

A New Pastoral Theology

By R. C. H. ...

It is with genuine pleasure and a feeling of gratitude, which all, we are sure, be shared by all American priests and students of theology who love their calling, that we announce this volume on "Pastoral Theology." Hitherto we have had no work of the kind in the English language, except translations from the German or French, more or less faithful, and more or less uninviting by their lack of attention to the circumstances of distinctly American missionary life. How very much these circumstances differ from those which the traditional methods of pastoral teaching are apt to consider can be realized only by men who have not only lived the pastoral life in America, but whose ministry has brought them into contact with the various elements that compose the Catholic population in great American centers. Neither the man of study in the rural parish, whose opportunities for observation are limited, nor the professor of theology, who has not learned to sympathize with the needs of the scattered thousands constituting the laboring element of large manufacturing districts, could attempt the work of teaching pastoral theology in America without being either one-sided or deficient. The man who would instruct the young cleric in this science must combine the qualities of both; he must be a man of books and a man of practical experience, whilst to it all he must add a keen appreciation of the popular non-Catholic mind, and a generous attitude towards the members of the clerical body, whose duties and functions cannot always be measured by one and the same standard of the ascetical and practical life.

Dr. Stang, in undertaking the work, finds himself equipped with all these requirements. His years of varied missionary work in the cathedral parish of Providence, R. I., during which the habit of the student is joined their hold on him sufficiently to turn his needful recreation to the advantage of literary authorship, have given him the practical knowledge without which his scientific training alone would have been powerless successfully to teach the American seminary.

The confidence with which we accordingly take up the work is by no means lessened when we find that, whilst the ground covered by the author is as complete as a thorough study of the theme demands, the distance of the path that leads us through it is delightfully short. Dr. Stang tells us in the preface that "it was no easy task to compress so much matter into the form of a manual; hence so many laconic sentences and aphorisms." He expects, as is just, that the living voice of the professor, for whose students the manual is merely a text, will give the necessary expansion and coloring to the different phases and aspects of the pastoral life as here outlined. Besides, it is a distinct advantage to have some latitude allowed in the directions given, so that they may be adapted to the several and varying circumstances of pastoral activity in the cosmopolitan life of the American Catholic Church. Dr. Stang divides his matter into three books: Preaching and Catechizing, Administration of the Sacraments (Sacramental) and Pastoral Direction. The latter book contains the following topics, which in their very grouping suggest something of the author's practical method throughout: The Divine Fire; the Pattern of the Flock; the Rectory; the Friend of the Poor; Missions; Nuns; Catholic Schools; Church Music; Building; Societies; Book-keeping; the Priest's Library. New York: Benziger Bros. Price \$1.50.

A Patron Saint for the Cyclists.

Among the religious customs of old France, which have shown the greatest resistance to the revolutionary and infidel spirit of the past century, says The Liverpool Catholic Times, is that which associates almost every trade or much followed pursuit with the patronage of some particular saint. Thus every gardener knows that the patron saint of his craft is St. Fiacre, every fisherman that his patron saint is St. Peter, and every goldsmith that St. Eloi looks upon him with a peculiar solicitude, inspired by that kind of sympathy which is supposed to exist between fellow-craftsmen. Again, those who follow the pleasures of the chase—only a profession now a days in the case of poachers, who do not by any means consider that the illegality of their proceedings deprives them of the favor of their saint—place themselves under the patronage of St. Hubert. Tramps have two patron saints, St. Julien the Hoopstaler and St. Christopher. For some time past the cyclist in France has been casting about for a patron saint and the subject is one that has caused them no little perplexity on account of the difficulty of associating any known saint with a method of locomotion whose history is entirely modern. St. Julien and St. Christopher were both thought of because of their solicitude for travellers, but cyclists being clean-shaven, wished to

remain quite distinct from tramps and such like persons. St. Catherine of Alexandria is the saint upon whom the choice of the great majority of Catholics appears to have fallen, a preference suggested by the time-honored custom of representing her in sacred art in association with the wheel which was intended for her torture, but which was miraculously used against her persecutors. The "Croix," which warmly advocates the choice of St. Catherine, makes the following reflections on the subject: "As the saint stands leaning upon her wheel she makes us think of a bicyclist in repose. The cyclist travels upon a wheel and the saint who escaped so miraculously from suffering and danger will protect those who invoke her aid with faith."

O'Connell Memorial Church.

Canon Brownan, of Cahirovee, has issued the following appeal.

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN.—Within a few minutes' walk of the birthplace of the Liberator, and beside the now dilapidated structure in which he so often worshipped, rises the unfinished O'Connell Memorial Church. Since the happy resumption of the works last November very satisfactory progress has been made, bringing the unfinished walls almost to the height required for roofing. Through the devotion of our people and the generosity of the friends of Ireland throughout the world, £14,548 18s. 9s has been paid to the contractor, and there is nothing more now due on the building except the usual drawback of 12 1/2 per cent, and £158 9s. 2d. overdrawn in the Munster and Leinster Bank, whilst payment to the contractor is guaranteed up to the roofing inclusive, which, as per agreement, the key of the church is to be handed over. All further particulars at hand and open to inspection. The good work proceeds; and, so much having been achieved, surely the final effort to roof and prepare the church for divine service will not be found wanting. In a few days the Catholic Church throughout Ireland and in other lands will commemorate by solemn celebration the fiftieth anniversary of O'Connell's death; and may I not be humbly permitted to express the hope that in so memorable a year this commemorative and votive church may be completed. Religion and nationality are alike my advocates in this hour of need, when the funds of the O'Connell Memorial Church are exhausted. I am, dear fellow countrymen, your faithful and obedient servant.

T. CANON BROWNAN, Cahirovee, May 6, 1897.

Sacred Heart Orphanage, Sunnyside.

A very enjoyable complimentary entertainment was tendered by the children of the Sacred Heart Orphanage on Thursday 20th inst to Doctors C. McKenna, W. McKeown and A. J. McDonagh as a slight acknowledgment of the very great services gratuitously rendered by them to this institution. The little ones acquitted themselves very creditably, particularly the young lady who presided at the piano and reflected great credit on the noble, self-sacrificing Sisters in charge. The entertainment would have done credit to a much more pretentious institution. Considering the sacrifice of valuable time these gentlemen are called upon to make it was a well deserved compliment. Last winter was particularly trying in this respect; along with the ordinary sick cases incidental to some three or four hundred children cared for here, an outbreak of scarlet fever of a very severe form attacked the little ones. Between sixty or seventy cases occurred and not one fatality, which alone speaks volumes for the skillful medical treatment and careful nursing of the Sisters. If there is one charitable institution more than another that is deserving of assistance on account of the utter helplessness of its inmates, it is this institution. After adresses by Rev. Father O'Donohoe and the doctors adjournment was made to the dining-rooms where luncheon was served. Among those present were Rev. Father O'Donohoe, St. Michael's, Newmarket and Rev. Father Crane, Brookton; Mr. T. J. Callaghan of Registrar General's Department, Alf. J. Scully of Trinity Medical College and others.

Looks Less Peaceful.

LONDON, May 25.—The aspect of Eastern affairs is less peaceful. Turkey is sending 7,000 more troops to Thessaly, and it is said that the Sultan has promised his Ministers not to relax his hold upon that province. The net of the powers certainly does not yield on a single point, and states even that the peace conference must be held at Constantinople and not at Paris, and the sincerity of both Germany and Russia is doubted, and any sign of dissension among the powers makes for obstinacy on the part of the Sultan.

In his VERTICALLY FILLS, Dr. Farnes has given to the world the fruits of long scientific research in the whole realm of medical science, combined with new and valuable discoveries never before known to man. For DELICATE AND DEBILITATED CONSTITUTIONS Farnes' Pills act like a charm. Taken in small doses, the effect is both a tonic and stimulant, mildly exciting the secretions of the body, giving tone and vigor.

ALTARS.

WRITTEN FOR THE REGISTER.

In the lovely month of May all nature is like a song whose cadences are heard in the rippling brook, or distant waterfall, or tender notes measured by the forest songster. Then the special altars of God in the churches borrow the beauties of the flower world, and the glories of the mountain trees, to decorate them anew in the service of God. Now redolent with the aroma of nature's choicest flowers are the altars of Mary decked this delightful month so happily consecrated to her name. Month of hope and promise, as Mary is our great hope and our unfailing promise of help when weighed down by the troubles of this sinful world! Month of the brightness and gladness which Mary desires to see reigning in the hearts of her children, happily art thou consecrated to her sweetest praises! Mary thy children adorn thy altars, and thou makest altars of gladness and rejoicing of the hearts of thy children! Hence I may be permitted to refer to other altars than the special ones of the churches.

An humble and repentant heart is an acceptable sacrifice to God. The human heart should be an altar for the continual service of the Creator. The good intentions that arise in it are gifts brought to the sacrifice, the good deeds performed are sanctified by the good motives and charitable dispositions that form in the heart and which prompt their performance. The pains and sorrows of the truly Christian heart emit a sweet perfume that appeases the judgments of God. Its joy and its gladness also may be made to have a supernatural merit. The prayers that come from an humble heart pierce the clouds and consecrate anew with their sweetness that heart, as the soul's appealing altar for its sanctification.

And God has other altars also. From the tiny flowers that adorn the river's bank or sweetens the desert air, arises a perfume to the throne of the Creator. From the soft fresh May leaves of the mountain trees, from the fresh green fields again rejoicing in their free-made garments; from the distant music of the grand waterfall or grander chorus of the great ocean ascend a tribute as from nature's altars to nature's God. The earth and the fleecy and changing heavens above combine their heavenly adornings, and swell the perpetual incense that rises to the throne of the Almighty.

A READER.

May 25th, 1897.

CAN RECOMMEND IT.—Mr. Eos Bornhorst, Tuscaraora, writes: "I am pleased to say that Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil is all that you claim it to be, as we have been using it for years, both internally and externally, and have always received benefit from its use. It is our family medicine, and I take great pleasure in recommending it."

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