

## MERCHANTS' LITTLE LEAKS.

Unless you adopt methods that are exact, numerous unnecessary losses will surely creep into your store. These are generally small of themselves, but when summed up as a whole make quite a formidable amount. When your business is not thoroughly systematized, these small leaks are hard to find; many are never found, and consequently never estimated or known. It may seem rather paradoxical to say that many of these leakages occur when one tries to save his help. Cheap clerks are oftentimes the most expensive in the long run. Knowledge and ability should command fair wages at all times. A first class clerk will discover these leaks and seek to stop them instantly. He will see to it that every person who enters your store receives the proper attention; that the wait book is used as is intended; that goods leaving the store are neatly labeled and properly wrapped; that they are either paid for, sent C. O. D., or charged, as the case may be; and in case of your enforced absence from the store will assume your position, and endeavor to make a better financial showing than when you yourself are at the helm. While a poor clerk will never think of one of these things, but, as soon as your back is turned, will seat himself at your desk, read the papers, write numerous meaningless little missives to some silly girl, and in numerous other ways while away the time that should be spent in seeing that the stock is clean and complete; that the last five-gallon can received from the wholesaler has been returned and proper credit received therefor; that the windows and show-cases are clean and properly trimmed, and, above all, that each person is recognized or waited upon the moment they enter the door. These little civilities cost nothing, but go a long way toward establishing a good name for the merchant who pursues the plan.—Selected.

## CARDINAL GIBBONS ON THE CHURCH AND DIVORCE.

Cardinal Gibbons' article on "Church and Divorce," which first appeared in the World magazine supplement, has had a wide circulation in Europe. It will do much for the family, society and religion. The laxity of our divorce laws is opposed to the stability of the family and society. The family, as known among us, is a creation of Christianity, resting on the sacredness and indissolubility of the marriage contract. It is the nursery of society, the hope of the State, the cradle of its destinies. While it remains pure, so long will a healthy public sentiment prevail; so long will our sound, free institutions flourish; so long will the voters be ready to rebuke the arrogance of mere money, to frown upon official corruptions, and compel legislation to lighten the burdens of the workingman. Now, divorce is the means the law supplies for the ruin of the family, and, remotely, for the ruin of the State.

A gifted priest once said: "Once give the world to understand that marriage is but a simple compact by which two persons of opposite sexes agree to live together conditionally for a time, and the permanency of the family is destroyed; the sacredness of conjugal love is degraded before the law into mere sexual desire; that institution which Christ blessed and declared to symbolize His own union with the

Church becomes, at the best, a system of stultification, and nuptial alters are converted into shambles of licentiousness." The family is the parent of society, and it should be the glory of the State to protect it by the abolition of all divorce laws. This might, and probably would, entail individual cases of suffering, but it would lead to a juster appreciation of the duties and difficulties of the married state. Separation for just and proper cause would be allowed, but in no case should the tie be severed. The marriage contract is for life, and death alone can free man or wife.—American Herald.

## GOOD LISTENERS.

In the whole art of intercourse there is no more fascinating trait than that whereby man or woman has the habit of giving or appearing to give the whole attention to the other partner in conversation. How your heart goes out to one whose earnest, kindly gaze assures you that, for the moment, at least his thoughts are concentrated on your concerns, and your presence is the next important fact to his intelligence! . . . Your whole nature expands to one who presents to you such a gracious aspect, and your thoughts find the most felicitous expression which your vocabulary is capable of affording. Masters of intercourse, men who obtain away over many minds, have the gift thus to detach themselves not only from their own individuality in "tete-a-tete," but from hundreds of others who may happen to be assembled in crowded rooms, and in doing so throw away their own selves but gain the whole world.—Parish Messenger.

## "PLAIN TALK."

One of the greatest problems presented for solution during the months of July and August each year finds expression in the simple interrogatory: "What shall we do with the school children?" This indeed is not an easy problem. The parents who know how to regulate the lives of their children properly during vacation are indeed wise parents and it may not be untruthful to assert that the number of such parents is not strikingly large. It is safe to say that no time of the year calls for more judicious thought on the part of parents in regard to their children than vacation time. True, it is a time for relaxation, rest and recuperation, but it is not a time for utter neglect and forgetfulness of everything that has been learned during the school year—it is not a time for a return to a semi barbarous condition of affairs. It is still a time for order, and those children will, doubtless, spend the most pleasant and profitable vacation for whom an agreeable order of time is mapped out by tactful parents who have the good sense to know that great care must be taken not to be too exacting. To steer the family bark adroitly between the two rocks of unreasonable strictness and destructive laxity, requires light from Heaven, which the Lord will grant to the prayers of good parents. Too few parents realize the fact that they themselves have in the persons and lives of their children a most profound study, which they are bound to master to the best of their ability. Too few understand their children or try to understand them. Parents! guard your children carefully during vacation! See to it that

they spend a pleasant and profitable vacation. Are you conversant with the great laws upon the observance of which their physical health and strength depend? If not, it is high time to post yourselves. Do you know how to direct your children so that intellectually and morally they may not lose during vacation what they have acquired during the school year? If not, you may well ask yourself the weighty question: "Are we really fit to fill the sacred position of Christian parents?" Even if you have not much education yourself, be not discouraged, remembering what St. Thomas said, namely, that he learned more through prayer than he did by study. In his own wonderful ways, God will give you the light necessary to properly direct your children if you earnestly ask Him in persevering prayer. Alas! stern necessity too often arranges the vacation programme for vast multitudes of children. To help in the support of the family they must go to work, too frequently, indeed, at labor for which their delicate bodies are poorly suited, too frequently, indeed, amidst surroundings that are poisonous to mind and heart. God pity the poor! Well, he does pity them, and love them in a special manner, and finally brings many of them forth from the hard school of bitter experience the noblest of His creatures. Sometimes it is hard to tell what is best for us.—Parish Messenger.

## THE VENEZUELA ARBITRATION COMMISSION.

The war with Spain and the Peace Conference have diverted attention from the Venezuela Arbitration Commission, which met for the first time on June 15, in Paris, and which really constitutes an international incident of the highest importance. It represents the greatest triumph yet achieved by American diplomacy, and the formal recognition of the Monroe Doctrine by Great Britain.

To appreciate the significance of this meeting of arbitrators, we should call to mind the scope and history of the controversy which is now the subject of adjudication. In 1814, Great Britain obtained from Holland a territory on the northern coast of South America, which was generally supposed to be bounded on the west by the Essequibo River, and to comprise 20,000 square miles. Successive encroachments took place at the expense of Venezuela, which, after its independence was acknowledged, had succeeded to the rights of Spain, until the tract to which England laid claim comprehended 109,000 square miles, and included Barima Point, at the mouth of the Orinoco, the possession of which would give the control of that great waterway. For upward of half a century, the British Foreign Office turned a deaf ear to the request of Venezuela that the western boundary of British Guiana might be determined by an impartial tribunal. In the spring of 1885, however, Lord Granville agreed that the demarcation should be settled by arbitrators, but the agreement was repudiated by Lord Salisbury, who, in the year named, succeeded him at the Foreign Office. Nothing more was done for eleven years, although the United States, considering that the forcible occupation by a European monarchical power of territory claimed by an American public constituted a flagrant infringement of the doctrine laid down by President Monroe, re-

peatedly requested the British Government to acquiesce in Venezuela's request for a judicial adjustment of the boundary dispute. A deadlock seemed to be reached in the summer of 1895, when Lord Salisbury, replying to a letter of Secretary Olney's on the subject, declared that, under no circumstances, would England permit the boundary of a British colony to be determined by arbitration. Thereupon, President Cleveland resolved to demonstrate to the world that the Monroe Doctrine, which imposes upon us the duty of protecting all American commonwealths against dismemberment by European powers, was something more substantial than a figure of speech, sent to Congress the memorable message in which he proposed the appointment of an American commission to ascertain whether Venezuela had a *prima facie* right to the territory of which Great Britain was alleged to have deprived her. In the same message, Mr. Cleveland requested Congress to authorize him to announce that, should such a *prima facie* right be established by the American Commission, the territorial integrity of Venezuela would be protected by the United States with force of arms. To that message both Houses of Congress returned an enthusiastic and almost unanimous reply. Nor is there a shadow of a doubt that, had not Lord Salisbury eaten his words and retreated from the position taken in his letter to Secretary Olney, a war between Great Britain and the United States must have eventually taken place. Our own Government has never receded by a hair's breadth from the position which Mr. Cleveland assumed in his message, but Lord Salisbury, after some delay, was constrained by English public opinion to do the very thing which, as he had averred in writing, would never be done. That is to say, he had to recognize the right asserted by the United States to shield other American republics from dismemberment, and to consent to the settlement of the Venezuela boundary dispute by an international board of arbitration. The completeness of the recognition is emphasized in the composition of the board, which embraces no citizens of Venezuela; it consists of five members, namely, Chief Justice Fuller and Justice Brewer on the part of the United States, Lord Chief Justice Russell and Lord Justice Collins on the part of Great Britain, while one of the Czar's subjects, Prof. Dr. Martens, is to act as umpire. No less impressive is the fact that, while the chief argument for England's claim will be made by Sir Richard Webster, the Attorney-General in Lord Salisbury's Government, the principal counsel for Venezuela are ex President Benjamin Harrison and ex Secretary of the Navy, B. F. Tracy.—Collier's Weekly.

The unity and universality of Christianity and the Church in which it was divinely incorporated, and of Christendom which the Church has created, exclude and convict, as new, fragmentary, and false, all forms of Christianity which are separate and local.—Cardinal Manning.

The talents granted to a single individual do not benefit himself alone, but are gifts to the world. Everyone shares them; for everyone suffers or benefits by his actions. Genius is a lighthouse, meant to give light from afar; the man who bears it is but the rock on which this lighthouse is built.—Souvestre.