REVIEW OF THE YEAR "What manner of people ought you to be in holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of the Lord?" (2 Pet, iii, 11, 12.)

To day, my dear brethren, we pass another milestone on the way of life. We can count how many we have passed; God alone can tell how many more or how few we have to pass by before the end. We cannot help it, but the ending help it, but the ending of each year makes us think of the ending of our life. How many lives have ended this last twelve months which a year this last twelve months which a year ago had no more appearance of being near the end than our own had! How many of those lives were suddently ended without time to put their souls in order! If they had dently ended without time to put their souls in order! If they had only known a year ago they would have acted so differently. Let us, then, my dear brethren, be wise in time, and do now what we shall have wished to have done when we come in the common time. The Khine, and without time to put they had only known a year ago they would have to see there, and had reached the goal which used to be spoken of as a grim jest in the dugouts near ypres and on the Somme, when it seemed easier time, and do now what we shall have wished to have done when we come wished to have done when we come

ly, I am afraid that we shall all have o own, in that retrospect stand out our sine, our offences, negligences, and infidelities. To some, even mortal sins will loom out like giants in the past. Their glamour has gone, their enticement, the joy and pleasure we thought we should get from them, and now, with a dull, aching regret, we wonder why we ever com-mitted them. And to others their venial sins and imperfections, count-less as the Egyptian plague of flies, rise up. What utter carelessness and worldly-mindedness must have been ours! Lost in such numbers. can we tell how near to mortal sin many of them may have been Even to the very best enough sinfulness rises up to cause the keenest regret, and forces the humiliating confession that we are but unprofitable servants.

Sorrow for the past sin is our first duty to-day—not mere general sor-row, but sorrow for that especially, which we see now has been a peril, and perhaps caused ruin to us this

And in looking back we see a crowd, we may call it, of quite different things. And what are these? God's graces and blessings and favours this last twelve months. But how they vary! Yes, my brethren, some are received with grateful thanks, and treasured and made good use of. And those are the beautiful ones we see amongst them-bright. spotless, and heavenly as they came from God's loving hand. And the others, torn, stained, as if dragged through the mire and trampled on, beautiful, costly robes of grace, how is it that they have come to Look at them, and you will remember them. Those are the mission graces that you cast aside; those are confraternity blessings, which you forfeited by infidelty to the regulations; those are for morning's Mass and Sunday Benedictions; and those most costly ones were for the Holy Communions that you might have made, that you knew our Blessed Lord wanted you to make, and you

would not. God's merciful graces of the past twelve menths, what gratitude they call for, and what an earnest resolution that this year, with God's help there will be no wasted ones, neglect-ed ones, despised ones by us!

The view of our sins and of God's graces impre s one thought upon our minds-the necessity of doing better this coming year. The past may fill some hearts with fear; unless we strive we may be quite certain that the next year will be worse still. year they have ever spent, if this were to be their final year on earth, would they not wish it to be better still? Surely no one would be content to Surely no one would be content to say, "I stake my claim to heaven on this last year." We could all find plenty to improve on if we knew for sure that it was our last. Is it not nough, my dear bretbren, not to know but what it may be our last? Then let us be in earnest lest it happen to

There are two grave mistakes, one or the other of which is frequently made. Delay, putting amendment off to another year, is the first great danger. It makes so little of God's warning; it is most insulting to His Divine Majesty. "What manner of people ought you to be in holy conpeople ought you to be in holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of the Lord"? Delaying is such a callous offence. Our Blessed Lord does not want death to overtake us in our sins; He has warned us that at the hour we think not the Son of man will come. And yet men delay Man have always done it. St. Peter says the same thing: "The Lord dealeth patiently for your sake, not willing that any should perish, but that all should return to penance. But the day of the Lord shall come as a thief." (2 Pet. iii. 9, 10)

The second mistake is to think that we can make the desired improvement of ourselves by our own powers When we have found year follow year and no improvement, but per haps steadily growing worse, and yet we had seemed to try, it was all this mistake trusting to ourselves.

The wise thing to do is humbly to pray to God to give us the goodwill to start, and the power to go on and accomplish. We know what we need from the review of our sins and of and then it began to revive again.

God's graces, used and abused. Both the goodwill and the accomplishing come frem God. Let us ask these graces so that we may start the New and the accomplishing come frem God. Let us ask these graces so that we may start the New and the accomplishing come frem God. Let us ask these graces so that we may start the New coices of a happy home.—Spalding-

FIVE MINUTE SERMON Year well, and may we at the end, please God, be able to look back and see that we have made good use of these graces—the goodwill to start, the power and energy to accomplish

COLOGNE

The British Army of Occupation entered Cologne on Friday, Dec. 6. British cavalry rode to the swing bridge, which replaced the old bridge of boats and posted sentries.

Philip Gibbs, in a dispatch to the

New York Times from Cologne on Dec. 7, said:
"I walked on the bridge this

morning, and, leaning ever it, looked down on the waters of the Rhine, river—and this was so to many thou-sands of Britishers three years ago. We shall wish that we had looked lack and taken a serious review of how the last year will stand the test of God's judgment. Most prominent to day would have seemed a fantasly, I am afraid that we shall all have were the Hussars with their sentries keeping guard, and down below the bridges on the quayside some of the British men were cleaning their machine guns in the centre of a German crowd, and in the streets were some of their armored cars, at

which the people of Cologne stared from tramcars and sidewalks." Mr. Gibbs, on asking the sentry what the Germans who spoke to him said, was told that one German remarked: "So you have wound up as the 'Watch on the Rhine?"

From outside Cologne before the British entry Mr. Gibbs sent a dis-patch which said that the Burgomaster of Cologne had sent word that he desired the British to enter sooner than had been planned be-cause of the disorder of sailors after the retiring of the Germans to the

west.
"Every man of high or low estate doffs his hat when he meets a British officer," wrote Mr. Gibbs, "and if one stops to make inquiry of the German civilians, many of whom were German officers until a week ago, they answer with the utmost

politeness.
"Defeat and revolution with which beteat and revolution with which they are threatened and fear of worse things that may happen have made the German people painfully anxious to abide by the rules of occupation and get on the right side of those who now have the power of life and leath over them. This fear and tremendous relief that bloodshed had tremendous relief that bloodshed had finished, and perhaps also the hope of a new era of liberty released from Prussian militarism, has changed amazingly the attitude of these people of the Rhineland toward the English. There is no more Gott strafe England.' Again and again during the last few days I have heard German people say, 'Thank God the English have come,' and I believe they say that with sincerity."

The Rathaus' or Town Hall, which was in the hands of the revelution

was in the hands of the revolution-ists before the British entered, is in the old section of Cologne. It stands on the substructure of a Roman stronghold, some remains of the arches of which are visible in the cellar. At Cologne the famous cathedral overshadows everything, the best view of which is had by crossing the Cathedral Bridge. The cathedral was begun in 1248 and completed in 1880. It is said originally to have been a shrine for the relics of the Magi. The foundation stone for the cathedral was laid by Conrad of Hochstaden, but the work progressed slowly because of quarthe next year will be worse some Even at the very best, suppose some citizens. Enthusiasm for the building of that the last has been the best fifteenth century and all hope of see-influence completed was abaning the building completed was aban. doned. The uncompleted structure became dilapidated and in 1796 the French took possession of it. A hundred years later the national spirit of the people caused work again to be begun on it and it was finally carried to completion.

colony of the Ubit, a German tribe that was forced to take to the left it is purely instinctive. And it is one bank of the Rhine by Agrippa in 38 B. C. Here Nero was born to Julia Agrippina, daughter of Germanicus, married to Claudius Casar. Agrippina almost rebuilt the entire city and established a colony of Roman veterans there under the name of Colonia Agrippina, That accounts for the origin of the name of Cologne, Koln to the Germans.

An important settlement in ancient history; it is said to have been the scene of a wooden bridge built by Julius Cæsar, and in 308 A. D. it was replaced by one of stone by Constantine.

Cologne was taken from Rome by the Franks in 462 A. D. and fro there both Clovis and Pepin ascended the throne of France. It was an nexed to the empire four hundred years later. During the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries the city was subsistence from the extention of a subsistence from the extention of a subsistence from the extention of a subsistence from the extent to the intrinciples of character development. a scene of great struggles between the nobles and the guilds, but by the beginning of the sixteenth century the differences were settled and Cologne became prosperous. Sub-sequently a decline set in. The French under General Jourdan captured the city in 1794 and incorpor.

government may destroy a whole ated it with France by the treaty of Campo Formio. In 1814 it was held eradicated. Faultfinding is the essenby the Russians, and the following year it was ceded back to Prussia,

and then it began to revive again.

and destroying it depends mostly our successful development. So in the end it appears that faultfinding is essentially one of our most construc-tive activities. One of our worst faults is the hypocritical practice of finding fault with faultfinding.—F. H. Young in Providence Journal.

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FAULTFINDING

A FORM OF CRITICISM THAT

OFTEN PRODUCES GOOD

RESULTS

admit that faultfinding can be con-

structive, or that it is anything but a

selfish and deplorable indulgence that accomplishes nothing but the mental and spiritual discomfort of those that hear it. And yet it is

probable that the majority of people find fault with conditions with more

or less regularity. How many are there who each night are able to say, without stretching or distorting the

gress and betterment. We have con-

with regard to our own conduct, or

we get nowhere. The man who is never self-critical is bound to deterior-

ate, and if he is not discriminatingly critical in his attitude, he is sure to

develop into a weak worm bruised by

of critics and faultfinders. The two

although there is a tendency to con-

values should be gained, and they

can be gained only by this deliberate

many heels.

measurement.

crops can be expected.

"I have been conscious only

The carbolic odour in Lifebuoy is a sign of its protective qualities—vanishing quickly after use

Toronto, Ont.

HEALTH SOAP

1918-TIME'S LAMENT-1919

And must I die?—and will you thrust me from you? Will change you lure till changeless death o'ercome you?

Shall newness win with every change of raiment,
And proven worth go begging for a claimant?-You

loved me once!—Recall our spring of wooing,— heavens sang and earth was blossoms strewing,— And vows of sweeter breath ne'er sped to heaven,
Nor souls were yet in fonder bondage

weave a blessing, Each hurt of life with heaven's hope

caressing :-I laughed with you and sang and danced your pleasure; I wept with you and sorrows bore

in measure;
I dreamed your dreams and built your rainbow bridges, I climbed with you life's far and

rugged ridges;
And strove to lead your falt'ring footsteps higher, My love's embrace to God should lift you nigher. So went my life. Can love be more

and greater? But I must die. Lament for me comes later.

I see her come, who takes my place with smiling.

Her beauty's bloom your senses fresh beguiling.
Ah, love her well! And wisely love and better; That wayward heart, let once it own

love's fetter.

It tires, though present good be God's best making,
It strays so far, when wings of fancy taking.

How much of life to barenness is

wasted,
What sweetness spurned, when One determined editorial optimist emarked the other day: "We don't scarce the cup was tasted?
Alas, I die! A prayer my love's last One determined editorial optimist remarked the other day: "We don't want to believe that there is any such thing as constructive faultfinding." That shows a fairly popular point of view. Their is a disinclination to Give love to her in faith that knows

no swerving,
The bride that comes with New
Year's waking splendor, And clasps your hand and smiles on

-FLAVIAN LARBES, O. F. M.

CHAGRIN, RANCOR OR THREAT?

There are those who would have us believe that bigotry is dead, that the War has leveled the antagonism of the good in life today and have found fault with nothing"? to Catholicity, and that the fraterniz-The truth of the matter is that faultfinding is a perfectly rational ing of camp and fighting companionship has brought us a new and and common-sense procedure and that it is of vital importance to probetter era of religious toleration. Unfortunately, however, the signs and the facts do not conduce to such stantly to exercise the critical faculty

a conviction.

Recently Cincinnati had a War Chest Drive. In the Christian Stan-dard of that city appeared an editorial reference to the work, which is not without its lesson, nor without direct bearing on after-the war anti-Catholic animosity. Here is the

There is much to be said in behalf statement: The Catholic Church, in particuwords are by no means synonymous, lar, will stand out in the open as a political organization which, during the entire length of the War, left no fuse them. Criticism is really nothing more or less than appraisal, which takes merit into account as stone unturned to advance Papal in terests. The sentiment against the preponderance of faults or merits. greater vigor than ever before in By this process some idea of inherent our country's history. And among the charges to be preferred against the Catholic Church after the War the Catholic Church after the War will be her peculiar participation in finally carried to completion.

The site of Cologne once housed a colony of the Ubit, a German tribe that was forced to take to the colony of the colony of the colony of the Ubit, and the colony of

of the most beneficent instincts that the reasoning human animal has been endowed with for the very reason that it is protective. Without

been endowed with for the very reason that it is protective. Without it the race might have been choked to death by its growing insidious evils ages ago. Progress has been that the Catholic youth of the country is ages ago. Progress has been that the Catholic youth of the country is ages ago. Progress has been that the Catholic youth of the country is agont that the Catholic youth of the country is agont that the Catholic youth of the decrease of the catholic youth of the decrease of the catholic youth of the country is agont you have a set of the catholic youth of the decrease of the catholic youth of the country is agont you have a set of the catholic youth yo possible not only because of the vastly outnumbered any of the dephilosophers who discerned the good nominations, but made up almost half possible not only because of the philosophers who discerned the good in life and set their faces toward it, but because of the equally wise men who devoted themselves to finding fault with existing conditions and raising a clamor over what ought to be eliminated.

Paylife ding of course is whelly vastly outnumbered any of the demominations, but made up almost half themen in service? Was it to mominations, but made up almost half themen in service? Was it the head of the British forces? Was it to advance Papal interests that Foch was made Commander of the Allied armies? Was it to advance of the Allied armies? Was it to advance papal interests that the Vastlean we e eliminated.
Faultfinding, of course, is wholly Papal interests that the Vatican restructive, or at least it is aimed at mained unmovably neutral, seeking destructive, or at least it is aimed at destruction, but that is almost invarionly the end of the war? Was it to advance Papal interest that the Roman Hierarchy by every possible means supported to the utmost the American government in every war undertak-ing? Was it to advance Papal interests that the Catholic clergy and laity showed equal loyalty? Was it to ad-vance Papal interests that the Knights of Columbus but had everything free tricacies of character development. People have to find the faults in themselves before they can hope to spet very far, and unless they are relentlessly alers to the faults in for soldiers without distinction conditions they are in danger of starying to death. Faults in national a time desist? creed until conniving made them for

Strange participations, these indeed of a political organization. But not eradicated. Faultfinding is the essential of successful agriculture. The weeds must be destroyed before good crops can be expected.

other reason, according to the evident intent of the Christian Standard, than because the Protestant churches failed to keep pace with the wonderful work of the Church of Rome through out the war. Here the reason, too, that has aroused chagrin, rancor and threat against us. They may call it Christianity, but it bears the devil's brand.-Church Progress.

BELGIUM AND AMERICA

BELGIANS' LOVE FOR AMERICA CAUSES CONGREGATION TO CHEER AT FERVICES

The love which Belgium bears towards America and the deep regard in which the United States Minister, Brand Whitlock, is held, were evinced Nor souls were yet in fonder bondage given!

And I gave all:—each hour should giving for Belgium's newly found

The old church was crowded for the rite, which was conducted by Cardinal Mercier. The royal family, members of the cabinet and the

war, will come forth anew, and with greater vigor than ever before in our service was the most impressive and country's history." And why? For no beautiful ever seen in Brussels, most service was the most impressive and beautiful ever seen in Brussels, most of the great congregation being

of the great congregation being moved to tears.

At the conclusion of the Te Deum, a band, which had been specially provided started to play the Belgian national anthem, but their overwrought emotions quickly carried them into cheering, which was probably the first time in history that such a thing had occurred within the walls of the sanctuary.

The king and queen and Cardinal Mercier were all acclaimed in mighty volume. Then, after the cheering for

volume. Then, after the cheering for these beloved figures, came the ringing cry "Vive l'Amerique!" A ing cry "Vive l'Amerique!" A moment later, as Minister Whitlock passed down the aisle towards the

Hennessey

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