

THE READER'S CORNER

CONDUCTED BY "COLUMBA"

Take a message from my heart to the land of my birth.

And the fair hills of Eire, O! And to all that get survive of Elishear's name on earth.

On the fair hills of Eire O! —JAMES CLARENCE MANGAN.

To the little green isle of the West, the home of his fathers, round which his heart strings are entwined as the shamrock in her shady glens, Columbia sends greetings.

And it may be that on this feast of her national apostle—the great name day of the Gael—my readers join in this message to Erin and her people.

For the Isle of Saints is dear to all generous, noble hearts. Only the evil of mind and heart hate her. It will be ever thus, for what fellowship hath light with darkness?

You may not be able to wear the shamrock on this Patrick's Day; you may not be able to march in procession to the music of the Gaelic pipes, but one thing you can do, and one thing you will do I am sure—you can get down on your knees and ask Patrick and Bridget and the saints of Erin to keep watch and ward over the faithful Isle, so that in the future as in the past, she may be true to God and Mary, true to Rome and Patrick, true to herself.

May the days be few until a free Ireland keeps the feast of Patrick.

As they wept by the waters of Babylon the Jews ever looked towards the Holy City. As they sit in the halls of the stranger the eyes of the Gael turn towards the tiny speck far out in the western sea where the mighty breakers roll in upon her rocky shores.

The Dark Rosaleen of her poetic chronicles, known on the world's map as Ireland. For the voices are calling over the ocean from hill and glen, and river and brake, and they hamlet, and the home-joy wakes an echo in the hungry heart.

This is the spirit that actuates all true Catholics. It is a deprivation, as I am an admirer of legitimate acting. But we have only to contemplate the picture which the Church has held up before our mental vision through long ages. The Saviour fasting in the wilderness forty days, not for His own sins, for He is Divine and cannot sin, but for the sins of ungrateful mankind, to be able to abstain.

One should not observe the Lenten rules grudgingly, but willingly and gladly as a little reflection will show us how insignificant are our petty mortal sins, for He is Divine and cannot sin, but for the sins of ungrateful mankind, to be able to abstain.

Non-Catholics of comprehensive intellect will not judge Catholicity by the boathouse parasites, the fall of which is only a matter of time. As Wednesday is a day revered by true Catholics—a day on which all sincere Catholics, men, women and children, humbly receive the ashes on their foreheads and hearken to the impressive words, Remember dust thou art, and to dust thou shalt return.

CATHARINE EMMA DAVENNE. In the accompanying note she says: "Your columns in the RECORD are very interesting. I enjoy your varied articles exceedingly." Columbia is glad to number his correspondent amongst his friends of the Corner.

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ARCHBISHOP O'CONNELL ON NEW THOUGHT

A very large audience recently gathered in St. Alphonsus Hall, Boston, to hear a sermon on the above subject by the Most Rev. Archbishop of Boston. We are indebted to our contemporary, the Pilot, for the following report.

The Archbishop spoke in this cordial and sincere welcome. For me as Archbishop to come to this mission parish has always been a source of great satisfaction and profound consolation.

"No one knows better than I the good work here being done. The priests of this parish are doing their duty nobly and well and the parishioners are responding to the work done by the priests.

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THE LENTEN REASON

Editor the Equivocal—I have read several articles on the season of Lent, evidently written by persons who know comparatively little about this holy season. The articles have a moral tendency and may have some good effect, but on the whole they are a sort of superficial juggling with this devout period.

Lent has, for nearly two thousand years, been a Catholic observance and it was with feelings of conflicting emotion, I read an article under date of February 10th, in which was stated that Catholics attended a theatre on Ash Wednesday. If this is a fact, I wish to state most emphatically in the name of all practising Catholics, that persons who are Catholics in name only and are bearing that name under false pretense.

I do not hesitate a moment to declare that I would not attend a theatre during Lent if all the star actors on earth were to perform and give me a personal invitation with a free box.

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CHINA-LAC

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4 rich colors, including Rosewood, Chestnut, Mahogany, Oak, and Golden Oak. Remember the name "China-Lac".

BRANDAM-HENDERSON, Montreal, Halifax, St. John, Toronto, Winnipeg.

"But who is the head to receive this glory? There is no head, it is all given to us by God. We human beings cannot live and work and die for impersonalities.

"What are the compensations they offer? One is fees for labor. We human beings cannot live and work and die for impersonalities.

"What else? In the end there must be suicide, homicide of various kinds, and finally despair.

A PRESENT DAY CREED "This is the creed which the intellectuals of Massachusetts are handing out as the substitute for the religion which Jesus Christ came to carry and die to give to men. And we are to be silent and let these doctrines spread among those given to our care."

"Only a few days ago I heard, from one who saw and heard, an eye-witness, that a number of the fashionable ladies of Boston listened to an illuminating address on the official behalf of the Women of fashion and intelligence."

"Some one was brought to enlighten the Christian women of Boston on the subject of the 'New Thought.' This is a fact. Twenty years ago, yes, ten years ago, Christian women here would have driven out of the town any such person, but that day is gone. We have progressed."

"We are not talking myths. There is a danger to the faith that is no longer a danger, it is a reality. Hundreds of thousands have been swept out of their churches. We are, at least, not responsible for our own and we will not stand by to see our own swept down without a struggle."

"More, we gather our forces and, shielding them under the banner of the Church, we remind them of what they ought to be doing. Her glory and sovereignty as she overcame and sat down with Jesus on His throne, even as He overcame and sat down with His Father in His Throne. Pray for us that we may overcome." On page 25 is the following message to the Abbey: "I obtained favor in the sight of God, and her petitions cannot fail to be granted by Him. She who partook of the sufferings of her son as none other did, shares also as none other, His glory and sovereignty: she is the Queen at His right hand, and her intercession has a special power. Commit yourself, therefore, with confidence to her prayers, and pray with her for the Church of her Son." On page 22 is given a verse of the well-known Catholic hymn, "Mother of Christ." The last page has the words: "Consecrated Anew to God as a Child of Mary."

Such is one of the "Protestant" pamphlets. Another issued by the same Association and on the cover contains a picture of the Rosary beads. It is an explanation of what the Rosary is and how to use it. It contains meditations on the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries—in fact (continues the Observer), any Catholic could use the book. On page 15, under the heading "Christian Life an Imitation of Mary," says: "It is obvious to any who will reflect on the matter that in proportion as our life is truly Christian, it is an imitation of Mary. For it is only by following her example of devotion to our Lord and conformity to the dispositions of His Sacred Heart that we can hope to reach the bliss to which she has attained."

There is another pamphlet issued by this Protestant Catholic Literature Association, the title of which is "The Feast of the Assumption" and in it the writer says that the churchliness which Protestantism has inherited is plainly shown towards the Mother of the Faithful protests against this honor that we pay her, we shall have our answer ready. If Protestants refuse to honor her to whom beyond any question honor is due, we must pay her the more honor. For all the honor we give her is given for the sake of Him whom she brought into the world, and Who calls her Mother evermore. If she has a place of such love and honor in His Heart how can it be loyal to Him to banish her from ours? History shows that the Protestantism which begins by slighting Her, ends by denying Him. When she is honored the denial of His Godhead is unknown; where she is ignored it is only too common.

MISSIONS

From our many years experience we know exactly what is needed and what is made for the selection when so desired.

OUR GOODS are made in respect both to matter and make-up and are to be had AT A PRICE TO MEET ALL.

W. E. Blake & Son, 123 Church Street, Toronto, Can.

OVERFLOW MEETING IN UPPER HALL. An overflow meeting was held in an upper hall, Hon. Joseph H. Neill presided, Charles T. Daly, secretary and Joseph A. Sheehan of the Federation

STRANGE PROTESTANTISM

A strange kind of Protestantism is that of the Catholic Literature Association, "an organization founded by Protestants in Great Britain, including a number of Church of England clergymen. The object of this Association as advertised in the Protestant Church Times is 'to spread the knowledge and love of the Catholic Faith, as held by East and West,' and what sort of knowledge it spreads, may be judged from one of its pamphlets entitled 'Mary Magdalene (May Meditations)' in a preface of which the Protestantism of the Catholic Literature Association is presented as follows:

"Christians do not really assign to Our Lady a like position to that accorded to her in Holy Scripture. Such a position may be described as secondarily, yet prominent. She is not a divine being, but inasmuch as He Who became incarnate through her, in the burden of Holy Scripture throughout, and as Holy Scripture links her with Him in type and prophecy and narrative, a true devotion to Him cannot for long lose sight of her. It is necessary to the true perspective of Bethlehem and Calvary, the Upper Room and the Beatific Vision. To fail of giving her the honor which is her due is to fall from the standard of divine revelation and to impoverish our devotion to Him. To fail to give devotion to her is to conform our hearts to the Heart of Him Who loves her most and must inevitably increase our love for Him Who is the source of her graces and the object of her existence."

Equally Protestant is the contents of the pamphlet as may be understood from some of the chapter headings which are given in a special notice of the Association in the Glasgow Observer:

"On a floral decoration of the first page are the words 'Hail Mary full of grace.' On another page is 'The Mother of the Living.' 'Our Lady at the Cross.' 'The Mother of God.' 'The Power of Mary's Prayers.' 'The Ark of the Covenant.' On page 15, after giving a meditation, is the following:—'Practice, Hear Mass, or make at least a spiritual offering of all the Masses being celebrated throughout the world offering yourself to God as a child of Mary.' Here is a prayer on page 18: 'Blessed art thou, O Virgin Mary, for thou hast overcome and art set down with Jesus on His throne, even as He overcame and sat down with His Father in His Throne. Pray for us that we may overcome.' On page 25 is the following message to the Abbey: 'I obtained favor in the sight of God, and her petitions cannot fail to be granted by Him. She who partook of the sufferings of her son as none other did, shares also as none other, His glory and sovereignty: she is the Queen at His right hand, and her intercession has a special power. Commit yourself, therefore, with confidence to her prayers, and pray with her for the Church of her Son.' On page 22 is given a verse of the well-known Catholic hymn, 'Mother of Christ.' The last page has the words: 'Consecrated Anew to God as a Child of Mary.'

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THE LAST RESORT

When all else failed, the Doctors said, "try Fruit-a-tives"

And "Fruit-a-tives" cured Mrs. Cadieux

PLANTAGENET, ONT., JANUARY 31st, 1910. "About March 1st 1900, I was taken deathly sick with Stomach Trouble, Backache and General Breakdown. I failed from 125 pounds down to 80 pounds, was confined to bed for eight weeks, and was unable to eat or keep anything on my stomach, vomiting nearly all the time. I expected to die, and took many remedies for me and, as a last resort, one of the doctors told me "to try Fruit-a-tives—if they would not cure me, nothing would."

My husband bought "Fruit-a-tives" from Mr. Arthur Roban, merchant of Plantagenet, and started taking them at once, and in a few days, I was able to leave my bed. My stomach got strong and I could eat and retain my food. I gained rapidly and soon had my usual good appetite. I took again, and today I weigh as much as ever, 125 pounds.

Mrs. LAURENT CADIEUX.

Even the doctors are recommending "Fruit-a-tives". They realize now that these wonderful Fruit-a-tives tablets will positively cure all Stomach Troubles, Indigestion and Dyspepsia—and they are using "Fruit-a-tives" in their practice.

Few people realize the vital importance of keeping their blood pure. Impure blood is the chief cause of Stomach Trouble, because it is from Stomach Trouble, because it is from

The blood that the stomach obtains the fluid which digests food. When the blood is laden with impurities, the dissolving fluid (or Gastric Juice) will be impure. These impurities may come from a congested liver, from an inactive skin, or from all four. Naturally, the ordinary "digestive powders" and "pepsin tablets" will not cure the trouble, because they only help to dissolve the food—they do not go to the seat of the trouble. "Fruit-a-tives" is the greatest remedy ever discovered for all forms of Indigestion, Dyspepsia and other Stomach Disorders, because "Fruit-a-tives" is unequalled as a blood-purifying medicine. "Fruit-a-tives" acts directly on the liver, regulates the bowels, strengthens the kidneys, stimulates the skin, and thus rids the whole system of all impurities. "Fruit-a-tives" will positively cure you of any kind of Indigestion. "Fruit-a-tives" is sold by all dealers at 50c a box, 6 for \$2.50 or trial size, 25c. If you are unable to obtain "Fruit-a-tives" conveniently, do not accept substitutes but send to "Fruit-a-tives" Limited, Ottawa and the regular size packages will be mailed you, postpaid, on receipt of price.

In this connection the writer of the Observer article recalls the saying of Cardinal Newman that in proportion as the Protestant Church discarded veneration to the Blessed Virgin so in like manner did it cease to believe in her Son. He also mentions as pertinent to the subject an interesting fact about the historic Westminster Abbey. The statue of the "Virgin and Child" which in Catholic times adorned the niche above the door of Westminster Abbey was thrust out of its place at the Reformation. In recent years, however, it once more occupies its accustomed place above the entrance to the Abbey, and not only so, he continues, do Protestants of the English Church set up statues in honor of Christ's Mother, but they are even still doing better. They are making an attempt to give the Blessed Virgin a place in the Protestant Church as she holds in the Catholic Church.

All this is highly gratifying and seems to warrant the hope and belief of English Catholics that their country is making sure if not rapid progress in the direction of the new Faith and the one Shepherd.—The New York Freeman's Journal.

HOW RELIGION IS HAMPERED

Much has been written of late about the lack of religious knowledge of certain immigrants coming to this country from Europe. This lack is no doubt the principal cause of their carelessness about religious matters and sometimes of the falling away from the Church. Other factors contribute to this as the spirit of anarchy and socialism, but these only make religious training more necessary. Careful religious training is the only means of counteracting their effects.

A certain amount of blame has been left on European priests for the lack of religious knowledge amongst the immigrants coming to this country from Europe. This lack is no doubt the principal cause of their carelessness about religious matters and sometimes of the falling away from the Church. Other factors contribute to this as the spirit of anarchy and socialism, but these only make religious training more necessary. Careful religious training is the only means of counteracting their effects.

There the liberty of the Church is impeded by politicians who care little for the things of God or religion. Do Catholics need a new church? Do they require an additional priest to attend to them? They have to consult the government for the granting of it may be deferred for a long time.

Even in Catholic Austria the Church has to meet considerable obstacles in this way. Parishes are so large there and priests have so much to attend to that it is impossible to do it in a satisfactory manner. A letter to the Catholic Telegraph cites some interesting facts on the matter.

The correspondent cites the fact that in Weinberg, a suburb of Prague with eighty thousand Catholics, there is only one parish. A local paper, the Czech, says: "Here is the program of our curate's work last Sunday: 6-7 a. m., six marriages; 7 o'clock, Mass and sermon; 9 o'clock, deacon or sub-deacon at High Mass; 10 o'clock, sermon, followed by the reading of a hundred or more announcements; 2-3:30 p. m. fifty baptisms, followed by several funerals. Thus far nothing has been done to bring about a division of the parish, although the pastor has repeatedly insisted on it."

Here is another demonstration of how the state cripples the work of the Church: "In the eighth district of Prague," says the Salzburger Kirchenzeitung, "there are over thirty thousand Catholics with one church, one pastor and one assistant. Besides the Business College (Realschule), religious instruction is supposed to be given in one hundred and three public school classes (there are from forty to seventy children in each class). Two catechists in all are appointed to this gigantic task! A new church must be built. The Municipal Council was asked to appropriate 50,000 crowns for the purpose, but the application, as the event proved, was made at the wrong address. A short time before the same council very willingly appropriated a number of thousand marks from its own pocket to build a new church."

Here is another instance reported in the same paper: "In the spring of 1910 work will be begun on the new church in Reichenberg, the necessary funds having been generously subscribed by the faithful. If anywhere, a church was needed in Reichenberg. The Catholics number sixty thousand, and have up to this attended one church, in charge of an archpriest with four assistants." "Thus the faithful, on top of the regular taxes for the support of public institutions, have to subsidize the needs of the government should provide."

A certain gaiety is necessary in the work of sanctification. Joy is one of the twelve fruits of God the Holy Ghost. A merry heart has as its neighbor the soldier singing on his march, and the workman pressed with his work. The soul should sing also, in order to go more rapidly and faithfully.

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MISSIONS

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ve there will serve to can hoodlers green with eculated that a milliard om the State as the om the sale of Church p to the present net of the proceeds has been the liquidators.

umentary on the Chris- day, says the Rev. Dr. heart minister of Balti- 4, "that some minister ned to re-marry those ed every law of God and tory fee that is given, nisters who are either r or criminally defant of Christ on this sub- nisters bring disgrace sion, and make their nter brethren hang their and regret they have un brook them." This is our separated brethren, no supreme authority e the disorderly ones, the country it has been scandal that there may on the border minist- without question, not persons, but minors. If dence is presented the to go ahead. This is so acute that even the divorce courts in awn attention to it.

shock when you notice sements in some religious not in accord with the s. Does the editor ever e is caused by the con- kishy. We copy here- ontribution from a contem- r, of Murray, Kentucky. tentional mood he wrote in which we think will

ts for whisky advertise- eger have expired, and o whisky advertisements s columns at an exor- alises us feel that we have measure promise for sin-

we found persons e Catholic Church be- e they said, the Church of e, it is the Church of the room and welcome wid- for the penitents. But e as well for the wealthy ead. Father Bernard sent sermon said: "Thank God, belong to the for more than a thousand at the Divinity of Christ, Church is the only Church is upon her children's lips. e teaching and which has one jot or tittle of her The Catholic Church is e will him that she will hold of her Christian dogma. Church that dares to e in language formulated, and unmistakable. It is h that she can support the rd the sad, and the only e teaches with definite e is the one Church and e she is the one and only entent."

ALIAN Bishop of the state evinced a broad-minded- which would like e filled in many other pro- on outside the Catholic ety of the Protestant, in religious body at Gar- e was lately received into Church. When Father rd, began to teach the ne to the Apostolic See, e him as follows: "We up belief in a divinely e and in Roman dog- e complete expression of faith, as one must do who e and contented Anglican- p Anglican orders, make submission to the Latin a good Catholic. I have e should choose the latter

marked that this sincere e the same class as the un- s" who have been throug- can well as worthless

**Good Work**

We quote from the True Witness: "Evangelist Booth, who is now in Moncton, N. B., is afraid that the Saviour is knocking for admission into some Protestant home of prayer. At any rate He is not within."

Truly this writer has a caustic pen.

I have had a dear letter from a kind old parish priest—a Canadian Daddy Dan, that I'd like to give my readers only it is rather personal. Columbia is exceedingly grateful to his kind corres-pondent.

If "A. A. C." (Brandon), will send her stamps to the Bethelham Office, Hitchcock, Herts, England, they will be put to the use she mentions. The Bethlehem

Institute is a Swiss foundation to supply priests to poor missions. They have an office on this side but I have forgotten the address. A post card to that given above will bring all information required.

I have been asked to recommend to you "Ireland Yesterday and Today," by Hugh Sutherland, just published by the North American, Philadelphia, Pa. If you want to know the truth about Ireland this is the book for you. The price is only \$1.00 and it will be sent post free for 16 cents extra. The profits of the sale go to the Irish Parliamentary Fund.

Discussing the Congo atrocities (?) a leader writer in the Montreal Star says: "It is as easy for a nation as it is for an individual to be righteous as long as someone else's revenue is concerned."

From a Buffalo reader I have received the following with a request to insert it in the Corner:

EDITOR THE EQUIVOCAL.—I have read several articles on the season of Lent, evidently written by persons who know comparatively little about this holy season. The articles have a moral tendency and may have some good effect, but on the whole they are a sort of superficial juggling with this devout period.

Lent has, for nearly two thousand years, been a Catholic observance and it was with feelings of conflicting emotion, I read an article under date of February 10th, in which was stated that Catholics attended a theatre on Ash Wednesday. If this is a fact, I wish to state most emphatically in the name of all practising Catholics, that persons who are Catholics in name only and are bearing that name under false pretense.

I do not hesitate a moment to declare that I would not attend a theatre during Lent if all the star actors on earth were to perform and give me a personal invitation with a free box.

This is the spirit that actuates all true Catholics. It is a deprivation, as I am an admirer of legitimate acting. But we have only to contemplate the picture which the Church has held up before our mental vision through long ages. The Saviour fasting in the wilderness forty days, not for His own sins, for He is Divine and cannot sin, but for the sins of ungrateful mankind, to be able to abstain.

One should not observe the Lenten rules grudgingly, but willingly and gladly as a little reflection will show us how insignificant are our petty mortal sins, for He is Divine and cannot sin, but for the sins of ungrateful mankind, to be able to abst