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PRICE FIVE CENTS.

AN ENCYCLICAL LETTER

Addressed to the Prelates of Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

Dealing With Many Important Matters.

His Holiness Pope Leo has issued an Encyclical Letter to the Archbishops and Bishops of Austria, Germany and Switzerland, in connection with the coming celebration of the anniversary of the Blessed Peter Canisius, S. J. In it His Holiness dwells at length upon the question of education and lays down as the three vital rules of education for youth, religious teaching, a religious atmosphere and religious teachers.

For if ever an epoch required to ask from science and erudition weapons in defence of Catholic faith, that epoch is assuredly ours, in which the rapid advances made in all branches of civilization frequently furnish the enemies of the Christian faith with occasions for assault.

FAITH AND NATURE ASSIST EACH OTHER.

Catholics, thus strengthened in mind and endowed with suitable enlightenment, will be able to show by facts that faith is not only in no wise hostile to science, but is actually its perfection; that, even in points which at first sight appear incompatible or contradictory, it can harmonize and unite so perfectly with philosophy that the lights of both are mutually strengthened more and more; that nature is not the foe, but the companion and handmaid of religion; and, finally, that the inspirations of religion not only enrich all kinds of knowledge, but add strength and life to letters and the other arts.

RELIGION AND PROFANE LEARNING.

The elat which sacred derive from profane sciences will be readily perceived by all who understand human nature, always inclined as it is to whatever flatters the senses. Thus, among peoples who excel others in the scale of civilization, it is only with reluctance that any confidence is reposed in more rugged wisdom, and the educated are especially prone to pass by anything that is not stamped with a certain beauty or charm.

THE CRADLE OF SCIENCE.

Here, truly, a wide field lies open for the Church. When she regained her strength, after long years of carnage, men, excelling in knowledge, adorned by their talents and learning the same faith which men, excelling in courage, had sowed with their blood. Foremost among the artificers of literary glory were the fathers of the Church, whose arms merited the palm of valor and whose speech was, as a rule, erudite and worthy of the attention of Greeks and Romans.

WHAT SCIENCE AND ART OWES THE CHURCH.

If the ancient monuments of the genius and skill of men, if the objects once prized by Greeks and Romans, have not utterly perished, it is solely to the labors and zeal of the Church that this must be attributed. Since the light which emanates from the arts and sciences reflects so brilliantly on religion, those who have devoted themselves to these studies should employ not only their entire intellectual strength, but all their activity, to the end that the knowledge which they themselves possess may not remain solitary and sterile.

THE INTEGRITY OF THE SCHOOLS MUST BE MAINTAINED.

Now this practical work is in especial evidence in the education of youth, which is a matter of so much importance that it demands the largest share of their energies and care. For this reason, of all others, we strenuously exhort you, venerable brethren, imploring you to watch carefully over the maintenance of the schools, in the integrity of the faith, or even, if need be, to restore the faith in them, and to lavish your care as well on the schools founded by past generations as on those more recently established; and not only on children's schools, but on those called secondary or

academic. As to the other Catholics of your country, they should, even at the cost of the greatest efforts, see that in the instruction of youth the rights of parents, as well as the rights of the Church, be restored and upheld.

EDUCATION WITHOUT RELIGION CORRUPTS.

In the first place Catholics are not, especially for children, to adopt mixed schools, but should have their own schools, and should select for them excellent and well approved teachers. Very perilous is the education in which religion is either vitiated or non-existent, and we see that in schools known as mixed either of these alternatives is frequently realized. Men must not allow themselves to be easily persuaded that instruction and piety can be kept separate with impunity. If it is true that no part of life, public or private, can be exempt from the duty of religion, neither is there any age when this duty can be less ignored than that early period when wisdom is lacking, when the mind is fresh, and when the heart is exposed to so many fascinating causes of corruption.

POPE LEO LAYS DOWN THE PRINCIPLE THAT TEACHERS MUST BE GOOD CATHOLICS.

He condemns dissension in policy and want of harmony in acting. Under this head he says: "What can the divided forces of the well meaning effect against the assault of their united enemies? Of what avail is the merit of individuals if there be no common line of conduct? Wherefore, we earnestly exhort you to put aside all untimely controversy and all contention of parties by which division in men's minds is so easily effected, so that all the faithful may have but one voice in defence of the Church, so that all may concentrate their strength to direct it toward one sole end and all bring to the work the same good will, careful to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace."

THE TEACHERS POWERFUL ASSISTANTS TO THE BISHOP.

His Holiness finally concludes as follows:—But it is especially those on whom Divine Providence has conferred the noble mission of instructing youth who will be able to lend your noble aid, which, from the nature of their work, naturally belongs to you. If they remember that learning—as the ancients used to say—when separated from righteousness deserves the name of "cunning," rather than of wisdom, or better still, if they meditate on the passage of Scripture, "All men are vain with whom is not the knowledge of God," (Sap. xiii. 1), they will learn to avail themselves of their private use as in the general interest.

FIRST CONFIRMATION,

Th a Holy Communion, Says The Holy Father.

The following is taken from the columns of the St. Louis Review:—Since 1853 Mgr. Robert, Bishop of Marseille, France, has made it a rule to confirm the children of his Diocese before having the pastors admit them to their first Holy Communion.

We see from the Paris Verité that, under date of June 22nd, the Sovereign Pontiff has addressed an autograph letter of approbation and congratulation to His Lordship of Marseille on account of this practice. The Pope writes, among other things:

"Doing away with a custom which had been introduced nearly a century ago, you have thought it well to establish in your diocese the practice of giving the children the vivifying unction of the holy chrism before admitting them to the divine banquet of the Blessed Eucharist. We bestow the greatest praise upon you for this; for the practice which had become common in your country and elsewhere was in accordance neither with the ancient and constant discipline of the Church nor with the welfare of the faithful. There are in the souls of children the germs of evil passions; if they are not eradicated early they gradually grow stronger, seducing inexperienced hearts and involving them in perdition. Hence the faithful have need even at a tender age of being clothed with the strength from on high, an effect which the sacrament of confirmation is destined to produce.

"As the Angelic Doctor rightly observes, in this Sacrament the Holy Spirit is given to us to fortify our souls for the combats of life and to give man his full development. Whence it follows that the children who are confirmed at an early age become more docile in accepting the commandments, that they can better prepare themselves for the reception of Holy Communion and derive more abundant fruits from it. "We therefore earnestly desire that what you have so wisely ordained be faithfully and perpetually kept." In our country, too, it has become the fashion to confirm children after their

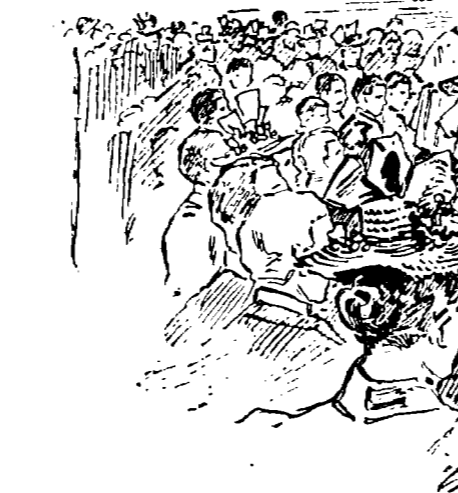
First Communion instead of before. The Holy Father's above-mentioned letter to the Bishop of Marseille will perhaps induce the one or the other of our American bishops to return to the ancient practice lauded and recommended by Leo XIII.

NUNS AS NURSES.

"British Medical Journal" on Official Red-Tapeism.

The current issue of the British Medical Journal draws attention to a difficulty that has arisen between the Local Government Board in Ireland and the Guardians of the Tralee Union with regard to the question of nuns as nurses. The Board have suddenly expressed an anxiety to enforce a rule requiring that each individual nurse should be submitted by name to the central authority before her appointment is confirmed. This piece of red-tapeism would seriously interfere with the present admirable system under which the nuns carry out the work of nursing with the most excellent results. The British Medical Journal approves of the action of the guardians in resenting this new departure and adds:

"Anything that tends to upset the present ministrations of the nuns in the workhouses is to be deprecated. They



BLESSING OF A BELL AT ST. EUSEBE.—Ceremony in the Church.

have been the one bright streak of light across a very dark picture; we trust that a way may be found out of the difficulty which will harmonize red tape with humanity."—London Universe.

Nuns Saved by Soldiers.

In connection with the floods that have inundated some of the southern departments of France, and while the Bishop of Montauban is begging for the victims of those floods, we hear of heroic acts on the part of soldiers in the matter of saving life. In more than one instance those saved from watery graves were nuns. The Somaine Religious of Auch relates that an aged religious, Sister Agnes, belonging to the hospital of that town, was in the chapel praying before the altar with a lay companion when she saw the water around rising rapidly. It had already risen to several feet. All communication was cut off, and death seemed inevitable, when a young soldier, Des Meunads by name, swam on the scene. "Save that woman first," said Sister Agnes, "and leave me to die, for I am old. I will pray for you in Heaven." "I will save you both," said the soldier, "or I will die with you." He kept his word, swimming for one after the other and dragging them out of the water by ropes. Elsewhere in the same town five soldiers went to the rescue of a religious of the Sainte-Famille, surrounded by water, on the roof of a small building in the convent garden. They saved the cloistered nun, and in their turn had to be saved, for the bridge which they had to cross was under water. Their lives were saved by a priest and a lieutenant. —Liverpool Catholic Times.

Fraternal Notes.

The uniform rank of the A. O. H. of Maine are to organize a State regiment with a full line of staff officers. This will be good news to the many friends of the Order, and unusual enthusiasm has been aroused in consequence among the uniformed companies. The State regiment which is to be formed will attend the grand A. O. H. conclave at Boston in '98, when they expect 50,000 men in line.

The President of the Catholic Knights and Ladies of America, having died Friday, August 13th, by his death Miss Mary Sheridan, Louisville, Ky., becomes President, as she has held the place of vice-president. [Mr. John McGold, the dead president, passed away in Montreal while on a visit here. He was a citizen of Kalamazoo, Mich., where his remains were sent for interment.]

TWO CONVENTIONS IN SCRANTON.

SCRANTON, Aug. 22.—Scranton has been the scene of two very important conventions last week. They are that of the Catholic Total Abstinence Union of America, which was held in St. Thomas College, with 400 delegates in session, and that of the Irish Catholic Benevolent Union, with a strength of two hundred. Both showed a notable increase in membership and finances.

ADDRESS OF CONGRATULATION

Presented to Mgr. Bruchesi by the C.M.B.A.

His Grace Eulogizes the Work of Catholic Organizations.

There was a notable ceremony at the Archbishopal Palace on Monday evening, when the members of the C. M. B. A., as represented by the Executive of the Order, waited upon His Grace



BLESSING OF A BELL AT ST. EUSEBE.—Ceremony in the Church.

Archbishop Bruchesi to present him with an address of congratulation on his elevation to the Archbishopal See of Montreal. It is needless to say that the delegation was received with that kindly spirit and dignity which is one of the distinguished characteristics of our new Archbishop, Hon. M. F. Hackett, Grand President, was unavoidably detained in the White Mountains, sending in the following letter expressive of his regret:—

JERUSALEM, N. H., 21st August, 1897. His J. Castigan, 225 St. Urbain street, Montreal.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,—I regret exceedingly that my absence in the White Mountains will preclude my being with you on the 23rd, when the C. M. B. A. branches of your city will do themselves honor in presenting an address to His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi. Nothing would give me more pleasure than to be your spokesman upon so worthy an occasion; but, unfortunately, I shall be detained here for Monday next. Needless to say, though not with you in person on the occasion, I shall be with you in spirit.

Yours most fraternally,

M. F. HACKETT.

Among those present were:—Messrs. T. J. Finn, grand chancellor, president of the delegation; T. P. Tansey, Joseph Girard, C. Dandelin, P. A. Bucher, A. H. Spedding, grand deputies; M. Sparkey, W. J. McElroy, M. J. Polan, Cougan, T. McDonald, P. A. Boucher, Joseph Beland, A. H. Spedding, Dr. G. Grmain, L. A. Primeau, C. E. Oliver, A. Racine, F. Kiel, E. Lariviere, presidents of branches; J. J. Castigan, grand deputy, secretary of deputation; M. P. La moureux, Jer. Coffey, J. H. Feeley, Joseph Lozeau, Dr. D. Drainville, A. Dumouchel, Frs. Verner, William Gravel, Amedee Quenel, M. P. Lamoureux, Bruno Charbonneau, Jos. Desrosiers, Jos. Telephore Gervais, F. Martineau, Arthur Burdon, Daniel Dineen, J. J. McBurnen, James Milloy, Alex. D. McGillis, J. A. Gould, J. E. Shortall, J. O'Toole, J. H. Feeley, jr., James Callaghan.

In the absence of the Grand President, the reading of the address devolved on ex-Ald. Germain. It was as follows:—My Lord,—Those in your diocese, who form part of the Mutual Benefit Catholic Association, better known possibly under the name of C. M. B. A., thought that your Grace would kindly accept, at the inception of your episcopal career, their homage and best wishes.

Our Association feels honored, My Lord, in having a bishop as founder, and of numbering several bishops amongst its members, and we delight in hoping that the Catholic spirit with which Bishop Ryan animated the new-born society, some twenty years ago, will continue our strength and safeguard. So, indeed, submissive and loving children of the Church, do we cheerfully place at the feet of its official representatives the homage of our respect and the acknowledgement of our obedience.

By the will of God and the choice of the Holy See, you are appointed, My Lord, our Archbishop and our Father. From all parts of this dear country of ours the most authoritative voices have joyfully acclaimed your elevation to the Archbishopal See of Montreal. It was

justice rendered to you, for God, we are convinced, my Lord, (may your modesty pass our frank speaking) has admirably gifted you with grace such a high position.

Neither are we ignorant of the fact that, together with the honor, you are undertaking a heavy responsibility. We would wish, my Lord, by our present proceedings, to alleviate you, in our small way, of this burthen, inseparable from the honor of commanding, promising that we shall always be obedient and respectful subjects of your Lordship.

Catholics before all, the members of the C. M. B. A. of the diocese of Montreal, be they sons of Ireland or descend

THE FIGGITES.

Another Offshoot of the Martin Luther Tree of Many Branches.

The latest development of Protestant dissension is called the Figgites. It has its headquarters at Omaha, Nebraska. A dispatch from that city tells this remarkable story:

"On August 10 five members of the peculiar religious sect known as the Figgites were sentenced to jail to serve a sentence in default of payment of \$5 fines each. The fine was imposed upon five women for disturbing a meeting of the Methodists at Spring Grove yesterday. They are Mrs. Dora Cockerell, Mrs. W. W. Browning, Mrs. John Woods, Mrs. Hannah Ryberg, and Miss Lucy Ryberg. All are prominent women of Greta, Neb., eminently respectable but completely carried away with their new religion. On the day before, the five ladies left their home at Greta to attend the Spring Grove services of the Methodists. The meeting was in progress when they rushed in and loudly cried to the minister in chorus:

"You are lost with all your congregation. Repeat and come with us. All of you are possessed of the devil!"

"Then the women began to dance around the place, shrieking at the top of their voices. The service was, of course, broken up, and the next day warrants were issued for the arrest of the women. They were tried by a Justice of the Peace in Omaha. Then a wilder scene was enacted. When asked if they were guilty, they screamed in chorus: "Guilty in the eyes of man, but innocent in the eyes of God!" then adding as they began to dance in a circle around the Justice, "God told us to do it." "We are His servants! halldulish!"

"The court was unable to secure order, but as they sang and danced around he fined each \$5. All went to jail singing. To jail, to jail, glory to God; not a dollar for the devil and his tribe."

C. M. B. A.

Quebec Grand Council Convention.

The second regular convention of the Grand Council of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association of the Province of Quebec, held in this city, on Tuesday, the 24th inst., Grand President C. F. Leclerc presiding.

The officers and representatives to the convention, from different parts of the Province of Quebec, assembled at the Hotel de France, No. 1, C. M. B. A., at 2:30 p.m., and proceeded in a body, headed by the delegates, to the various branches of Montreal and visiting brothers, to the Sacred Heart Chapel of Notre-Dame, to open their session by attending Mass. On returning from Church the presence of the Grand Council was most gratifying. The Council met in the hall of the Mutual Benefit Association. The Grand Council was presided over by Bro. Martin Leclerc, also for ourselves and families.

Before replying, His Grace bestowed the Episcopal blessing on the delegation and then proceeded with his reply. He said he was deeply touched at this evidence of the devotion of the Order and referred to his connection in the past with several of the Catholic benevolent societies of the city. In doing his duty as Archbishop to the country, he felt that he was also discharging it to the societies, some of whom he had the privilege in the past to have been chaplain. Societies like the C. M. B. A. conformed to the teaching of the Church, and had his affection and admiration. These organizations which, though not essentially bad, were neutral in the matter of religion, held within themselves an element of danger which all good Catholics ought to avoid. "The C. M. B. A." concluded His Grace, "receives our blessing because there is no doubt as to the soundness of their faith, for everything is done above board and no secrecy prevails. I also commend the C. M. B. A. for placing so permanently in advance the great name of Catholic. You are faithful to the Church, faithful to its teachings and to its laws. For this reason, I am delighted to see you here to-night, and it is with the greatest pleasure that I bless the association, its members and their families!"

His Grace spoke in both English and French. The presentation took place in the large parlor of the Palace.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY.

Grand Picnic and Games on Shamrock Grounds on Saturday, 28th August.

The St. Patrick's Society intend holding their picnic and games on the above grounds on Saturday, the 28th inst. At a meeting of the society, held on Monday night, the 23rd, all final arrangements were completed. The programme is a very lengthy one and includes running, jumping, quoits, bean guess, dancing competition, etc., besides hurling and lacrosse matches. The committee have made arrangements with the Montreal Street Railway to have a five minutes service from all parts of the city to the grounds.

To judge human character rightly a man may sometimes have very small experience, provided he has a very large heart.

Never shrink from doing anything your business calls you to do. The man who is above his business may one day find his business above him.—Drew.

After the Grand President's brief reply, Mr. Lawlor read the following invitation to a drive:

Brothers,—It affords me great pleasure, on behalf of the Montreal branches, to extend an invitation to our welcome visitors to a drive to Lacine, 9 miles from the city, starting from this hall to-morrow, at 1:30 p.m., and will feel honored by your kind acceptance.

Yours fraternally,

RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

MONTREAL, 24th Aug., 1897.

It is not by the grey of the hair that one knows the age of the heart.—B. J. Ferr.