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A NEW CANADIAN POET

BY DR. WM. J. FISHER

Lovers of poetry will welcome at this season of the year, when gift-giving seems to be one of the supreme joys of the hour, the appearance of Rev. D. A. Casey's exquisite book of lyrics, entitled "At the Gate of the Temple" (William Briggs: Toronto). This volume, daintily bound in red and gold, is, we believe, the first offering from the inspired pen of "Colombo" who inspired weekly the pages of the CATHOLIC RECORD. His many friends—and they are legion—will be pleased that the gentle poet-priest has gathered together the stray fledglings of his fancy and housed them permanently between covers. Poets generally carry in their hearts an abiding love for the noble mother who first taught the baby-tips to lip in numbers—a strong, vital, all-absorbing love that outlives the years and is never cold. Father Casey is no exception, for on his title page appears this affectionate tribute:

For the purple drappings of pomp and power but aching hearts entail
O Friend, shall I ask a part for you in the things that are defiled?
Would you build your throne in the hearts of men or the Heart of a Little Child?
And over the waste of days, Dear Heart, there comes to my listening ear—
'Tis the Voice that I loved in the Golden Past—in accents loud and clear,
The empty gifts of the changing hour are but for the worldly-wise,
Do but ask for me through the ages gray the Light of a Baby's Eyes.
"For the shadow love of the human heart— forever craves for change,
As an infant reaches its tiny hands for toys that are new and strange;
The idle laughter of yesterday gives place to the saddening tear;
The floral gifts of the birth hour gay look withered and old on the bier.
"Love's summer days at best are brief. The shadows grow space.
For each brief moment a bleeding heart and the Memory of a Face.
The fairest works of our human hands shall fade with the fleeting day,
Eternal Faith and Eternal Love are the things that will last for aye."
The Muses seem to have showered the lines in "Passing By"—an Irish legend of All Soul's Eve—with whitest star-dust. The poet's powers here strike twelve:

The smile on the cheerful faces,
The hearts that are quick to pray,
God keep you and guard you, Ireland!
My heart is with you to-day.
One of the sweetest poems in the volume is the deservingly tribute to the Sisters of St. Joseph, that loving, self-sacrificing army of courageous women—the sunshines of our Catholic life—
Who are passing through the portals to the day's appointed task,
(Sombre black the outer garment, white as snow the heart within),
Not to tread the path of Pleasure,
Not to garner Dead Sea treasures,
But to war for souls with Satan and the luring call of sin.
Bending low o'er anguished mortals in the watches of the night,
Soothing some poor tortured body in the healing homes of pain,
By the bedside vigil keeping,
Guardian angels of the sleeping,
While from hushed lips up to heaven steals the Ave's sweet refrain.
Tenderly in crowded hospice grey haired derelicts they tend,
To the world's flos and jetsam they have thrown their portals wide,
Ne'er a task is there too lowly,
For these vestal virgins holy,
To do good to all their life's work, same as writ of Him who died.
The present regrettable war seems to have inspired many poems. Noyes, Kipling, Hardy, Newbolt and Massfield, who wrote the deathless "August 1914" which appeared in the English Review, have been spilling streams of rich poetry down the glorious hills of England. The spirit and the times have also stirred our own Father Dollard and Dr. O'Hagan into the singing of delightful measures. We have not seen a truer canvas of poor, mutilated, bleeding Belgium and her noble, heroic sons than the following from Father Casey's brush—the lines fairly glow with life and pathos: "Pity the martyr dead? Nay, rather praise,
(They need not pity who so nobly die),
If coward choice assured them length of days
Then Shame might weep; now Pity's eyes are dry.
Nay, shed no tears, though mothers' hearts do break,
Though Belgians' plains hold heta-combs of dead;
Oh, let no sounds of grief their slumbers wake,
But place the laurel wreath above their head.
Crown them as victors in the fearful strife
(A hero's death can never spell defeat),
One only gift had they, and e'en their life,
Ne'er questioning, they laid at Freedom's feet.
They knew but little of the art of war,
But much of Honor, so they made their choice of glory.
The treacherous bait of Empire to abhor,
They made it freely, and they paid the price.
In roofless firesides and in rifed shrines,
In bloody corpses that a burial seek,
In outraged victims of the fell designs,
Of monsters wreaking vengeance on the weak.
Aye, it were piteous did we but know
That Right shall victor be through stars do fall;
In blood and tears a fruitful crop they sow;
Their deeds shall live until the Judgment Call."

And though they're gone yet, praised be God, there's no sleepin' near to home,
And 'tis no stranger's hand, aethors, that lays them down to rest.
If only Willie bawn were here to lay me in the clay,
To place me poor old bones to rest along side him that's gone,
His hand in mine—I'd welcome thin the breakin' o' the day,
An' I'd not fear the long boreen that leads beyond the dawn."

RELIGIOUS RECEPTION AND PROFESSION AT "THE PINES"

Quite in harmony with the joyful festivities of Xmas tide was the double ceremony of religious reception and profession at "The Pines," Chatham, Ont., on the morning of Monday, Dec. 28, at 9.30 a.m.
At the hour appointed, the convent chapel of the Holy Family was filled with interested relatives and friends of those taking part in the ceremony. The solemn procession of clergy, religious, novices and postulants, gowned in beautiful bridal costumes and attended by daintily adorned flower-girls, entered the chapel where Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Doyle, C. S. S. R., of London. His Lordship Right Rev. M. F. Fallon, D. D., officiating.
After the four novices begged admission to holy profession, and the five postulants asked to be received into the Ursuline Order, His Lordship delivered a deeply impressive sermon, taking as text the Yule tide canticle of the Angel, "Behold, I bring you tidings of great joy." And in his own graceful style, he applied these greetings to the ceremony of the day, impressing with his heart-felt emphasis the minds of his listeners with the wonderful mercy and goodness of God towards those to whom He extends the loving invitation to follow Him. "No work," he continued, "however laborious, no trial however heroically received, no talents or mental culture, however splendidly applied, can ever begin to repay the grace of a call to serve God in the safer precincts of the cloister. Let those of you," he said, "who are being received as novices to day, and those of you who are assuming the responsibility of the religious vows, be thoroughly imbued with the feeling that you are giving absolutely nothing in comparison to that which you will receive. True, you are making the grandest sacrifice a human being can make; you are voluntarily giving up family and friends, but the Ursuline Order is offering you a blessed privilege denied to thousands just as worthy. Be proud and grateful, therefore, that you are to belong to the Order of the Ursulines, to that grand old Order of the Church of God, the saintly founders of which have long since gone to join the band of Virgins about the throne of Him Whom you must try to love as they have done." His Lordship's sermon was one not soon to be forgotten, one which all present felt to be the sentiments of a noble heart keenly jealous of and sensitive to the interests of Christ and His Church.
The religious admitted to Holy Profession were Sister M. Angela, Sister M. Rose, Sister M. Isabel, and Sister M. Miriam. Those taking the white veil and habit were Miss Mary Beatrice Major, Leamington, Ont., formerly of London, England, in religion Sister M. St. Michael; Miss Katherine Toohy, Lunenburg, Ont.; Sister M. Mercedes; Miss Mary Beatrice Connor, Waupun, Wis.; Sister M. St. Thomas Aquinas; Miss Mary Kilgallon, London, Ont.; Sister M. Madeline Sophie; Miss Ida Mae

Trudell, Tilbury, Ont., Sister M. St. Leo.
The clergy present were, Very Rev. Father James, O. F. M., Chatham; Rev. Father Hanlon, St. Michael's, London; Rev. Father Robert, Windsor; Rev. Father Parent, Tilbury; Rev. Father Ford, Maldstone; Rev. Father O'Reilly, C. S. S. R., London; Rev. Father Solanus, O. F. M., Cincinnati; Rev. Father Pierce, Skoney Point; Rev. Father Hermagild, O. F. M., Chatham; Rev. Father Cote, C. S. R., Sandwich; Rev. Father Laurandea, St. Martin's, London; Rev. Father Prosper, O. F. M., Chatham; Rev. Father Neville, Windsor; Rev. Father McCarthy, Ridgeway; Rev. Father Corcoran, St. Mary's, London; Rev. Father Brisson, Leamington; Rev. Father Powell, Toronto.

IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE STUDY

The importance of Bible study among the laity has always been recognized and recommended by the Church, and especially so where religious discussion or conflict has brought any important dogma into controversy. As a repository of Christian truth it has always been given the highest place in the Church, which is why the Bible and Ground of the Faith" (1 Tim. iii, 15). Distorted and misunderstood, it will lead souls astray, but when interpreted by the living Church to which it was committed by the Almighty, and used for edification and spiritual culture, its value to the Christian is very great. As to the grounds special to Catholics in favor of its inspiration, we know of nothing better than what is said by Rev. Francis E. Gigot, S. S., D. D., in his "General Introduction to the Study of the Holy Scriptures," Page 539:

NOT IGNORANT SUPERSTITION

The late Stanley Matthews—a jurist of much power—Senator from Ohio and an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. In 1869, while one of the counsel for defendants in the case of John D. Minor against the Board of Education of Cincinnati, Ohio—case about the Bible in the public schools—made use of these words in his address to the court.
"I will say that from the study which I have made, as time and opportunity have been given me, of the doctrinal basis of the Catholic faith, I am proud to say that it is not an ignorant superstition, but a scheme of well constructed logic, which he is a bold man who says he can easily answer. Give them one proposition, concede to them one single premise, and the whole of their faith follows most legitimately and logically, and that is the fundamental doctrine, the doctrine of what the Church is, what it was intended to be, by Whom it was founded, by Whom it has been perpetuated, being the casnet which contains to day, shining brightly as before the ages, the ever living, actually present body of God teaching and training men for life here and life hereafter."

DIED

O'BRIEN.—On Thursday, Dec. 10, 1914, at the Water Street Hospital, Ottawa, Mr. W. J. O'Brien, of Erinville, Ont. May his soul rest in peace!

BULGER.—At Cobourg, Ont., on Saturday, Dec. 5, 1914, Miss Agnes Jane Bulger, youngest daughter of Mr. James Bulger, Customs Inspector. May her soul rest in peace!

MORNING SALUTATION TO THE SACRED HEART

The following prayer is found among the writings of St. Gertrude: "I adore, praise and salute Thee, O my most sweet Heart of Jesus Christ; fresh and gladdening as the breath of spring, from which, as from a fountain of graces, sweeter than the honeycomb, flows evermore all good and all delights. I thank Thee with all the powers of my heart for having preserved me throughout this night, and for having rendered to God the Father praises and thanksgiving on my behalf. And now, O my sweet Love, I offer Thee my wretched

gave its brightest beams to bring wise men to bow before the Babe in Bethlehem, so when all the stars of science and discovery reach their meridian they will stand over Jesus, in Him natural and revealed religion will find their everlasting harmonies.
If the lay laborer, in his efforts to convince men of the proper relation of the Bible to the Church, cannot open the Holy Scriptures to the inquirer's heart and explain its deep meaning, he can open the inquirer's heart to the Scriptures, and make it responsive to Bible teaching concerning Christian doctrine. Our mission many times is to open the heart to the book. We may lead earnest souls into the presence of the treasure, even if we be unable fully to explain the nature of the treasure. There are others who can do that. The soul, as well as the Scripture, must be earnestly studied by the worker. If all the approaches to the spirit were carefully sought, there would be fewer abandoned wrecks of humanity. We must measure men from the sympathetic standpoint. Those hearts that "burned" on the way to Emmaus opened to Our Blessed Lord's divine words, because as a friend and brother He talked to the two disciples "by the way." Simple, solemn, holy words, spoken here and there, may lead a soul into the treasure-house where riches may be gathered that will made opulent the soul that is perishing in the sterility of the world's deserts.—The Missionary.

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A QUALIFIED NORMAL TRAINED CATHOLIC teacher for Separate school. Duties beginning after Christmas holidays. Apply stating salary to W. Ryan, Box 24, Charlton, Ont. 1881-11

WANTED NORMAL TRAINED TEACHER for Bogart school. Apply to P. Kinlin, Bogart Ontario. 1889-2

WANTED A QUALIFIED TEACHER CAPABLE of teaching English and French for school No. 11, Lancaster. Apply to Armand Froulx, Sec. Treas., Green Valley, Ont. 1889-2

WANTED FEMALE TEACHER FOR C. S. S., No. 3, Raleigh, holding first or second class professional certificate. Duties to commence after holidays. School well located and boarding house convenient. Salary \$375 to \$600. Apply stating experience to L. Waddick, Sec. R. R. No. 6, Chatham, Ont. 1888-11

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TEACHER WANTED, HOLDING FIRST OR second class certificate, for Catholic school, Fort William, Ont. Salary \$600 per year. Duties to commence Jan. 4. Apply to G. P. Smith, Sec., 114 Simpson street, Fort William, Ont. 1888-11.

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