

A Christmas Legend.

It was the holy Christmas tide In Ireland long ago; The hills and valleys covered o'er With newly-fallen snow. It was a Christmas in the days Of misery and grief, When it was death to say a Mass, And danger, Mass to hear.

DUBLIN LETTER.

DEAR SIR,—I hope you will pardon me for venturing to intrude on the following lines which find a place in your excellent journal; and being aware of your deep interest in anything Catholic, I trust my communication will meet a kindly recognition at your hands.

THE CANONIZATION.

Sketch of the Life of Blessed Benedict Joseph Labre. The Holy Father, Leo XIII. formally canonized on December 8, the beatified servants of God, Benedict Joseph Labre, of Montefalco and Laurence of Brindisi.

The Holy St. Augustine used to pray, "Lord grant me to know thee and to know myself. To know thee, in order to love thee, to know myself in order to despise myself." And these words were frequently upon the lips of Benedict Joseph Labre, and God answered him in an inspiration which drew him to a life of singular poverty and penance as a means of crucifying all love of the world's esteem.

THE PARENTS OF THIS HOLY MAN.

were not poor. True, they had fifteen children, of whom Benedict was the eldest, but by his trade as a merchant, the father gained sufficient to maintain his large family comfortably. On the 27th March, 1748, the little Benedict was baptized in the parish church of Amettes in France, being then but a day old.

HE WAS A GOOD EARNEST LITTLE BOY, and had made such use of his mother's teaching, that at five years of age he was thought fit to be placed under the care of a priest who dwelt in Amettes. He soon learned to read and write well, and was so anxious to get on, that his master often had to restrain him.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

The ladies are making great preparations for holding their Christmas tree next week. From present appearances this series of entertainments will be much more successful and interesting than that of a year ago, as much greater interest seems to be taken in it by the whole congregation.

Half of the present Separate School Board will retire in a few days, either to be sent back again or retire. The members who retire are: Rev. Father Bardon in the North Ward; Michael Mulvaney in the Queen's; Wm. Harrington in the Queen's; Wm. Ryan in the Brant, and John Ryan in the East Ward.

LOCAL NEWS.

Two men named Wolf Cohen and Jos. Sander entered the office of John Green & Co., and while the clerks were engaged with one of them the other concealed about \$250 worth of silks. They were captured by Detective Wigmore and the property recovered.

On Friday last, a farmer of the township of Caradoc named William Paddison, near Amiens, P. O., was found hanging by the neck to one of the cross beams in his stable, life being extinct. Deceased was buried the following day without an inquest being held to enquire into the cause of death.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

Love must be to us instead of mind, and heart, and might, in order that we may understand aright the true worship of the Infant God, breaking the silence of the winter's night at Bethlehem. And what is first of all, that the Angels sang! Glory to God in the highest. Yes, this is the temper in which we must keep our feast.

God's glory the first thought. 1. To look out for God's glory was and is the habit of the blessed spirits. 2. So also must it be ours. 3. We lose half the joy of feasts by thinking only of ourselves. 4. But, God's glory is the same as man's happiness. 1. How touching and how beautiful is the thought? 2. How intensely it ought to make us love God, who is so mixed up with His creatures. 3. What a lesson it teaches of trustful submission to His will!

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