coughs yield to its grateful soothing action, and in the racking, persistent cough, often present in Consumptive cases, it gives prompt and sure relief. In Asthma and Bronchitis it is a successful remedy, rendering breathing easy and natural, enabling the sufferer to enjoy refreshing sleep, and often effecting a permanent cure.

We do not claim that it will cure Consumption in the advanced stages, but if taken in time it will prevent its reaching that stage, and will give the greatest relief to the poor sufferer from this terrible malady.

Be careful when purchasing to see that you get the genuine Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup. Put up in a yellow wrapper, three pine trees the trade mark.

Mr. Wm. O. Jenkins, Spring Lake, Alta., writes: "I had a very bad cold settled on my lungs. I bought two bottles of Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup but it only required one to cure me. I have never met with any other medicine so good." Price 25c. etc., at all dealers.

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