

SHORT INSTRUCTIONS FOR LOW MASSES.

[Delivered by the Rev. James Donohoe, rector of the church of St. Thomas Aquinas, Brooklyn, N. Y.]

XXVIII. PENANCE.

Besides the quotations given in the last instruction in proof of the divinity and necessity of confession, we may add a few more. St. Gregory says: "Let the priest be to us a father and let us make known to him the very bottom of our hearts, as we would to a physician."

According to the principle laid down by St. Augustine and recognized by all classes of Christians as just, a doctrine professed by the Church from the time of Christ must be accepted as an article of faith. Such is the character of the Church's doctrine relative to the divinity and necessity of confession.

If confession be a human invention, we ought to be able to tell the author of the invention, the time and place it had its beginning, and the means employed to impose upon the world a precept so humiliating, so difficult, so contrary to the passions of the human heart.

Cesar tried to add three letters to the Roman alphabet, but the imperial power could not give life to three letters. Now, how could any man convince the entire world of a doctrine so difficult to put in practice as confession?

Suppose an attempt was made to introduce it gradually. You would first have to begin with a parish. Do you think anybody in that parish would object? Suppose somebody told you now that confession, of which you had never heard before, was necessary, and that it was always practiced? Would you accept his verdict? Would you submit without a right examination into the truth or falsity of the assertion?

THE MONKS OF LA TRAPPE.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE STRICTEST ORDER IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

An order differing materially from all those which have hitherto been spoken of in these columns is that of the Trappists, who do no missionary work unless silent meditation and almost constant prayer be regarded, as they certainly should be, as missionary labor.

Under the name of the Trappists, we understand the monks of the Abbey of La Trappe, which was founded in the year 1625, in the diocese of Lisieux, in Normandy.

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BYRON'S LEANING TO CATHOLICITY.

Mr. John Nichol writes a biographical sketch of Lord Byron for a series of books on "English men of letters."

"It is evident that Byron's wayward temper and disorderly habits were owing in part to the morally tainted blood which he inherited from many of his ancestors, and partly to the want of a strictly religious education."

Mr. Nichol often refers to the religious turn which Byron's mind often took and calls attention to the "tremendous knowledge of the Scriptures, especially on the Psalms, which he possessed, owing to the training of his nurse, and to his intimate acquaintance with Holy Writ, which his schoolmaster, Dr. Glennie, observed."

Mr. Nichol has not said all on this subject which he might—his space, perhaps, scarcely allowed it—and it may, therefore, be not amiss to subjoin a few particulars showing light on the religious aspect of Byron's mind.

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What a Time

People formerly had, trying to swallow the old-fashioned pill with its film of magnesia vainly disguising its bitterness; and what a contrast to Ayer's Pills, that have been well called "medicated sugar-plums"—the only four being that patients may be tempted into taking too many at a dose.

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Ayer's Pills.

Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. Sold by all Dealers in Medicine.

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THE FASHIONABLE GOD.

From the Worcester, Mass., Messenger.

Judging from the words of popular preachers, religious newspapers, and recent books, the God of the enlightened American who is not exactly Protestant, nor yet Aristotelian, but a queer compound of both, is about to be introduced to the English lady. Mrs. Ormiston Carter, pictured forth in her recent lectures, a beautiful unreality, a vague vaporous idea of good, over which the untrammeled mind of the age can become sentimental.

THE GREAT BLOOD PURIFIER.

Dr. CHANNING'S Sarsaparilla

For the cure of Scrofula, Salt Rheum, Cancer, all Skin Diseases, Tumors, Enlargement of the Liver and Spleen, Rheumatism, Dropsy, Dropsy of the Kidneys, Blisters, and Ulcers of the Mouth, Stomach, Bowel Complaints, Pains in the Side, Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Scurvy, Gout, Rheumatism, Loss of Appetite, Gravel, Nervous Debility, Nausea, or Vomiting, &c.

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