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THE GIVER

That there is "its own reward ' in genuine, generous giving, we sometimes see on this mundane sphere, that " charity begins at home," and the aid of the devil. that shows that there is selfishness in our lavishness. Charity is often money on a receipt in the Bank of himself into an angel of light." Heaven. Many people think that by Let us remember that it is grievgiving here, where the security is uncertain, they are laying up treasures in Heaven, where moth and rust don't corrupt. Those self-indul-

The man, therefore, who elects rather to give much than lose a little or fortune tellers, or that seeketh by fraud is only selfishly considering truth from the dead, for the Lord the balance-sheet of the account. It is quite true that the calculating charity of the grudging hand may bring no reward. "Virtue," according to Cardinal Newman, "brings happiness, but if you aim at the happiness you have not the virtue."

The penurious charity which aims at a reward hereafter may be balked of its object, but it is true, nevertheless, that a good deal of our "giving" the object of our charity, but the receiving hereafter of the fruits of the bread thrown upon the waters of

It is well to remember that, while in the members of society there are base motives, there are moments their superior intelligence, and other when men are angels. The moments may be rare, few and far between, but they come. Still, in the ordinary transactions of life, even in the giving of charity, men are business men, influenced by economic congiderations and in the main we are less for any instruction or argument siderations, and in the main we are less for any instruction or argument all more or less trying to get all we ever to loosen. can. It is, indeed, all to the credit of the good man that he thought better of the furtive footpad than he deserved. We can do no harm by thinking well even of unworthy neighbors, but we can do irreparable injury to ourselves by thinking meanly of all men.

SPIRITISM

system of religious worship. His mind craves to know something of the mysteries of God; and when astrology have had their vogue, and not only among the ignorant, but lousness on the part of the among those renowned for scientific tion and of persecution by the achievement and diplomatic tri-

far as they imply that the life on France, if not as a religious law faithearth is a preparation of the soul for fully observed by everybody, at least a future existence, may become the as a social statute respected by the means for the conversion of some is indeed a moral power to be reck our faith.

It is certain that a large proportion of the alleged facts of spiritualism is capable of the easy explanation of fraud and deception. Yet some mediums, despite their fantastic pretentions, wax wealthy on the superstition of their dupes. They emotion and gratitude the patriotic locate hidden treasures for anyone churches and the synagogs of France; out of 490 pastors of the Lutheran not we presume in touch with a Carnegie library, for a modicum of coin. Again, many of the supposed complained away by ventriloquism, mechanical devices, etc.

of spiritualism are, according to eminent Catholic theologians, to be attributed to praeternatural causes. of Lyons, who was mortally struck

istic hypothesis hold that the cross to his livid lips." spirits appearing are the souls of the

Christianity. The answers, for bishop of Lyons had to enlist laymen to fill the gaps in his decimated example, elicited from the medium clergy. are often subversive of Catholic doc- parish priests. trine, especially of the eternity of punishment in hell.

CONCLUSIONS

It follows, therefore, that spiritubut even in ungenerous giving the alism in its latest developments man whose hand is in his pocket rests on the causality of the evil one. looks for some reward. We know It is a seeking after knowledge by

It is true that some mediums speak of pity and good will and seek regarded by those who indulge in its by blandishments to entrap those secret offices as a depositing of who forget that "Satan transformeth

ously sinful to consult or seek information from evil spirits or to be present at such a consultation. This baneful superstition is no modern the people; he has become an integral gences, by which we make up for outgrowth, for amongst the abomina part of it. much that we may have done amiss tions mentioned in Deuteronomy as by giving much to the poor, is still a abhorred by God is the very one of popular receipt for comfort in one's seeking knowledge from the dead. Let not there be found among you soldiers, one that consulteth phythonic spirits school of the Republic, should, befortune tellers, or that seeketh fore preparing for assault, receive abhorreth all these things."

We are told that the spiritistic phenomena which baffle the investigator are due to some undiscovered scientific law. But it is well to remember that many of the phen- lain of the division, whose hand omena are opposed to laws that govern true science. For example, one fixed axiom is that the effect cannot exceed the cause which produced it. When we see a bit of wood, the heroic work of the nuns. has for its object not the relieving of a tripod rapping out answers to questions, the conclusion is inevitable, that an intelligent being has communicated its powers to the wood that appears to give the answer.

When the demons, as it has been said, who by their fall have not lost gifts essential to their nature, counterfeit the ways and manner of a deceased friend of those who invoke

THE NEW SPIRIT IN THE FRENCH CHURCH

The Church of France, in the course of this war, has had the "op-portunity of showing its mettle," says Georges Goyau, the famous church historian; and he adds: "It s revealing to the country the real The nature of man requires some place it occupies in the national life."

Mr. Goyau was the author of the remarkable article in The Literary 18 on the relationship between the German and this craving is not satisfied by Christian revelation it runs into various Deux Mondes (Paris), he presents forms of superstition. Magic and another lucid article on the Catholic question, this time treating of the rebirth of French Catholicism now spiritualism has its votaries, after nearly half a century of calernment. Waldeck-R usseau, the former Premier of France, in a speech before the French Senate in 1903, The teachings of spiritualism, in so stated that "Catholicism survives in minds to the fundamental truths of oned with, declares Mr. Goyau, "and when the war-tocsin throughout the land, when the hour of death had been welcomed as an old dear friend, all misunderstandings of the past melted away, and now for fully twenty-eight months the Church could again place itself at

the disposal of France. Professor Goyau also relates with impart peace, furnish happiness, sacrifices made by the Protestant and Reformed persuasions 180 are in the trenches; all students of Paris Rabbinical Seminary and more munications of disembodied spirits than three fifths of the officiating are fraudulent, and have been exfront; two of them were killed, one

is missing. When, after this war is over, our But it seems beyond all reasonable doubt that some of the phenomena martyrology, Catholic witnesses will rise to glorify their dead. The whole Catholic press rendered a well-de served homage to Chief Rabbi Bloch, Writers who adopt the spirit. by a German bullet while he attended a dying Catholic soldier, holding the

After these prefatory remarks the departed. This opinion, however, author traces, in his inimitable style, appears to be at variance with the a picture of the life and activity of appears to be at variance with the principles of revealed religion. For the principles of revealed religion. For the principle of revealed religion. the physical phenomena are often One third of its priesthood followed priest's place is the church,' requested

Bishops have become again

"Eleven young French monks, surprised by the German invasion in their convent in the grand duchy of Luxemburg, disguised themselves, walked stealthily into Belgium, and from there to France, immediately joining their barracks. Dominicans and Jesuits vie with each other in patriotic devotion. The Church, cheerfully accepting the abrogation of its time-honored immunities, with a noble gesture commanded the young priests to shoulder their rifles. Your parish,' explained the Cardinal-Archbishop of Reims, Monseigneur Lucon, to his priests, is henceforth your regiment, your trench, your ambulance. Love it as you have loved your Church. Perhaps you will be buried on the battle field. What of it? Why should we priests not give of our blood?' Thus, the priest is no longer isolated from The Dominican sergeants and Jesuit lieutenants have built the bridge. And who, on the other hand, would have believed, a short three years ago, that a company of French educated in the godless

absolution on their knees?" A parallel case to this kneeling company receiving absolution is the this: it made of France one large scene in the Bois d'Argonne, of March united family, a real Union Sacrée, of a regiment, marching to the attack, sivic concord through the harmony of souls."—Literary Digest. bowed themselves before the repre-sentative of God, de Chabrol, chapwhile the guns were thundering, made the sign of the redemption." This is a textual quotation from an order of the day by the commanding general.

Mr. Goyau does not forget, either, Gerbéviller, when the village was in flames and a German officer was going to give the order to burn down the Red. Cross pavillon, Sister Julia placed herself before the lieutenant and with superb courage defied him to commit the sacrilege. The Bavarian, taken aback, bowed his head and the pavillon was saved.

Not less courageous was Sister Gabriela, of Clermont en-Argonne. The army of the Crown, Prince arrived there at the end of August, 1914.

'We will take care of your wound the word of a German officer can not be relied upon." The town was saved and 25 French wounded prisoners owed their lives to the plucky sister, who, in April, 1916, received the war-medal, "the major making his little congratulatory speech while I was completing the bandage of my poor poilu whose head was resting on my lap," Professor Goyau quoting verbatim the report of the decorated

nun. Fifty-nine priests and seminarists of the Paris diocese received their crosses under similar conditions; the natural love of the soil and the love of the Church, combined, produce heroic souls of a peculiarly noble blending. The older when towns and counties were revived, if only for a short time, at some places, such as Meaux, shortly before the battle on the Marne. On September 3, 1914, the armies of von Kluck were expected any moment, and the civil authorities fled, took possession of the City Hall and with a rare skill organized the various municipal services. Generals Joffre and Gallieni had stopped the triumphal onslaught of the German September 9, the civil authorities returned to Meaux and Mayor Marbeaux gave in his resignation. Similar was the situation in Soissons and Chalonssur-Marne; the cathedrals again became civic

"But our priests, in the midst of the brutal butchery, are not unmindful of the Savior's advice to love even our enemies-above all, if the latter are in great stress themselves. Thus Rev. Landrieux, of the Cathedral of Reims, while the church was burning, saved from its ruins at the risk of his life a group of wounded German soldiers. The enraged population was going to lynch You will have to kill me first,' said

the courageous priest. Words fail to describe as they deserve the deeds of Bishop Lobbed-eye, of Arras, and his clergy. The tradition of the catacombs revived; a cellar was transformed into a church, and here the bishop read his Mass. The priests threw off their soutanes become police and firemen, moving-men, and grave-diggers. One of them, de Bonnières, of noble birth, went every morning, braving the bullets which whistled about his ears. into the suburbs begging the soldiers for the left-overs from their meals to distribute these pittances among the

starving poor of Arras. "Thus, before the enemy the old union of Church and State had been effected. The same population, the same Government, which before the War had adopted the slogan, 'The an accumulation of horrors has there

thing was forgotten. Who cares now, exclaimed Cardinal Savin for the religious misunderstandings, political quarrels, and personal rivalries of the past! France first!

Schools, asylums, hospitals, containing in great numbers are in ruins"—

"Many a parish lost its pastor."

And speaking of the deportations (which are saill going on) he says: United by the common danger, we learned to know and respect one the other, and after the War we will solve the grave problems which had separ-ated us before the War. Our victory were put to death. One of them, the will be our main ally in this future parish priest of Golrode, suffered, I

work of pacification.' that great religious manifestation at Paris during the Battle of the Marne And there where lives were not taken, week, in honor of St. Geneviève, the patron of the French capital. She ings were not thrown down what divine protectors of France. The people of Paris fell on their knees all commerce at an end, all careers on the famous heights of Montmartre | ruined; industry at a the past, a place historical in the annals of France. Even the skeptics humble servant-girls without the tion of the religious spirit. France again remembered that she had once been the 'eldest daughter of the

none less than our grand old man, Alexandre Ribot, Secretary of the Treasury, spontaneously declared in the French parliament that the French clergy, poor as it is, has laid its savings on the national altar in the shape of generous subscriptions to the various war-loans. This War, cruel as it is, has at least achieved , 1916, when "the successive waves and the priest is anxious to seal this

AGONY OF CATHOLIC BELGIUM

FACTS TO BE RECALLED AND REMEMBERED

By Captain D. D. Sheehan, M. P. I have read and studied most of the outstanding literature connected with the world-war and to me it has always appeared that the famous Pastoral letter of His Eminence Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of Malines and Primate of Belgium, was, perhaps, the most remarkable product of intensity of thought, profundity of feeling and the anxiety born of a great suffering. It sounds the highest and purest note of Christian duty; it is the essence and sublimity of Cathoric teaching. I read it when it was first issued to the faithful Catholic fold of Belgium at Christmas, 1914, and it left such a profound impression upon my memory that I have often thought

But a short four months of "suffering and mourning" had passed when Cardinal Mercier addressed himself to his people yet into this brief space the Germans had crowded so many infamies against Christianity and humanity that the tender heart of the saintly prelate was wrung with grief.

It was in Rome itself," he writes, "that I received the tidings — stroke after stroke—of the partial destruc-tion of the Cathedral Church of Louvain, next to the burning of the Library and of the scientific installations of our great University and of the devastation of the city, and part of the wholesale shooting of citizens and tortures inflicted upon women and children and upon unarmed and undefended men."

He gives us some idea of the anguish which rent his heart was," he says, "compelled to lock my grief within my own afflicted heart and to carry it, with the thought of you, which never left me, to the foot of the Crucifix."

And then he tells us how he craved courage and light and he expresses in beautiful language the thoughts that consoled him so that they might console also his pastoral Next he comes, simply and care. directly, to tell his people what is the duty and what may be their That duty he expresses in two words: Patriotism and Endur-

A striking dictum is this: "For in truth our soldiers are our saviours."
Not alone, as he clearly shows, the saviours of Belgium but the saviours of Europe. The Catholic historian of the future, judging on a wider and clearer perspective, may very well indeed arrive at the conclusion that Catholic Belgium saved Christianity

and Catholicity alike. "A first time at Liege they saved France; a second time in Flanders they arrested the advance of the upon Calais, France and England know it and Belgium stands before them both and before the entire world as a nation of heroes.

In noble words he describes the tribulations of her people: "Better PREJUDICE SWERVE HIM than any other man, perhaps, do I know what our unhappy country has These last four undergone. . . . These last four months have seemed to me age-long. been mown down; wives, mothers, see again; hearths are desolate, dire poverty spreads, anguish increases.

This was four months after the commencement of the War. not been since then?

trivial and degrading, and the whole the call of their country. The Paris the cooperation of the clergy. And the whole tendency of this dangerous super-tendency of the contract of the contra

stition is opposed to the teaching of five of its members. The Cardinal-Archithing was forgotten. 'Who cares schools, asylums, hospitals, convents that "such grounds have no bearing (which are still going on) he says:
"History will tell of the physical and moral torments of their long martyr. "In my diocese alone, I know dom.'

believe, a veritable martyrdom. Forever memorable will remain We can neither number our dead and Joan of Arc became again the anguish unrevealed, families hitherto the mountain of the saint martyrs of thousands upon thousands of work Even the skeptics humble servant-girls without the thanked the Church for its resuscita- means of earning their bread; and poor souls forlorn on the bed of sicklong, how long?'

Will not the recapitulation of these horrors give Catholics in neutral countries cause to think? What hope could there be for the future of Catholicity, from the Power that murdered priests, destroyed convents and put defenceless men and women to the sword?

Cardinal Mercier bitterly sorrows of Protestants. Thus: over the afflictions of his people, but whilst sorrowing also exults: "God will save Belgium. Nay, rather, he saving her. Across the smoke of conflagration, across the stream of blood, have you not glimpses, do you not perceive signs of His love for us. Is there a patriot among us who does not know that Belgium has grown Nay, which of us would have the heart to cancel this last page of

our national history?"

To those who doubt the crime of Germany in forcing this War upon humanity let them hearken to the ringing indictment of this great and reverent Catholic Prince: "When on reverent Catholic Prince: the second of August a mighty foreign power, confident in its own strength, and defiant of the faith of treaties dared to threaten us in our independence then did all Belgians, without difference of party, or of condition, or of origin, rise up as one man, close-ranged about their own King, and their own Government, and cry to the invader, "Thou shalt not go through.'

So that Cardinal Mercier, upon the faith of his ecclesiastical dignity, clearly fixed the guilt of a wanton aggression upon Germany. And nobly he answers those who reasoned that a mere verbal protest against hostile aggression or a single cannonshot on the frontier would serve as a rotest. "Mere utilitarianism is no sufficient rule of Christian citizenship" is his splendid teaching. He refers to the treaty of 19th

April, 1639, to which the King of Prussia was a party, which decreed that Belgium should form a separate and perpetually neutral state, and comments: "Belgium was bound in honour to defend her own independence. She kept her oath. The other Powers were bound to ity. Germany violated her oath.
England kept hers." And with a note of absolute finality Cardinal declared

Then he defines the duty of a Catholic State in those circumstances The laws of conscience are sovereign laws. We should have acted worthily had we evaded our obligation by a mere faint of resistance And now we would not rescind our first resolution-we exult in it And as long as we are required to give proof of endurance so long we shall

What a magnificent, what a supreme example Belgium is of a nation affected by apprehension and is struggling for the right against a more or less free from prejudice for most powerful and unscrupulous oppressor. Even the Pope is inspired to bless and pity them. "We behold," he says, "the King and his august family, the members of the Government, the chief persons of the country, bishops, priests and a whole people enduring woes which must fill with pity all gentle hearts.

Catholic Belgium still endures these woes in multiplied form. Cardinal Mercier shows that Germany is the author of all these wees and

War for the sake of War, such as Germany wages, Cardinal Mercier describes as a crime. And against this crime it is the clear and emphatic duty of all Christian and Catholic people to protest.

REBUKES BIGOTS

Mayor Frank H. Ackert of West Hoboken, N. J., has been warmly commended for his action in teach-By thousands have our brave ones ing a much needed lesson to a number of people representing ther been mown down; wives, mothers, are weeping for those they shall not selves as "a committee of a patriotic organization," which wished to protest against the appointment by the Mayor of Rev. Conrad Eiben, What as a member of the West Hoboken Free Library Board. The objection was made solely on the ground of

any religion is the same to me if his other qualifications are equal. If there was any doubt in my mind regarding the appointment of Father Conrad, it has now been done away with because of these objections on religious grounds. It is not because of his religion that Father Conrad will be appointed to the board, but because of his ability to conduct the affairs that come before that body. I will certainly insist now that he take the appointment." - Catholic

THE CHURCH AND BILLY SUNDAY

Opposition was voiced against Sunday by Catholics of Boston, the resident Cardinal issuing a mandate forbidding attendance at the meetness and fever crying "Oh Lord, how ings. The Pilot, the Catholic paper, echoes Cardinal O'Connell in declaring that " Catholics are not allowed to take part in these revival meetings, and if they do they commit sin." The Rev. Joseph H. McMahon, speaking before the Catholic Library Association in New York, brings forward a criticism that the Brooklyn Eagle recommends to the attention

There is strong evidence that Sunday deliberately makes himself an instrument of capitalists for the purpose of keeping working people contented and submissive under injustice. There was never a word of comfort or encouragement for the workingman in his struggle for fair treatment

At the same time the priest points out that prototypes of Sunday's sensationalism are to be found in the bis tory of his own Church. As The Eagle reports and comments on Father McMahon:

about five hundred years ago St. Vincent Ferrer, born in Valencia, evangelized Provence and then Lom bardy, speaking in squares and open places, and followed from town to town by hundreds of penitents; or that Bernardino, of Sienna, of a little later period, though born only thirty years after St. Vincent, preached years after St. through the rich and luxurious cities of North Italy in public market-

places, that penitents 'flocked to con-fession like ants,' and that bonfires were started into which the rich flung the vanities of life. as Rector McMahon said, the Jesuits were glad to be considered fools and jesters that, by their play, they could attract crowds to whom they could then speak their hearts upon religion.' The clergyman added

Nay, right down to the beginning of the present war, Catholic priests in England rang bells on the street, carried banners, and did sensational things in Hyde Park in order to gather audiences.

Waiving, then, the issue about sensationalism, the priest was free to compliment Sunday on his knowledge of the psychology of a crowd, The erection of this church is due on his business management, on his largely to the generosity of Count system, at the same time that he Gregory and his people who are These are the and said, the suspicions that gather requiem Mass for the repose of the round him of being a mere money souls of French soldiers and sailors this man, who assuredly is a phen- many of whom were Corsicans.

We are glad to see criticism taking such a form. Primarily, Billy Sunday is not using his movement as a propaganda to convert, or pervert, Roman Catholics. We doubt whether the movement has had such an effect in its working out anywhere. Hence the view of a broad Roman Catholic thinker is not or against Sundayism. Such a view is well worth Protestant consideration. It compels the attention of thinking people."—Literary Digest.

BACK TO THE CHURCH

DESCENDANTS OF APOSTATES RETURN TO THE FOLD

There is something strange, most weird, about the way most weird, about the way the descendants of apostates get back est examinations ever held for

Within a few decades the last lineal descendants of the union of Martin Luther and Katherine Bora have and become Catholics. There are Catholic Luthers in several places Pennsylvania and Ohio, and a Bene dictine priest, Father Aloysius Luther, in Baltimore, Md.

The last lineal descendant of John Knox, leader of Calvinism in Scotland, and at one time the tutor of poor little Edward VI., of England, lied a brother of the Holy Cross of Notre Dame, Ind. His name in religion was Brother Joseph, but previously he was also John Knox .-Catholic Transcript.

One pound of learning requires ten pounds of common sense to apply

it.—Persian Proverb. Temptation sinks as easily into a soul without prayer as human foot-steps into the sand on the sea shore. -Columba O'Donnell.

CATHOLIC NOTES

The Little Sisters of the Poor founded in 1840, have now charge of 307 houses in different parts of the These houses shelter 48,000 aged men and women.

It is a significant fact that even among the Jews there has been among the Jews there has been recently expressed a desire for church unity. For the first time in the history of Jewry (American) it has been proposed to unite the Reformed and Orthodox Churches.

A marble bust of His Holiness, the only one in the United States, is to be presented to the Denver Cathedral by Verner Z. Reed, the eminent non Catholic millionaire, and father of two converts to the Church.

Rev. George J. Waring, U. S. army chaplain, stationed on Governor's Island, New York, while in Rome recently secured from Pope Benedict XV., the Apostolic Benediction for "The Army of America." His Holiness also bestowed on Father Waring the medal, "Pro Ecclesia et Pon

It was recently reported in a Munich newspaper that the late Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria-Hungary left his entire fortune, amounting to \$12,000,000 in all, for the care of wounded and crippled soldiers, and for the support of the widows and orphans of the war.

Castlewellan castle in County Down has been almost entirely destroyed by fire. Castlewellan was a splendid granite structure, nest ling among the mountains of the old kingdom of Mourne, the estate including within its borders the quaint old town of Castlewellan as well as the Irish seaside resort and port of Newcastle in County Down.

Through the death of Mgr. N. ther McMahon:

Marzolini, Secretary to the Cardination of us did not recall that nalitial Commission for the administration of the goods of the Holy See, a historic figure has passed away. After a prolonged illness the last of the ecclesiastics who were intimately connected with Pope Leo XIII. has died in the Vatican Palace. Mgr. Nazzareno Marzolini enjoyed the confidence and esteem of three Popes, viz., Leo XIII., Pius X., and Benedict XV., by each of whom he was promoted to positions of trust.

Catholic Venice is about to erect a memorial church dedicated to Our Lady, in thanksgiving for having preserved the city so far from grave disasters from air and sea attacks and to beg her intercession for continued protection. Recently a meet ing was held in the Basilica of St. Mark to promote the plan. The Cardinal Patriarch presided and the chief authorities, civil and military, were present. Substantial sums were present. have been promised already for the building.

Monsignor Simeone, Bishop of Ajaccio, Corsica, recently consecrated a beautiful new church in that place dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes. gatherer impair the usefulness of who lost their lives in the War and

> According to the Tablet, London, England, the Dublin Review will hereafter be controlled by an international editorial committee. English committee consists of Mr. Shane Leslie Canon Barry, Father Martindale, Sir Bertram Windle, and Mr. Robert Wilberforce. In order that Catholic thought and feeling in America may be better represented the above committee will be assisted by the work of Cardinal Gibbons, the Very Reverend Dr. Fay, and Mr. Schuyler Warren.

To fill an original vacancy created by the act of Congress of June 2, 1916, (National Defense Act) Rev. Julius J. Babst has recently been appointed a chaplain in the United States army, to rank from January 3, Father Babst, who 1917. from Denver, Col., was examined by a board of officers at Fort Logan, Col. appointment of chaplains. He will have the rank of first lieutenant, when confirmed by the Senate and his commission signed by President, he will be assigned to a station

The award of the Distinguished Service Cross to the Rev. Father Anthony H. Pollen, S. J., is announced in the list of the British Anthony naval honors recently issued. Father Pollen, who is fifty-six years of age, although himself severely burned, carried men whose injuries from the same cause were of a still more serious kind from the battery deck to the distributing station on board the Warspite in the battle of Jutland. The heroic chaplain is the second son of the late Mr. John Hungerford Pollen, who became a convert under the influence of the Tractarian movement. Two of his others are well known members of the Society of Jesus, and a third brother is Mr. Arthur H. Pollen, the naval writer and lecturer.