

REGINA ITEMS FROM THE WEST, JAN. 7.

Irene Donohoe left on Saturday evening for Winnipeg to attend St. Mary's Academy.—Winnipeg.

Mr. and Mrs. E. McCarthy entertained the employees of the firm of E. McCarthy & Co., at their residence on Rose street, last Tuesday evening. The genial host and hostess warmly welcomed their guests about eight o'clock. After all had gathered they sat down to a magnificent supper, which had been prepared under the supervision of Mrs. McCarthy. Oysters had a prominent place on the menu. After supper a lively evening was spent in games, speech making, music and singing, and so pleasantly was the time spent that the early hours of the morning had arrived before anyone noticed how quickly the time had sped. All the guests expressed themselves delighted with the evening's entertainment. The success of this gathering warrants the belief that the staff of E. McCarthy & Co. may look forward to a recurrence of this seasonable event before the present year expires.

AUSTRIA'S PATRON SAINT

Saint Colman, the patron saint of the Austrian Empire, was born in Ireland. In the year 1012 he left his native land to visit the Pope, was seized by some marauders and hanged in a place named Stockeran. His remains were conveyed by Prince Henry of Austria to his residence in Melek. On its removal the body was found entire, and was placed in St. Peter's Church, of that town, on October 7, 1015, three years after the saint had been murdered. A Benedictine monastery, established here in honor of St. Colman, has become very famous, and still exists in great splendor.

A PROTESTANT TRAVELLER'S "MARE'S NEST."

From the Ave Maria.

An amusing illustration of the tendency of Protestant travellers to discover "mare's nests" in Catholic countries is afforded by an article in the November "Fortnightly." The writer, who is a professor in Cambridge University, discoursing on the vagaries of Latin pronunciation, says: "A number of years ago a classical scholar in high place at one of the universities was present at an ordination service in a Roman Catholic church on the Continent. There he heard the Deity addressed as Domine, which he was in the habit of pronouncing Dominee. So he did not recognize it and mistook it for Domina. Furious with zeal he wrote to the local newspaper on his return, denouncing upon the evidence of his own ears the idolatry of the Virgin in the Roman Church. The Roman Catholic priest of the place promptly took up the challenge. Over the painful sequel I draw a veil." It was not the first—nor the fiftieth—time that zealous Protestant critics have made similar discoveries, and we fear it will not be the last. So long as people are over-suspicious and under-scrupulous about the Church these diverting blunders will be made.

DEATH OF A CATHOLIC FIRE-MAN.

Father Smith, chaplain of the New York Fire Department, gives the following incident as an example of a Catholic chaplain's work among the firemen:—

"It was in the cold of winter at a huge fire consuming chemicals, Fireman Daniel O'Connell, of Engine Company 6, fell headlong from a roof to the rear yard. For a few moments it seemed as if he was doomed to be roasted alive, but several of his comrades, at the imminent risk of their own lives, carried him unconscious through the dense and pungent smoke of the burning drugs to the street. While awaiting an ambulance, I administered restoratives, and, during a spell of consciousness, heard the dying man's confession. It was a weird and impressive scene. There, amid the roar and rumble of a dozen snorting engines, the glare of the flames and the heavy clouds of

suffocating smoke that rolled from every opening in the building, stood a dozen fire laddies and policemen with bareheads, forming a semi-circle. Within this space I knelt, my ear close to the dying man's lips. Suddenly the fire department searchlight turned its bright light on the reverent group and held it there motionless, while I gave Extreme Unction to the fireman whose eyes were fast closing."

HE GOT THE HALF DOLLAR.

One of the best dog stories which has been told in a long time is related in the Nashville Banner. The narrator of the anecdote was driving in a town in Mississippi with the owner of the dog. To show the animal's cleverness he got out of the carriage, held his pocketbook to the dog's nose, and then taking therefrom a half-dollar, hid it under a large rock. The men drove on for a half mile, and then the dog was commanded to fetch the half-dollar.

The animal, without the least hesitation, started back on a run, and my friend explained that as the rock was heavy the dog would be unable to turn it over, so would have to scratch under it to reach the piece of money, and it would naturally take him some time. It did, for he had not appeared when we retired, about ten o'clock.

Early the next morning we heard a sharp bark at the door. When the door was opened in rushed the dog, dragging with him a pair of trousers, which he dropped on the floor.

Of course we were mystified, but the explanation soon came in the shape of a neighbor who lived several miles distant. He rode up on a mule, and inquired if a dog with a pair of trousers in his mouth had come into the house. Just then the pointer walked out on the porch, and the man exclaimed, "Why, there's the dog now."

The caller said that late in the afternoon of the day before he found the dog scratching under a large rock near the road, and thinking he was after a rabbit, stopped and lifted the rock up, and to his surprise found a half-dollar underneath. He put the money in his pocket, and the dog followed him home. The dog appeared to be friendly, and the man petted him and gave him his supper.

At night when the family retired the dog was put out of doors, but he kept up such a racket that no one on the place could sleep, and when the man opened the door to drive the animal away he rushed into the bedroom and at once became quiet. He lay down near the foot of the bed and slept there all night.

Early in the morning, the man said, he got up and opened the window, and the instant he did so the dog seized his trousers and, jumping out the window, fled with them. The man followed as soon as he could get his mule.

Of course my friend searched the pockets of the trousers which the dog had brought, and there found the half-dollar.

WHAT IS BEING DONE IN THE VATICAN OBSERVATORY?

By Rev. James J. Baxter, D.D., in January Donahoe's.

Our third and last query: What has been, and what is being, accomplished by the Vatican Observatory? is partially answered in the foregoing sketch of Fathers Denz and Laiss, and although much more might be written on this point, our space will admit of but a passing reference. The importance of this institution in the scientific world may be learned from the fact that it exchanges reports with over 300 Astronomical Observatories, and is in constant correspondence with 122 Italian and 259 foreign Institutes and Societies. Its own astronomic and physical records, enriched with numerous photographic and lithographic views, have been published in six volumes entitled, "Publications of the Vatican Observatory," bearing the dates 1891-93-94-98 and 1902 respectively. These volumes comprise the results of much valuable work in photographing the moon and planets, comets, nebulae and stellar spectra; and of the clouds also have been made many pictures of deep interest and great value to

meteorologists. The event of greatest importance immediately connected with the Vatican Observatory must ever be, of course, the substitution of the Gregorian for the Julian Calendar, for thereby a revolution was accomplished in the method of computing the flight of time for all ages and for practically the whole civilized world.

TRANSLATION FROM BLOSSIUS—FOR THE FAINT-HEARTED.

From B. Herder, St. Louis, comes a translation by the Rev. Bertrand A. Wilberforce, O.S.B., of a work called "Comfort for the Faint-Hearted," by the celebrated Benedictine, Louis de Blois, Abbot of Liessies. This translator's preface says:

"The title of this book is attractive—'Comfort for the Faint-Hearted.' Many will exclaim directly it catches their eye: 'That is exactly what I want!'"

"The faint-hearted! How many there are! Truly may we say, the faint-hearted we have always with us.' In fact, is there any one, however brave a soldier of Christ, who is not sometimes afraid, cast down, discouraged, faint-hearted—or at least sorely tempted so to be?"

"Every one who has had to guide good, devout, pious souls, whether in the world or in communities, will acknowledge that what ninety-nine out of every hundred—perhaps not excluding the hundredth—want above everything is encouragement. The spiritual director has constantly to be saying: 'Deal manfully! Be brave! Let thy heart take courage! Wait thou for the Lord!'"

"No one can study this treatise of the great Benedictine Abbot without feeling his heart and soul enlarged. Joy enlarges the heart. Confidence puts new vigor into the spirit. The soul, despising all fatigue, regardless of all failures, begins to run gladly, nay triumphantly, in the way of God, doing His will with joy and praising Him. This book ought to have that effect."

An index accompanies this carefully prepared volume of 178 pages, which has the imprimatur of Cardinal Vaughan. The frontispiece, after Fra Angelico's fresco at St. Mark's, Florence, is reproduced from the Arundel Society's chromolithograph. The very reasonable price is 75 cents.

B. Herder also publishes a paper-covered book of ninety-six pages, "Thousand and One Objections to Secret Societies," by the Rev. J. W. Book, R.D., revised and enlarged by the Rev. Ferreol Girardey, C.S.S.R., price 15 cents.—Sacred Heart Review.

"IN MERRY MOOD."

"This little book is not so bad, Or so it seems to me, As what you might have thought it, had

I made it thicker, see? And should you note some slight defect

Within this wreath of verse, Please don't forget to recollect I've written stuff that's worse."

In this manner Nixon Waterman introduces his volume of verse, "In Merry Mood." The title expresses exactly the nature of the book. Every poem in its 208 pages is filled with that cheery element which is so characteristic of Mr. Waterman's work. The book is published in attractive form by Forbes & Co., Boston. Price, \$1.25.—Sacred Heart Review.

YOU ARE FOUR FOOLS.

An English officer in Malta stopped, in riding, to ask a native the way. He was answered by a shrug of his shoulders and a "No speak English."

"You're a fool, then," said the officer.

But the man knew enough English to ask:—

"Do you understand Maltese?"

"No."

"Do you know Arabic?"

"No."

"Do you know Italian?"

"No."

"Do you know Greek?"

"No."

"Then you four fools. I only one!"

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