A Christmas Carol.

There was a Star, whose light,
Mystical and holy,
Shone through the quiet night
O'er a stable lowly.
Sing praise to God on high!
And rejoice that He
Thus should beatify
Humble poverty.

A Merrie Christmas, Gentlefolk!
And may your wealth and pride
Be mindful of the humble ones
This blessed Christmastide.

There was a Little Child,
Innocent and holy,
Born of the Virgin mild
In that stable lowly,
Sing praise to God, Who gave
Unto you and me
Such Gift our souls to save!
O! the Charity!

A Merrie Christmas, Gentlefolk!
And may your wealth and pride
Be mindful of the humble ones
This blessed Christmastide.

—T. A. DALY.

"Under the Stars."

Under the stars, one holy night
A little babe was born;
Over His head a star shone bright,
And glistened till the morn.
And wise men came from far away,
And shepherds wandered where He lay
Upon His lowly bed of hay,
Under the stars one night.

Under the stars, one blessed night,
The Christ-child came to earth,
And through the darkness broke the light
Of morning at His birth.
And sweet hosannas filled the air,
And guardian angels watched Him where
The virgin Mother knelt in prayer,
Under the stars one night.

Under the stars, this happy night,
We wait for Him once more,
And seem to see the wondrous sight,
The shepherds saw of yore.
O, baby born in Bethlehem,
Come to us as you came to them,
And crown us with love's diadem,
Under the stars to-night.

ANNA S. DRISCOL.

CATHOLIC CONVERT'S LEAGUE

The Apostolic Mission House at Washington is gradually growing to be the centre of a group of lay organizations known as Catholic Convert's Leagues. The original league was organized some years ago in New York and it has given a good account of itself. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception was selected as the day for the organization of the Washington centre, and leagues are forming in other cities.

Some objections have been offered to the organization on the grounds that it is a mistake to group converts together in an organization and segregate them apart from the great body of the Catholic people. This objection is made by some who do not understand the purpose of the league. That is just what the Convert's League is not—a body composed of converts alone—and whenever a new league is to be formed special care is taken to emphasize the fact that the Convert's League is not a league of converts but is a league for convert making.

The preliminaries of organization were conducted by Very Reverend A. P. Doyle presiding over an audience which filled to overflowing the assembly hall of the Apostolic Mission House on the evening of December 8. In his opening address Father Doyle said: "The Catholic Church is attracting unto itself in these days many of the brightest and most intelligent minds. There were 28 709 converts received on profession of faith in the United States last year. They were spiritually minded people who came in spite of many difficulties and often in the face of almost unsurmountable obstacles and many heart-burnings and wrenching of old affections and associations. They weighed well the gains, however, and set them in the balance over against the losses. So numerous are converts becoming that it becomes necessary not only to organize for their welcome but to help to clear the approaches of the Church of some obstacles that encounter it. It becomes necessary to disseminate a wider and surer knowledge of things Catholic, to dispel many of the illusions and bizarre misrepresentations of the Church that prevail in some minds and extend to inquiring non Catholics every facility for reception into the Church. For these reasons we are organizing the Catholic Convert's League here in Washington. It may be hoped that after the models set up here there will be organized similar leagues in other cities and these in turn will form a national organization. These leagues will consist not of converts alone but also of men and women who have been born in the Church who shall extend to the incoming throngs of new Catholics the fraternity of welcome and also assist them in many spiritual ways until they have become accustomed to their new surroundings."

This view was incorporated into the constitution which was unanimously adopted by the charter members then present, which further specified the methods to be followed by the league. Each member undertakes to offer prayers, Communions and good works for the intentions of the league and especially to recite and cause others to recite frequently the Litany for the Conversion of America. Each member shall select one soul for whose conversion he shall pray and labor with particular fervor. Personal example shall be considered a prime influence to encourage conversions by open profession of the faith and fraternal assistance in all ways dictated by prudence. Particular stress is laid on dissemination of literature through libraries and book racks at doors of churches.

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IT IS THE INSIDE OF A CREAM SEPARATOR THAT COUNTS

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ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

On last Saturday five young men were ordained to the holy priesthood at St. Peter's Church, Toronto, by His Grace Most Rev. Archbishop McEvay. They were Mr. Edward Tierney, of London; Denis Brisson; Francis Neagle, B. A., of Toronto University; Mr. Fuerth and Mr. Stanislaus McGrath, of Toronto. Mass was celebrated by His Grace Archbishop McEvay. He was assisted at the ceremony of ordination by Rev. Father Hand of St. Paul's and Father Aylward of London.

Dr. Kidd acted as master of ceremonies. Many other priests were present as also a large number of the members of the families and friends of the candidates. Rev. Father Minehan of St. Peter's, entertained the Bishop and clergy and the newly ordained had breakfast with Father McGrath at his mother's residence. On last Sunday in St. Peter's Cathedral, London, Rev. Father Tierney celebrated his first Mass. The Rector, Rev. Father Aylward, preached a most eloquent sermon on the priesthood which made a deep impression on the congregation. Seldom has there been such a large one as was present on the occasion, the cathedral being completely filled. After Mass Father Tierney imparted his blessing to all, the first being his venerable mother.

All the candidates, with the exception of Rev. S. McGrath, were ordained for the Diocese of London.

A NEW SOCIETY

BY "TERESA."

The editor has kindly given me space in which to announce the formation of the nucleus of a new society, to be called the "Lend a Hand Society," the primary object of which is to supply clothing, reading matter, and, if possible, other necessaries to our Western Missions. A few energetic ladies have already formed themselves into a committee for the reception, sorting and distributing of articles sent in. For the present the headquarters of the society will be at Edwin, Manitoba, where articles may be sent to the convener of the committee, Mrs. Bond. The rules will be made as simple as possible. Each member pledges herself to supply two articles of clothing per year, either new or second hand, and to try and collect left off clothing from friends, also books, magazines, papers, etc. There will be an optional entrance fee of 25 cents, and it is hoped that intending members will send it, as it will assist in paying the cost of forwarding bales to the various distributing points. "Teresa" will act as secretary pro tem; and communications should be addressed to her at the office of the Central Catholic, West Canada Publishing Co., Winnipeg, Man. At present there is no president. When the number of members warrants it the names of several ladies will be submitted for election to the offices of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Already a number of articles have been collected and sorted and the committee desires to hear from missionaries who are in need, and who are requested to communicate with the honorary secretary. We shall be too late for Christmas this year, but any one having toys to give away may send them to the society. There are always poor children in need of playthings. All articles sent must be carriage paid. It is scarcely necessary to say that the spiritual benefits to be derived from membership in this society will be very great, as the prayers of the missionaries and the people assisted will be offered up with most earnest gratitude for the members and their friends.

The Pope and the Orphans.

The Pope on the 16th of December gave an audience to 400 children, who were made orphans by the earthquake in Riggo Di Calibria and Sicily, who were given refuge, mostly at his expense in his religious institutions and convents in Rome and its neighborhood. His Holiness walked along the line of children, giving his hand to them, patting them on their heads, asking their individual names, and chatting with them. When he was seated on the throne, the youngest in the party read speeches, thanking His Holiness for his attentions.

Then the youngest girl shyly tip toed to the throne and presented a bouquet.

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The Pope, holding the bouquet, addressed the children. He thanked them for their greetings, and he expected them to be good, and to become self-supporting men and women. He also urged them to pray for the repose of the souls of their parents, for whom, he said, he would celebrate Mass on December 28.

The children knelt to receive the Pope's blessing, and left the audience hall cheering. His Holiness was much affected.

Sad Accident in Toronto

ONE CHRISTIAN BROTHER KILLED, AND ANOTHER SERIOUSLY INJURED

On last Friday in Toronto a most deplorable accident took place. While crossing the street, Brother Michael and Brother Mathew were struck by a fast moving street car, the first named being almost instantly killed, and the latter very seriously injured. Brother Michael's family name was Reilly, and his home was at Osceola, in the county of Renfrew, where a brother is now living. He was thirty-two years of age, and had been in the Order of Christian Brothers for about fourteen years. He had been Principal of the school for seven years, and was greatly beloved by the boys in his charge, taking a keen interest, as he did, in all their affairs. Brother Mathew was taken while still unconscious, to St. Michael's hospital, where he was attended by Dr. Scott. The doctor found that no bones were broken, and that the patient was suffering chiefly from the shock. When spoken to last evening he could remember nothing after having left the boys' rink. Brother Mathew comes from near Owen Sound.

Use a Prayer-Book at Mass

The prayer-book is a good companion at Mass. It fosters devotion and explains the meaning of the different parts of the Mass. It helps to keep one's attention on the Mass. Of course, if one knows all the prayers of the Mass by heart—well, even then our advice is: "Bring your prayer-books to Mass." Generally it will be more devotional to read the prayers than to say them from memory. And very few know them well enough to say them without a prayer-book. If ever or anywhere a Catholic ought to show a little piety it is at Mass.

Sunday after Sunday you can see young people, and sometimes old people, too, kneeling in the church during Mass, but that is about the only thing you can say of them. They use neither prayer-books nor beads to keep their minds on the great Sacrifice before them. They mope and gaze around, and that is about all they do. There are other ways of hearing Mass besides using a prayer-book, but for the great majority of people the use of the prayer book is the best way.—True Voice.

New Book

From Benziger Bros., New York, there has come to us a new book entitled "Round the World." It is the seventh volume of that series. The work contains interesting illustrated articles on a variety of subjects. For the young people they will be of special interest. Price $1.

Nothing can work me damage except myself. The harm I sustain I carry about with me, and never am a real sufferer but by my own fault.—St. Bernard.

We who on Christmas day have to look in anguish at the vacant chair, to sorrow o'er the grave of vanished hope, to suffer from physical pain or mental agony, let us place before us the life of Christ on earth and let us realize that if we live in His commands, He will yet wipe away all tears from our eyes and fill us with hope for better things to come.

Then let every heart keep its Christmas within,
Christ's pity for sorrow, Christ's hatred of sin,
Christ's care for the weakest, Christ's courage for right,
Christ's dread of the darkness, Christ's love of the light;
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas to-night!

So the stars of the midnight which compass us round,
Shall see a strange glory and hear a sweet sound,
And cry, "Look! the earth is aflame with delight
O sons of the morning, rejoice at the sight:"
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas to-night!

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TEACHER WANTED FOR SEPARATE school Section No. 7, Tilbury North. Qualified to teach French and English. Salary $450 per year. Send qualifications, experience and application to Jules Duquette, Sec. Treas., Separate school No. 7, Tilbury North, Ont 1627-3.

EXPERIENCED TEACHER WANTED FOR Separate school, No 9, Gore of Downie, with a second class professional certificate. Duties to commence Jan. 3rd, 1910. State qualification and experience. Apply to Thos. Queenan, Sec. Treas., Conroy, Ont. 1627-2.

WANTED FOR TWO INTERMEDIATE forms of North Bay Separate school, Ontario Normal school graduates. Duties to commence Jan 3rd, 1910. Apply stating salary and forwarding testimonials to B. M. Mulligan, North Bay, Ont 1626-2

TEACHER WANTED, SECOND CLASS PROfessional for a junior department of the R. C. Separate School, Arnprior. Duties to commence 3rd January, 1910. Applications will be received up to Dec 18th. Applicants please state salary and qualifications. M. Galvin, Sec., Arnprior, Ont 1626-2

TEACHER WANTED, QUALIFIED TO teach French and English for R. C. Separate school No. 3 A, Malden. Duties to commence Jan. 3, 1910. Salary $400. Apply to John Dufour, Sec. Treas., No. 3a, Malden, North Malden, P. O., Ont. 1615-3.

WANTED A TEACHER HOLDING SECOND class professional certificate, for Separate School, Erinsville. Applicants state salary and experience to Rev. Thos. Carey, Erinsville, Ont. 1626-2

WANTED PROFESSIONAL (NORMAL TRAINing) first or second class, for senior room, Tweed Separate School, for the year 1910. Apply stating salary and experience to James Quinn, Sec. Treas., Tweed, Ont. 1626-3

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WANTED — TWO TEACHERS FOR FORT William Separate schools, holding first or second class professional certificates. Must furnish references. Duties to commence Jan. 4th, 1910. Apply, stating salary and experience to W. K. O'Donnell, Sec.-Treas., 115 May street, Fort William Ont 1622-tf

WANTED FOR THE PEMBROKE SEPARATE School, two assistant teachers, holding Normal school certificates. Duties to commence 3rd January, 1910. A. J. Forter, Secretary, Pembroke, Ont 1626-2

TEACHER WANTED FOR SEPARATE school No 2, Hallet. Must be duly qualified, one having normal training preferred. Duties to commence Jan. 3rd, 1910. Apply stating salary and qualifications to John Shanahan, Clinton, Ont. 1623-4.

WANTED, LADY TEACHER FOR STEELTON Ont., S. S. with at least a 3rd class professional certificate. State experience and recommendations in applying. Salary 400 per annum. To start Jan 3rd 1910. Address Rev. E. Tourangeau, Sec., Steelton, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. 1626-3

HELP WANTED.

PRIEST'S HOUSEKEEPER WANTED IN A parish east of Toronto. Applicants to state age and qualifications. References required. Address B. C., care of CATHOLIC RECORD, London, Ont. 1626-2

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THERE IS AN OPENING FOR A CATHOLIC doctor in a fine rural county of Eastern Ontario situated not far from the county town. For particulars address J. H. W., "Catholic Record Office," London, Ont. 1626-2

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