

AN AID TO RELIGION.

A Catholic paper in a parish is, as an aid to religion, next in importance to the parochial school. Look at the people in a congregation who subscribe for a Catholic paper. As a rule they are practical Catholics—they frequent the Sacraments, they send their children to church schools, they belong to pious societies, and they co-operate with the priest in his pastoral labors. They know their religion, they can give reasons for it, and they can defend the church against its traducers.

But look at the folk who do not have a Catholic paper enter their homes. They are not interested in the news of the Church. They cannot reply to objections made against their religion. They are inclined to criticize the pastor for this and to find fault with the Church for that. They do not perceive the harm in mixed marriages, or in a non-religious education, or in societies that are under ecclesiastical ban. The daily journals have all the news they want. They are disposed to think that one religion is as good as another and that it does not matter what a person believes so long as he "acts on the square." They cannot understand why the Church objects to divorce, to cremation, etc., and for the life of them they cannot see what the Pope wants any temporal power for.

The Catholic paper is a frequent force for instruction, correction, edification and encouragement in the Christian life, and the parish in which it has a large circulation is sure to have a large number of members who prize the gift of faith and who live up to its requirements.—Catholic Columbian.

PIUS ON JOURNALISM.

The present writer in the interview with the Pontiff already referred to was particularly struck with the earnestness with which Pope Pius X. spoke to him of the very great power and influence he attributed to the press. His whole face lighted up and his eyes shone, as if, in a vision, he beheld the happy consequences to civilization of the press, the ideal of which was present to his mind. "It is a greater force than the sword," he said, "but in a wholly different way. The individual who uses this power with wisdom and discretion, with charity and justice, is more powerful than a king." He insisted however on the exercise of the most careful judgment; the writer in the press should ever be on the alert to avoid personalities or phrases that would wound individuals; but he should be eager and eloquent for a true and just cause. The brief discourse addressed then to the present writer, accompanied as it was with solemn gesture and occasional appeal to the agreement of the listener, was most impressive. It was evident that Pius X. had the keenest appreciation of the vast influence for good that is inherent in honest and upright journalism.—Rome Correspondent of the Baltimore Sun.

BY EASY STAGES.

When she was introduced to him she called him "Mister Gildersleeve." After she was well acquainted with him "Charles" was the usual term. When they became engaged she addressed him as "Charlie." As the engagement progressed he became "dear." Just before the wedding she called him "dearest." During the honeymoon she called him "darling." To her friends she alluded to him as "Mr. Gildersleeve." One year after marriage she called him "Say, you," while in speaking of him he was "That husband of mine." space fillers Uncle George—Well, Willie, you are about the worst speller I ever encountered. Doesn't the teacher tell you you're a bad speller? Willie—Our teacher would never indulge in such language as that, Uncle George. She has often said, however, that my orthography was utterly at variance with the lexicon.

TRAPPED IN ARMOR.

Trying on ancient armor is not always an agreeable experiment, judging from the experience of a French artist. He had bought a quaint old helmet and put it on his own head to judge the effect. Unfortunately he touched a spring, the visor shut down suddenly, and, being alone in the studio, he could not free himself from the mediaeval head covering without help. At last he ran into the street, where his appearance created considerable amusement till a charitable passer by managed to set him free.—Hour Glass.

A NICE SEAT.

The sedate "Public Ledger" tells a good story of Senator Fairbank's of Indiana, one of the most reserved and dignified of our law makers. He had been induced to attend an ice cream festival for same charitable object and was seated soberly surveying the scene when a small boy came up, stopped in front of him, stared wildly at him and burst out into a shriek that brought a crowd around him. "What's the matter, boy?" asked the Senator, uneasily. "Boo-hoo, boo-hoo!" screamed the child. "You!" yelled the boy. "Me!" said the astonished Senator. "Yes, you! you!" "But how? What have I done?" "You're settin' on my ice-cream," howled the boy. And the Senator's dignity faded through the nearest door.

MICHAEL OBEYED.

It was the busiest part of the day at the railway station, and Michael Flynn, the newest porter, rushed up to the incoming train. "Change here!" he cried. "Change over for—Limerickgalwayanmayo." But the lynx eyed station master was at hand, and he descended upon Michael. "Haven't I told you before," he cried, "to sing out the names of the stations clearly and distinctly? Bear it in mind, sing 'em out. Do you hear?" "I will, sir," said Michael. But when the next train came in the passengers were considerably astonished to hear Michael sing: "Sweet dreamland faces, passing to and fro; change here for Limerick, Galway and Mayo."

YANKEE SHREWDNESS.

"Talk about your Yankee shrewdness," said the travelling man, "I was in a little tavern up in Connecticut not long ago, and a farmer came in with eggs to sell. The transaction took place in the barroom of the establishment. The proprietor agreed to take two dozen, and when the farmer came to count over the contents of his basket he found that he had twenty-five eggs. The proprietor wanted the extra egg thrown in for good measure. The farmer didn't see it that way, and they argued the matter. At last the proprietor said he'd take the twenty-five eggs give the man a drink and call it square. The farmer agreed and pocketed his money. "Now, what'll you have," asked the proprietor. "The Yankee farmer was ready with his reply." "Sherry and egg," said he.—Washington Post.

ABSENT MINDED.

One day a professor of mathematics at O. University prepared to set out on a short journey on horseback. He was an absent minded person and while saddling the animal, was thinking out some intricate problem. Some students stood near and watched him abstractedly place the saddle on hind part before. "Oh, Professor," exclaimed one of the group, "you are putting the wrong end of your saddle foremost." "Young man, replied the professor with some tartness, "you are entirely too smart. How do you know it is wrong, when I have not yet told you in which direction I intend to go?"

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Aunt Mary—Nora, you're a cruel child. Let that cat go at once. Nora (banging the cat).—But she's been naughty, Aunty, an' I'm punishin' her. I told her it was for her own good; an' it hurt me mor'n it hurt her.—Brooklyn Life.

"And did you learn something worth knowing at school today?" asked the prim old aunt of the angel child. "Yes indeed," replied the A. C. "Mary Talkalot told me their cook was going to leave, and mother is going right over this afternoon and hire her."—Cincinnati Times-Star.

Towne—De Riter has a novel published, I hear. Browne.—Yes, it's called "Pygmalion," and its having quite a sale in Chicago. Browne.—Yes, I believe the people there were misled by the first syllable. They thought the book had something to do with their great home industry.—Philadelphia Press.

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