

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

Written for the CATHOLIC RECORD. Saint Agnes. "Deep on the convent roof the snows are sparkling like the moon; My breath to heaven like vapor goes; My soul to God in silent prayer; The shadows of the convent towers slant down the snowy eaves; Still creeping with the creeping hours That lead me to my Lord. How vividly these words of the poet come to us this morning, reminding us of the noble young Roman martyr who nearly sixteen hundred years ago counted with such ardent longing the dawning hours of the day which was to set her pure young soul free to wing its flight back to its Creator and Spouse. And as we look out on the newly fallen snow which like a spotless veil seems thrown o'er a sinful world to hide it from the eyes of Heaven can we help thinking how emblematic it is of our lovely St. Agnes, who, next to the Immaculate Mother of God, is special patroness and model of all virtues? Surely we could not find in the three Graces more perfectly united than in her! Oh how unworthy are we weak mortals to even bear her gentle name who with so little fortune and so slowly climb the pathway of the cross! Oh how weak is our Faith and how inconstant our Hope and how imperfect our Love compared to the example we find in the sketch which follows!

only daughter of a noble Roman house as a follower of the lowly Nazarene, crucified between two thieves—no wonder if when the time came, it came to her not as a trial but as a triumph! It was not the tender girl torn from a sheltering home, from doting parents, to be given over to the dungeon and to the torturers; but the exile at last setting sail for her native land; the bride going forth to meet an eternal Spouse. "The bloody command of the Roman emperor, Diocletian, against the Christians, appeared in March, 303; and the next year, on the 21st of Jan., the name of St. Agnes was added to the list of Christ's martyrs. "The Acts" of this darling saint, this cherished virgin martyr, who has been, ever since the year 304, the admiration of Christendom, were written by no less a person than the learned doctor, the holy confessor and renowned Bishop of Milan, St. Ambrose. "These wonderful Acts of St. Agnes prove how dearly our Lord prized the innocence of this holy child, since an angel defended her from the sinful approaches of the wicked man. They also prove what courage is given to the most tender and timid when Jesus calls on them to suffer for Him. St. Agnes was only thirteen years old when she was taken before the Roman tribunal to answer to the accusation of being a Christian; and if we wish to know how the little ones of the household of Christ can look their persecutors in the face, we may study the Acts of this young girl Agnes. "The night before that morning in January when she appeared before the dreadful tribunal, had been spent partly in prison, partly in the midst of human beings worse even than the demons themselves. Yet when she comes before the judge her face has lost none of its serenity, none of its celestial beauty. "We are told that a murmur of displeasure ran through the crowd when this mere child was brought in between armed guards; but the harsh prefect, who had steeled his heart against all pity, seeing that her hands were free, ordered them to be put in irons. The jailer took the smallest pair of manacles, and put them on her wrists, but as she playfully dropped her hands the cruel irons fell to the floor. With a face deeply moved, we may believe with a heart far more so, the jailer said to the prefect, "such infant wrists deserve other bracelets." Finding that she could not be put in irons, the prefect showed his severity by his rough questions, to which she returned only celestial answers in praise of her Heavenly Bridegroom; but she could not be compelled to move her hand, slight as it was, excepting to make the blessed sign of the cross, until, exasperated by her courage and constancy, he ordered her to be beheaded. Agnes, transported with joy at this sentence, still more at the sight of the headsman, "she went to the place of execution," says St. Ambrose, "more cheerfully than others go to their wedding." Every means was tried to break her noble resolution of suffering for Christ, but in vain, and having said a short prayer she bowed her beautiful young head to the stroke of the sword, to be united forever in heaven to her Divine Spouse. Her body, that innocent body which has been "the temple of the Holy Ghost," was buried a short distance from Rome. "Every year on the feast of St. Agnes the Abbot of St. Peter's blesses two lambs which are thence carried to the Pope who blesses them again. After this they are sent to the Capuchin nuns of St. Lawrence, who make of their wool palliums, or small white tippees, decorated with plain Roman crosses in black wool, which the Pope blesses and sends to the Archbishops in all parts of the world, as an emblem of the meekness and purity that should adorn their sacred office. Next to the representations of the Apostles and Evangelists there is no saint who appears in pictures as early as St. Agnes. She is always represented with a lamb beside her or in her arms, and she is distinguished in this way among the virgin martyrs in the "Coronation of the Blessed Virgin," by Fra Angelico. Her name, which signifies chaste in Greek and lamb in Latin, is found in the Canon of the Mass and in this way: "Vox ubi St. Ambrose and St. Augustine write the praises of St. Agnes. Thomas Kempis speaks of many miracles wrought, and graces received, through her intercession. St. Martin of Tours, also, was devout to St. Agnes; and to this day there are few, even among those denying the power of her prayers, who do not love St. Agnes. "This is but a short synopsis of the holy life and death of our saint, but is it not enough to prove how dear she must be to God? Let us ask her then to teach us to love Him as she did, and not to let that love be altered or cooled by any changing thing in this uncertain world for "how true it is" that "In God alone the heart will find sources of endless joy; 'Twill find an object then to love—An Eden to enjoy." —A. "Ayer's Cherry Pectoral has given me great relief in bronchitis. Within a month I have sent some of this preparation to a friend suffering from bronchitis and asthma. It has done him so much good that he writes for me." — Charles F. Dumterville, Plymouth, England. A General Overview. DEAR SIRS,—I suffered from general weakness and debility and my system was completely run down and I found B. B. B. the best medicine I ever tried. I would not be without it for a great deal. MISS NELLIE ARMSTRONG, Dublin P. O., Ont.

AVARICE AND HYPOCRISY.

Two Sins that were Repeatedly Denounced Because they Kill the Soul. Catholic Columbian. "Wee unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy and faith; these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. "Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat and swallow a camel. "Wee unto you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess. "Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also. "Wee unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. "Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. "Wee unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous. To one who studies with loving care the life and teachings of our Saviour, there is surprise at first, that while the more atrocious crimes are merely referred to, the upon avaricious money-getting and hypocrisy. A better knowledge of human nature teaches us, however, that our Lord knows us better than we know ourselves. The atrocious crimes of murder, cruelty, arson, robbery, and all that are born of violence, are unnatural and exceptional. They are more in the way of disease or sudden passion, and humanity, from a sense of self-preservation, guards against them without divine admonition. From all accounts of all climes and conditions, we find the criminal code reading nearly the same. How much soever we may differ on other subjects, this receives the same on all subjects. The man of violence is treated the same as the wild beast possessed of appetites dangerous to life and destructive of peaceful society. And how much of this disease no one can tell. Scientists of late years profess an ability to distinguish the skull of a murderer from that of ordinary heads. A learned superintendent of an asylum for the insane called our attention to the fact that disease or malformation lies probably at the base of much that we call crime. He had a lad of twelve years of age brought to him for treatment. The boy, up to a certain late period, was affectionate and obedient. From this he changed to a condition of great irritability, that increased until he became dangerous, having attained the life of his mother. It became necessary to confine him in an asylum. The doctor made a study of his little patient. He found on shaving his head a place where the heat indicated inflammation, and on further investigation discovered a fracture, with bone pressing upon the brain. A surgical operation lifted this indentation, and the poor lad returned to his normal, quiet, affectionate disposition and conduct. How terrible the thought that in our cruel pursuit and punishment of criminals we are sometimes hunting down sick and insane people! To say a word in their behalf is to incur the charge of mawkish sentimentalism. How the money-getting hypocrites of to day would sneer at our Saviour, who promised the heaven to the thief writhing in agony upon the cross that he denied to those respectable matter-of-fact people who pride themselves upon being free of sentiment. Ah, friends of Mammon, there is little in this world worth struggling for that cannot be stigmatised in this way. What is the household dear and holy; what is patriotism itself, that holy virtue praised through all ages by orators and sung of by poets, but sentiment? Who has seen a people rise in their wrath to lay waste and kill for the honor of their flag, and not wondered? For the flag is a painted rag and their emotion nothing but sentiment. When we have passed from this brief existence of mortality to the life hereafter, we shall find heaven's foundations based on the feeling we have been taught to despise, and we may see Howard, who went through the sufferings of criminals, sitting near the right hand of the God who on earth made the poor and wicked His friends and associates. Christ warned us against that which is a part of our normal condition—our poor human nature—that, if left unrestrained, will inevitably degrade us to a condition where the more horrible offenses are possible. From the selfishness of money-getting comes the desire to do wrong; from the necessity of a process through which wrong may be done with impunity, comes hypocrisy. Slavery was said to be the sum total of all villainy, and the slavery of sin is its worst form; and this horrible condition can be traced back in nearly all cases of selfishness, that has its most common phase in money-getting, and to hypocrisy, in which a man, striving to deceive his fellow-man and his God, ends in deceiving himself. The great curse, the curse of all curses that afflict humanity to day, is intemperance in the use of intoxicating drinks. War, pestilence and famine are as nothing to this foul, insinuating disease, that degrades the body and destroys the soul. The tears it has wrung from broken hearts would make a sea; the crime it has created would fill a hell; the disease it is the author of would make the earth a loathsome pest-house of foul disorders. And yet Christ did not specifically denounce intemperance, because He struck at its root in the selfishness of the money-getter who traffics for gain on the miseries of humanity, and the selfishness of the man who walks over broken hearts to the gratification of a vile passion.

Small wonder that women grow frantic and men wild in the face of this terrible curse; for the drunkard's grave is found in the utter ruin of the household. Could it be arrested, peace would fall like sunlight on our homes; our prisons would be almost depopulated and poor-houses needless. God gave us wisdom to treat, and strength to conquer, this horrible curse, that misery may be lifted from the wife, wretchedness from the children and agony from gray hairs! Hypocrisy, which means, we are told, stealing the liver of God to serve the devil in, assumes the worst form when the wearer deceives himself. It is a law of our nature that we cannot assume the unnatural long without making it a part of our nature. The man who says, and repeats for the purpose of impressing others "I hate," ends in hating. The fish of the Mantle Cave are without eyes, and the hypocrite passes inevitably to moral blindness. The hypocrite, as we have said, begins in an attempt to deceive his fellow men and his Maker, and terminates in making a monster of himself. Who has seen the rich hypocrite, in his velvet-cushioned pew, listening devoutly to that other hypocrite preach from his marble pulpit of sins two thousand years old, and not felt a sense of shame at a mockery that makes the devil laugh and angels weep? The two have eyes that see no duty, ears that are deaf to the cries of distress, that go up in wails of despair about them, while their feelings anticipate death in their foul decay. And what is the meaning of that terrible warning of Christ to beware of that which kills the soul? Can the soul die? Is there a suicide of crime? Yes, just as the body has its life, so the soul lives by grace. When grace departs the soul is dead, and is fit only to be cast into exterior darkness, where there is wailing with gnashing of teeth. When the soul is dead, it is no longer fit for eternal life, no longer worthy of Heaven. And only repentance can bring about its resurrection. For Christ, who denounced the sin, pitied and promised forgiveness to the repentant sinner. And yet He has uttered that terrible warning that comes ringing through the ages like the voice of fate, to beware of that which kills the soul. DONN PIATT.

An Actor's Devotion to the Blessed Mother.

At the funeral of the late Wm. J. Florence, Rev. Dr. Brann spoke of the love of the Church for the stage, and related a characteristic story of the departed actor. He said that Florence never saw an ambulance go by with a dead or wounded man but he offered up a "Hail Mary" for the unfortunate. Father Brann then asked all present to join with him in a "Hail Mary" for the soul of the departed. The prayer was said fervently, thus realizing the return of charity to others. No doubt that devotion to the Mother of God ever burned in his heart, and was the means by which the faith of his childhood was kept alive, and he received the grace of the last Sacraments. The Garb of Nuns. In a letter to the Pioneer Press, Rev. Martin Mahony says that the Sisters' garb may be beaten in modishness but not in modesty. Nor does the reverend gentleman see that beads hanging by a Sister's side should be more objectionable than beads strung round the neck of the worldling. A cross dangling from a Sister's hips, he says, is not more unsightly or otherwise objectionable than a cross worn on a woman's breast. Evidently Father Mahony does not play to the galleries as Rev. Mr. Butterick does. Mr. Butterick may be a better judge than Father Mahony as to the fashions in feminine drapery, but Father Mahony is certainly that gentleman's superior in the philosophy of clothes. Scotch Wit. The Scotch people have always been particularly happy in what might be called the ready resort, an answer not only witty, but wise. Take the exquisite humor of the old maiden lady of Montrose, who, when asked to subscribe to a volunteer-corps fund, in that town, replied: "Indeed, I'll dae nae sic thing! I ne'er could raise a man for myself, and I'm no gear to raise men for the king." And the delightfully shrewd answer of the good wife of Prof. Robson, who disliked the cant expressions of the religious tongue of that day. She had invited a gentleman to dinner, and he had accepted with the reservation. "If I am spared." "Weel, weel," said Mrs. Robson, "if ye're dead I'll nae expect ye." In the death of the Right Rev. Eugene O'Connell, Bishop of Joppa, at Los Angeles, Cal., the good learned and holy man. For fifty years the venerable Bishop had labored in the cause of the gospel in California. His death was a poem, a hopeful, gentle yielding of the pure soul to its Creator. His devotion to the Blessed Virgin during his life seemed to be rewarded by the fact that as the Angelus bell was ringing and that beautiful prayer was on the lips of the Catholic world, the good Bishop, with the names of Jesus and Mary upon his lips, passed away. Monthly Prizes for Boys and Girls. The "Sunlight" Soap Co., Toronto, offer the following prizes every month till further notice, to boys and girls under 16, residing in the Province of Ontario, who send the greatest number of "Sunlight" wrappers: 1st, \$10; 2nd, \$5; 3rd, \$3; 4th, \$1; 5th to 10th, a handsome Book; and a pretty picture to those who send not less than 25 wrappers. Send wrappers to "Sunlight" Soap Office, c/o Scott St., Toronto not later than 25th of each month, and marked "Competition" also give full name, address, age, and number of wrappers. Winners names will be published in The Toronto Mail on first Saturday in each month. Why suffer from disorders caused by impure blood, when thousands are being cured by using Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery? It removes Pimples and all Eruptions of the skin. Mr. John C. Fox, Olinda, writes, "Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery is giving good satisfaction. Those who have used it say it has done them more good than anything they have ever taken." Bad, Worse, Worst. Cold, cough, consumption, to cure the first and second and prevent the third use Hagar's Pectoral Balsam, the never-failing family medicine for all diseases of the throat, lungs and chest. A marvel of healing in pulmonary complaints. Mr. John Anderson, Grasmere, Ont., writes: "The Vegetable Discovery you sent me is all gone, and I am to say that it has greatly benefited my skin. I have used it. One man in particular says it has made him a new man, and he cannot say too much for its cleansing and curative qualities." "August Flower" There is a gentleman named Captain A. G. Farris, who has written that he has made up his mind concerning some things, and this is what he says: "I have used your preparation called August Flower in my family for seven or eight years. It is constantly in my house, and we consider it the best remedy for Indigestion, Constipation and Indigestion we ever used or known. My wife is troubled with Dyspepsia, and at times suffers very much after eating. The August Flower, however, relieves the difficulty. My wife frequently says to me when I am going to town, 'We are out of August Flower, and I think you had better get another bottle.' I am also troubled with Indigestion, and whenever I am, I take one or two tea-spoonfuls before eating, for a day or two, and all trouble is removed."

OUT OF HARM'S WAY



There's no cause for fear here. The fence is high and the chain is strong, and a sense of safety and satisfaction comes over the woman, something like that which comes to her when she uses "Sunlight" Soap, and sees how it does away with hard work and turns toil into ease. Then she is safe in the knowledge that this Soap cannot harm the tenderest skin or finest fabric. For purity it has no equal. Try it.

THE HURON AND ERIE Loan & Savings Company

ESTABLISHED 1864. Subscribed Capital, - \$2,500,000 Paid up Capital, - - - 1,300,000 Reserve Fund, - - - - 581,000 J. W. LITTLE, President JOHN BEATTIE, Vice-President DEPOSITS of \$1 and upwards received at highest current rates. DEBENTURES issued, payable in Canada or in England. Executors and trustees are authorized by law to invest in the debentures of this company. MONEY LOANED on mortgages of real estate. MORTGAGES purchased.

G. A. SOMERVILLE, MANAGER.

London, Ont. DUTTON & MURPHY Undertakers and Embalmers OFFICES AND SHOW ROOMS: 479 Queen St. East SHOW ROOMS: 321 Queen St. East Telephone 1731 and 2706. Funerals Furnished at Moderate Prices.

BELLS! BELLS! PEALS & CHIMES FOR CHURCHES.

School Bells. Clock Tower Bells. Fire Bells. House Bells. Hand Bells. JOHN TAYLOR & CO., Loughborough, Leicestershire, England.

HARTSHORN'S SHADERS ROLLERS. NOTICE OF THE GENUINE HARTSHORN. The Key to Health.

THE KEY TO HEALTH.

BURDOCK'S BLOOD BITTERS.

Unlocks all the clogged avenues of the Bowels, Kidneys and Liver, carrying off gradually without weakening the system, all the impurities and foul humors of the secretions; at the same time Correcting Acidity of the Stomach, curing Biliousness, Dyspepsia, Headaches, Dizziness, Heartburn, Constipation, Dryness of the Skin, Dropsy, Dimness of Vision, Jaundice, Salt Rheum, Erysipelas, Scrofula, Fluctuating of the Heart, Nervousness, and General Debility; all these and many other similar Complaints yield to the happy influence of BURDOCK'S BLOOD BITTERS.

JOHN FERGUSON & SONS, The leading Undertakers and Embalmers. Open night and day. Telephone—House, 373; Factory, 543. JAMES KILGOUR Undertaker and Importer of Fine Funeral Furnishings. Residence—112 Elmwood Avenue, London, South.

Try a Roberts Ozonator For dispelling any and all disagreeable and unhealthy odors. Satisfaction guaranteed. SMITH BROS. PLUMBERS, ETC. 172 King Street, London. Telephone 388.