

proportion which also holds for other large cities shows a great falling off in Protestant churchgoing. Dissension and doubt have made heavy inroads on the Protestant faith. Commenting on the above figures the New York *Sun* observes: "The only Christian Communion upon which modern skepticism seems to make no impression is the Roman Catholic." Rev. M. Sheedy in his "Studies in Church History" claims the explanation for this is obvious. In the Catholic Church there is unity. In the Protestant bodies there are and ever must be, divisions and sects.

Astronomers and observers in general have noted and recorded many oddities among the various comets or "hoary stars" that have appeared in the heavens. Josephus says: "The comet of the year 70 A.D. was the shape of a sword, and hung over the city of Jerusalem a whole year." "Metia's comet" of the year 1102, had the form of a plow, but without anything resembling handles. The crook near the "moldboard" elongated until the star stretched out in a V shape, and looked like a flock of fiery geese. The comet of 1221 looked like the flukes of an immense whale, the resemblance being so strong that it went into the histories of several widely separated countries as the "whale comet." Donati's comet, when first seen on June 2, 1858, was in the shape of a tadpole. On October 3, it was sword shaped, and six days later it was the *counterpart* of the wing of a gigantic bird.

An eminent medical authority claims that a great deal of contagion is due largely to nervous apprehension and fear. Terror causes radical changes in the secretions and nerve cells, and while the possibility is not the direct cause of disease, it certainly is sufficient to put the person in the proper condition to be attacked by the prevailing malady. It is a well understood fact that excessive anger infuses a toxic element into the secretions, and the bite of a man in a state of frenzied rage is almost as deadly as that of a mad dog. Fear destroys the restive capability, and, as it were, lets down the drawbridge and makes way for the enemy. In seasons of epidemic, therefore it is necessary to cultivate tranquility and cheerfulness, to

learn not to fear and to surround ones self with an atmosphere of personal, mental and physical defiance of anger.

We are glad to note in the *Catholic Record* that in New South Wales a Grand Master of an Orange Lodge uttered a prayer for Pope Leo XIII. The following remarkable words were uttered, we hope with sincerity: "And we may well unite with our brethern of the Roman Catholic Church in praying that the physical sufferings of His Holiness may be few and that his going hence may be brightened by the light of grace."

A new era has certainly dawned upon us when such a prayer is heard in an Orange Lodge, a place where His Holiness is ordinarily consigned to the tender mercies of His Plutonic Majesty.

The Owl congratulates Mr. Neild on his new departure and hopes he may long live to spread his broad-minded ideas among his brethern.

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### OBITUARY

We have just learned of the sad death of an old comrade, in the person of Thomas McCusker, of Phoenix, Rhode Island. During the three years which he spent amongst us as student of chemistry he was a universal favorite, and the news of his sudden death brought grief to all his acquaintances in the University. He had been pursuing the study of medicine at Bellevue Hospital, New York, for the last two years, and gave every promise of a most successful career in his chosen calling, but it was decreed otherwise and death has taken him away to an early grave. Among the students he was esteemed and honored for his sincerity good nature and truthfulness. His memory will not soon be effaced from the hearts of those with whom he lived as friend and fellow-student. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to his bereaved relatives and pray that God may strengthen them in their affliction.

May his soul rest in peace.

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