

The QUIET HOUR

PIUS X. AND THE PRESS.

Rome, July 11.—It has just been discovered here that one way in which Pius X. obtains information about the doings in the Italian churches and sometimes also in the Church abroad is through the reading of the daily papers, of which an enormous quantity is sent to the Vatican every day from all over the world.

Private secretaries who understand several languages cut out the items which the Pope especially desires to see and these are pasted on scrap books and sent to the papal apartments with a translation if required. Thus the Pope is enabled to find out many things which would never be reported to him in the natural course of events.

Even more particular is the Pope in finding out worthy sacred orators and all accounts of sermons preached in Italy which are printed in the daily papers are forwarded to him. He insists that sacred orators shall preach the doctrines of the church in a way which is intelligible to their hearers, and only recently having seen a newspaper that gave the account of a sermon interpolated with many Latin terms from St. Augustine and the church fathers, he sent for the erudite preacher and advised him to preach and quote texts in his native language only.

Since the announcement was received at the Vatican that the French Chamber of Deputies had passed the last clause of the bill separating Church and State, it has been decided by the Vatican authorities that the time has arrived for the issue of a formal protest against the proposed legislation.

The principal part of the proposed document will consist of a formal protest against the proposed abolition of the concordat. The Pope will admit that the treaty entered into by the first Napoleon with the Holy See has now become obsolete in many points and needs many changes, but at the same time will assert the right of the Holy See to be consulted in the matter as one of the signatory powers.

BRILLIANT CATHOLIC SINGER.

Miss Eva Mylott, a Catholic girl, born in Australia and educated in the Convent of the Immaculate Conception at Balmain, New South Wales, is now singing in the best concert in London and the provinces and winning great fame as a contralto singer. On leaving Australia, where her reputation is very high, she was presented with a cheque for £325, the proceeds of the last farewell concert held since the departure for England of Miss Ada Crossby about eleven years ago.

"LEST WE FORGET."

There was always something affecting in the bent knee and bowed head beside the casket, when the friend who came in to take the last look said the prayer, which possibly might be the one needed to help the straying soul to a happy heaven, writes Caroline Harris Lee in Catholic Union and Times. It always seemed so loyal, suggesting the communion of saints, so beautiful an evidence of the oneness of that Church that, rich or poor, all alike knelt and prayed beside the one glorified by death. But, I am told that this old custom has gone out of style. And I am sure it has. For I saw, not so very long ago, scores of men and women go into a parlor massed with flowers and lit by a taper floating in oil, to look at a dead woman. Not one person knelt in prayer, and so far as could be guessed, not one prayer was said. Why was that beautiful Catholic custom killed by fashion? Sometimes it almost seems as though Catholics were influenced in these things by a desire to emulate non-Catholics, "Americans," as they are now called. But I can assure them that non-Catholics admire the devotion shown by Catholics to the dead, and often imitate it after a sort of a fashion. The steadfast practice of Catholic devotions has many admirers, more than has the absurd shame of them which appears to be the present style. Put the money that might be spent for flowers for a dead friend into an offering for masses; do not be too fashionable to kneel and say a prayer for the poor soul which is, perhaps, longing for your help, and so shall you keep the admiration which former simplicity of faith and practice wrung from indifferent bystanders and active foes. And far more than that, you may save a soul from long agony.

KING ALFONSO STILL A BOY.

Although Alfonso of Spain is a king it must not be forgotten that he is still a boy. "Let the following anecdote, which has been communicated to us privately," says the Newcastle Daily Chronicle, "and has not hitherto been in print, testify. One of her Majesty's sisters received part of her education at the Convent of the Assumption in Paris, and in letters written home to her brother she was eloquent in praise of certain tarts baked by the lay nuns, and considered quite a specialty of the convent. During his stay in the French capital king Alfonso did not forget what his sister had mentioned about the tarts and sent word to the convent that he would like to taste some. They were immediately baked and forwarded hot out of the oven to His Majesty, who devoured them with relish, and acknowledged his satisfaction by a letter of thanks and a handsome donation. The convent of the Assumption has up to the present escaped the application of the Congregational laws, and has amongst its pupils several English

girls. The gentleman to whom we are indebted for the little story here, and it is they who have supplied the information."

FORCE OF EXAMPLE.

Non-Catholics are sometimes sorely puzzled by the actions of some of their neighbors who profess to be Catholics, says the Omaha True Voice. These non-Catholics may not be good living people themselves, they may understand very little of the doctrines and practices of the Catholic Church, but they know at least that Catholics are expected to lead good lives. The religion they profess requires this; and when a Catholic falls short of what even those who profess no religion at all these latter are often shocked.

There is, of course, a vast difference between natural morality and the supernatural virtues that the Christian aims to practice. This does not mean that natural virtue is to be neglected or that its importance is lessened by the fact that the Christian aims at something higher. The practice of the natural virtues is a part of the complete Christian life which all are bound to attain as far as possible.

Our Catholic people too often forget the good that may be accomplished by good example. We speak not here of avoiding bad example. The Catholic who is unfaithful to the teaching of his religion, who publicly disregards his obligations as a Christian and as a citizen is the greatest stumbling block to those outside the Church. They point to him as a reason for their attitude towards the Church, and though their reasoning is faulty it is hard to give a satisfactory reply to it. One bad Catholic can do more harm than a dozen bad non-Catholics. They make no profession of being good; he professes a religion that requires virtue, and his example is the worse on that account. But it is the ordinary Catholic who often fails to grasp the opportunities that are within his reach for doing good among his fellows. Perhaps he is not aware of his influence and he thinks little of his power of good example over others. Yet it is by the little acts of every-day life that non-Catholics are impressed. The practice of virtue because it is required, is, of course, of the first importance; but the setting of good example to others should not be forgotten.

The teachings of the Church may convince men who can be induced to consider them, but the Church to-day is largely judged by the lives of individual Catholics. Non-Catholics estimate her power for good by what she has been able to do with those who accept her teaching.

HER CRUCIFIX.

Lady Edmund Talbot left Rome recently most pleased with the long and interesting audience she had a few days before with Pius X. She and her son were presented to His Holiness by Father Brandi, S.J., editor of the Civiltà Cattolica, but she hardly needed a presentation, for Pius X. seemed to be well aware of her work among the poor of London, and especially of her active connection with the ladies of Charity. She had many spiritual favors to ask for herself and her co-workers, and from one of her requests there hung a tale to which Pius X. listened with marked interest. It was the history of a crucifix which she laid under the Pope's eyes on his desk—a plain brass crucifix, which had evidently seen service. Fifty years ago Father Herbert Vaughan began to wear it on his breast, and there it remained until for the first time it was removed from his dead body at Mill Hill. It had been originally blessed and indulgenced by Gregory XVI., then by Pius IX., and later by Leo XIII., and it had been kissed by tens of thousands of devout lips in various parts of the world.

One day, when the Cardinal was approaching his end, Lady Edmund paid a visit to His Eminence and begged to be allowed to kiss his crucifix, and immediately after asked that it might pass to her when he was gone. The Cardinal made the promise.

Lady Edmund then told the Pope how, when she went to claim her legacy, she was informed that it had already been taken away by Father Bernard Vaughan, and just here Pius X. interrupted her: "Si sa," he remarked, nodding his head, "si sa quel Padre Caughan uiglia tutto" ("Of course, of course, that Father Vaughan takes everything"). Evidently His Holiness had not forgotten how the light-fingered Jesuit recently relieved him of a "zucchetto" (a handkerchief) and other objects too numerous to mention.

But Lady Edmund eventually recovered her crucifix, and now she asked as a special privilege that it might be again blessed and indulgenced by Pius X., and the Holy Father granted an indulgence of three hundred days' tories quotes to all who kissed it.

A Good Name is to be prized—There have been imitations of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil which may have been injurious to its good name but if so, the injury has only been temporary. Goodness must always come to the front and throw into the shadow that which is worthless. So it has been with Electric Oil; no imitation can maintain itself against the genuine article.

A tree with a lofty head has less shade at its foot. Some people make themselves at home wherever they may—except at home.

Old-Time Geography Lessons

"In the good old times" geography was a much more fascinating study than it is to-day. Stanley had not then followed Livingstone through Africa; the English had discovered nothing interesting about "the roof of the world," nor had they begun to speculate on the probable identity of the chief Tibetan river with the Brahmaputra; Pike had not found his peak, nor Lewis and Clarke the "Stony Mountains." So little was positively known about the distant world and so much depended on the tales of seamen that each geographer chose his facts to suit himself. Thus, says the author of "Old-time Schools," there was a never-ending variety about the geography books. "The joint snake," declared the author of "Geography Made Easy," more than a singular years ago, "is a great curiosity. Its skin is as hard as parchment and as smooth as glass. It is so stiff it can hardly bend itself into a hoop, and so brittle that when it is struck it breaks like a pipe-stem. You may with a whip break it into pieces not an inch long and not produce the least tincture of blood."

"In California," runs a later paragraph, "there falls in the morning great quantities of dew, which, settling on the rose-leaves, becomes hard like manna, having all the sweetness of refined sugar, without its whiteness."

"In the Friendly Islands," the student was told "their great men are fond of a singular kind of luxury, which is to have some one sit beside them all night and beat on different parts of their body until they go to sleep; after which they relax a little of their labor, unless they appear likely to wake, in which case they redouble their exertions until they are again fast asleep."

"The diversions of the Scots are dancing, golf and curling. The golf is a species of ball playing performed with a bat and a ball, the extremity of the bat being loaded with lead, and the party which strikes the ball with fewest strokes into a hole wins the game."

In answer to the question, "What curiosities are there in France?" appears this incredible "yarn": "A fountain near Grenoble emits a flame which will burn paper, straw, etc., but will not burn gunpowder. Within about eight leagues of the same place is an inaccessible mountain in the form of a pyramid reversed."

So the writers ranged afield, describing the odd manners of the inhabitants of the earth, from Guinea to New England.

A New Remedy for Desertion

Brooklyn, July 11.—Magistrate Iginbotham, in a case brought before him recently accusing a man of abandoning his wife and child, delivered this verdict: "I sentence you to take your wife and baby to Coney Island once a week, to kiss her at least once a day and give her £1 4s. weekly. I further suggest that you give her a bunch of flowers once in a while."

"You are commanded not to allow your mother-in-law to interfere with your household arrangements. The sentence is of four weeks' duration. At its expiration you will both report here. If you have not obeyed the sentence you will be punished for contempt of court."

The Yachtman's Hymn

Hark to the rush of the water  
Cut by the prow;  
Feel the fresh wind of the quarter  
Striking her now.

See how the canvas is filling.  
Steady there! So—  
Mark how the brave craft is willing.  
Now! Let her go.

Off—with the speed of an arrow,  
Swift as can be—  
Off—through the channel way, narrow,  
Straight for the sea.

Gently careering and dancing,  
As if at play;  
Gallantly plunging and prancing  
Into the spray.

Look! there's the lighthouse there  
yonder.  
Up on the hill.  
Now we're at sea, free to wander,  
Aye—where we will.

Faster she's moving and faster.  
Swift—is she not?  
Crowd on the canvas there, master,  
Crowd all you've got.

Yonder's a merchantman steerily  
Straight for the bay.  
See—the shore's fast disappearing—  
So is the day.

Down on his cloud-fleecy pillow,  
Sinketh the sun.  
Darkness creeps over the billow,  
Daylight is done.

Yet, whether sleeping or waking,  
Darkness or day,  
Guard us in Thy holy keeping,  
Father, we pray.  
—George L. Catlin.

Cholera and all summer complaints are so quick in their action that the cold hand of death is upon the victims before they are aware that danger is near. If attacked do not delay in getting the proper medicine. Try a dose of Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Dysentery Cordial, and you will get immediate relief. It acts with wonderful rapidity and never fails to effect a cure.

GIGANTIC FIGURES.

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