

came about in such a way that I had to tell myself that these were the quiet ways of Divine Providence. This lasted, with the exception of the vacation, until now. I had a great many combats with myself, until at last I could say decisively that I wished to enter the Church. Then everything became easier, and I desired to receive the sacraments as soon as possible. The day after the 4th of December I was confirmed, and entered the new Church-year as a true child of the Church, with joy and interior peace.

May God give me His grace that I may become more and more a true child of the Church, to His great honor and my own sanctification. I am visiting now a very dear friend, where I can live quietly and be undisturbed. If you see Alhborn, tell him this news. God be with you.

Your devoted friend,

E. LINDER.

We cannot close this chapter without adding a few words which the worthy Abbot Haneberg spoke over the open grave of Emilie Linder in the year 1867:

"The earnest dignity, purity of her whole being, as well as her active mind for religion and benevolence, inspired all those who came in contact with her with the greatest and sincerest admiration. One often thought that intercourse with these men (the most excellent German artists and learned men) had been the cause of her joining the Catholic Church. But she did it through the inner free conviction of her heart. With all her great kindness, she possessed so much independence and firmness of character, that no persuasion, not even that of her most clever friend, could have brought her to another course than that which she considered the way of truth and grace, which Jesus has opened to us."

Why They Neglect the Easter Duty.

Why is this? Have you ever questioned yourself, you who have not complied with this law of love made for your own interest? Why? In many cases from the most shameful indifference. Not indeed, from any positive and wilful desire to be at enmity with God, but because your heart and its desires are too much taken up with the folly

and charms of your every-day life. Your heart is wrapped up in so many things that are indifferent in themselves. That really is why some people do not make their Easter duty. Then there are others—timid, weak, fearful souls—wavering between God and the devil, between the loftier aspirations of their souls and the lower cravings of nature, anxious and troubled souls, who want to set themselves right, but have not the courage of their convictions to take the step. Confession means so much to them. Shall they be forgiven, shall they persevere, shall they have the strength to fulfil all that the Easter duty involves? These are the questions that agitate their souls, and deprive them of the peace they honestly would wish to enjoy. To such we say: In the name of God take the step—do your duty, trust in God for the rest.

But there is still another set. O! may God soften their hearts, for their hearts are as hard as stone. Souls of men and women hardened by sin, corrupted by vice, which nothing but the extraordinary grace of God can soften or make whole.

For such the Easter duty means a great deal. It means the cutting loose from sin and from all that leads to sin, from all its occasions. Ah! that's the rub. If they could only be at peace with God, and at the same time not at enmity with the devil; if they could only kiss Christ, and yet embrace Judas; if they could only be fair without, and yet be corrupt within. But it cannot be.

It has simply come to this: the men and women who neglect to fulfil this commandment of the Church, whether through fear or timidity, or through a love for sin and its occasions, must stand before God as whitened sepulchres, barren trees fit only for the fire.

It is absolutely necessary, either for our own advancement or the salvation of others, to follow in all things the beautiful light of faith.—ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.

If you wish to revenge yourself on your enemy, mortify your body, and bring it into subjection to the spirit, for it is a rebellious slave.—ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI.

Never think you have attained the purity of heart which you owe to God, until your will is freely and joyfully resigned to His holy will in all things, even in the most repugnant.—ST. FRANCIS DE SALES.