

Random Notes and Gleanings.

LORD ROSEBERY - IN ROME. - A most interesting paragraph appears in an English Catholic paper concerning the recent visit of Lord Rosebery to the Pope. What a contrast with the President of a supposed Catholic country who goes to Rome and ignores the Vicar of Christ. Here is the simple and edifying account: "The Earl of Rosebery requested a private audience of the Pontiff out of his regard for the person of the Holy Father, whom he had not yet seen. He had no errand or commission, but merely this quite personal desire. His audience was as satisfactory as his anticipations had been pleasant. He reached the Vatican from the British Embassy at about midday on Wednesday, May 4. His audience lasted eight or ten minutes. Mgr. Pfror, D.D., who introduced him to the Pope remained during the interview and acted as interpreter, for His Holiness spoke in Italian. After the Papal audience, the visitors left the Papal apartment from the Clementine Hall and passed out through the loggias, where were assembled upwards of seven hundred pilgrims from Palombara Sabina, a poor village of the Roman Campagna, lying towards Tivoli. The assemblage was very striking, the country people being in characteristic costumes. It was also composed of persons of every age, from infants to greybeards. Lord Rosebery was much struck by the presence and evident freedom of these people in the Royal Vatican of their Father, and the memory of the sight and thought which the strange throng presented will remain among the most vivid of the impressions of his present visit to the Eternal City. His Lordship then called on the Cardinal Secretary of State.

A CONVERT'S EXPLANATION. - Mr. A. R. Cooper, of Leeds, England, has written a beautiful letter to the press, telling of his conversion to the Catholic Church. About eighteen months ago, Mr. Cooper, then a Protestant, began to have doubts about his religion. Though not a Catholic yet, he was very sincere in his desire to know the truth. Here is what he now writes to a Catholic organ, with which he had considerable correspondence before his conversion: "I was received into the Church on the evening of Good Friday, and as each day goes by, more and more do I realize the wonderful goodness of God and the benefits He has bestowed upon me. I owe my conversion partly to the books I have read, partly to conversations with Catholics, partly to correspondence with many of your readers, who were good enough to come to my aid, but principally to the Divine Grace of God." Here we see how much good books can do, and how Catholics should learn their own religion in order to be able to teach it to others. Great is the responsibility of the Catholic.

A VERSATILE DOMINICAN. - The Rev. Sabastian Gates, O.P., who is exhibiting pictures in the Royal Academy, London, this year, affords an example of genius in a particular branch of art asserting itself after the age of maturity is reached. Father Gates has explained to the press that he did not try to draw till he was thirty-three years of age, and that the idea was suggested by his artist friends, whom he was wont to criticize, asking him to essay the art. The only tuition he has had was at Leicester, where a twelve months' course gained him a teacher's certificate. But the popular Dominican is not only an artist in painting, as his exhibits, "Spoils of the Orchard," and "Her Treasure" prove, but an accomplished musician, a practical teacher of brass-working, and an exponent of the art of lace-making. It would seem that everything he touches he adorns. And these are all mere accidents in his life—for his life is devoted to the poor, to God's ministry, and to preaching. Such the work of one Catholic priest.

A SAD SCENE. - The week before last the Redemptorist Fathers of the Boulevard de Menilmontant, Paris, according to a report in an exchange, were ejected from their monastery by the official liquidator, accompanied by a strong force of police. The Redemptorists only made a passive resistance. Yet all their property was taken from them, and they were left absolutely without a shelter or the means to procure one.

WORDS OF PEACE.—Speaking at

a public reception tendered to him in the Russell Theatre, Ottawa, last week, His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore, made the following declaration in regard to the spirit of good-will and peace which should always exist between the United States and Canada. He said: "I earnestly hope that the most pleasant and fraternal relations will always exist between these two great nations, and the more the increase of commerce and trade between one another, the more friendly we will become, because we will understand one another better. Every rail that is placed across the frontier, every track that is laid, every track, I say, becomes a link binding the two nations together, becomes a living vein connecting the hearts of Canada and the United States, and bringing them into closer connection with one another and thereby binding them closer in sympathy and affection.

"I earnestly hope that if ever any dispute should arise between these two nations, it will have no regard to war, but rather as to which shall surpass the other in the fields of commerce and trade and of civilization and of humanity. If any dispute should ever arise between the two nations, I earnestly hope that it shall always be settled by boards of arbitration; I earnestly hope that disputes, if any should arise, will be settled, not on the battlefield but in the chamber of conciliation, not with the sword, but with the pen, for the pen is mightier than the sword, especially when that pen is wielded by such eminent peaceable men and able statesmen as your chief executive officer in this country your illustrious Prime Minister, and other distinguished statesmen.

"It is not surprising, however, that we should have these fraternal relations, because we have practically the same form of government, because we understand what liberty is. You in this country and we in our country have liberty without license, authority without despotism, and our respective countries hold the aegis of this protection over us without interfering with any man in the exercise of his conscience and in pursuit of the religion which his conscience calls upon him to exercise.

LAW AND ITS LESSONS. - A correspondent of the London Daily News furnishes the following statistics to show the cost of litigation in England and Wales during recent years: "In the year 1902 no fewer than 1,410,484 proceedings were begun, excluding all criminal affairs. This is a record, and should be set against 1,358,587 for 1901. If we reckon five to the family, we discover the cheerful fact that about one household in every four has been so enlightened as to appeal unto Caesar. The number of cases heard and determined, was 472,041 in 1902, as compared with 456,242 in 1901.

Touching upon the financial aspect he says: "Now the cost of all this quarrelling is not to be measured in pounds, shillings and pence. No sum of money adequately compensates for worry, for it is nevertheless significant that the bill for 1902 rose to £1,561,975 10s 7d. Litigation is the ultimate outcome of the fiction caused by carelessness or overcharging. I have heard lawyers say that they spend most of their time persuading clients not to go into court, and such advice is always the act of a friend. But, of course, if men and women are to get on without incurring the penalty of the law, they must remember that there is no room in this world for lost tempers. Revenge always costs dearly, and there are few more expensive luxuries than spite.

RETIRED PERMANENTLY. - It will be remembered that for a long lapse of years no actress ever did more to raise the standard of the theatre and to set an example of grand morality than did the Catholic Mary Anderson. Some years ago, when she married the Count de Navarro, she retired from the stage, gave up the glory and allurements of public life, and became the model matron, the head of a happy domestic circle. A few months ago the press of the country intimated that Mary Anderson would probably return to the United States for a tour of Shakespearean readings. A letter was sent her by James W. Morrissey offering to secure a grand success for her and to devote part of the proceeds to charitable purposes, Cardinal

Gibbons stated that he signed the letter of request. It is evident that the aim of the Cardinal and of the other Catholic prelates who sought to induce the ex-actress to come out again, was to have her splendid example and great moral influence play a part in the continuation of the regeneration of the stage. But it has all proven in vain. The following cablegram tells the story: "James W. Morrissey, recently came to England with a letter to Mme De Navarro (Miss Mary Anderson) bearing the signatures of Cardinal Gibbons, Bishop Potter, W. K. Vanderbilt, George J. Gould and a score or more notable American citizens, suggesting that she should undertake a tour of the United States, giving readings from poets, per prospective manager, Mr. Nelson Roberts, agreeing that a part of the gross receipts be devoted to charity.

"Mme De Navarro has written a letter expressing a sense of her unworthiness of the honor bestowed by so many of America's most distinguished men, and regretting that she is impelled to decline their request, not wishing to return to the stage."

CHURCH MUSIC. - Some time ago it was widely circulated that a protest was sent to Rome by American Bishops, representing that it would not be possible in the New World to enforce the rules laid down by Pius X. in regard to Church music. At the time we paid no attention to the rumor, nor did we even mention it. Now it turns out that the Vatican authorities deny having received objections from American Archbishops and Bishops regarding the subject of the Gregorian Chant. It is pointed out in this connection that the decree did not call for the exclusive use of the Gregorian chant, nor did it forbid congregational singing, including naturally female voices. Hence we see what small amount of reliance is to be placed in those fabricated rumors concerning the doings of Rome and of the Church abroad.

KAISER AND THE POPE. - The Emperor of Germany has again manifested his friendship for the Holy See by the presentation to the Pope of a beautifully bound copy of the first volume of the important work on the Sistine Chapel, which is being edited by Dr. Steinlman. On receiving the book from the Prussian Envoy, Pius X. expressed himself warmly in appreciation of the friendship of Emperor William, speaking not only of this most recent evidence, but also of previous actions of deference on the part of the German Emperor. To all the world the contrast between the Protestant head of a thoroughly Protestant State with that of the so-called Catholic head of a so-called Catholic State, is so pronounced that it is not necessary to draw attention to it.

A CATHOLIC MUSICIAN. - Anton Dvorak, the Catholic musical composer, died the other day at Prague. He was in his sixty-second year, and succumbed to a fit of apopleptic character. Like so many who have risen to fame, Dvorak was a self-made man, the son of a Bohemian innkeeper. The great merit of his "Stabat Mater" has been acknowledged by the whole world. His mastery over the modern orchestra and his power of emotional expression enabled him to reach a high mark in his art, and wherever he went he excited admiration in an unusual degree. But though popular everywhere, naturally the greatest admiration was felt for him by his own countrymen, and his death they mourn as a national loss. It is to be noted that he was not only a Catholic, but one who drew his grandest inspiration from the Church.

IN JAPAN, where the regular Catholic hierarchy was established in 1901 by Pope Leo XIII, there are now one Archbishop, three Bishops, one hundred and fifty missionary priests, and a Catholic population of sixty thousand with a large number of colleges and convents conducted by religious orders.

THE CENSUS OF INDIA shows that the growth of Christianity has been greater, in comparison, than that of the entire population. In 1872 the Christians in India numbered 1,599,098, of whom 1,246,289 were natives. To-day the Christians number 2,923,241, of whom 2,664,313 are natives. Of all the latter number two-fifths are Catholics.

SINCE THE ENFORCEMENT of the Law of Associations in France, it is calculated that fifty thousand teaching sisters, thirty thousand teaching male religious have been driven from the country, and their property abandoned.

THE EMPEROR OF CHINA has

made Bishop Lavert of Kwang-si a mandarin of the second degree on account of his devotion to the people of that Province during a recent famine.

CARDINALS IN GERMANY. - Honors pour in on Catholic prelates from Pagan and Protestant sources, while the heads of a Catholic country are prosecuting them. Cardinal F. Scher Archbishop of Cologne, has been created by Emperor William a member of the Prussian House of Lords. Cardinal Kopp of Breslau, and the Bishop of Hildesheim are already members of that body.

Old Publications.

THE BRITISH - ESSAYISTS. - (SWIFT'S WORK.)

(By a Regular Contributor.)

Among the occasional contributors to the "Tatler" Swift has been mentioned. It is not improbable that he frequently gave hints, but there is not much that can be assigned to his pen. His wit was so licentious that no subject, however sacred, was safe; his invective had more of malignity than virtuous indignation; his characters are drawn in hideous distortion, and perhaps no man ever attempted to ridicule vice or folly with less of the salutary and gentle spirit of correction.

It would be unnecessary to give a detailed account of his life here. It has been written by Lord Orrey, by Hawkesworth, by Delany, by Johnson, and lastly by Sheridan. In these writers considerable discordance of opinion occurs. It is with truth that Johnson has stated that "he seems to have wasted life in discontent, by the rage of neglected pride, and the languishment of unsatisfied desire. He is querulous and fastidious, arrogant and malignant; he scarcely speaks of himself but with indignant lamentations, or of others but with insolent superiority when he is gay, and with angry contempt when he is gloomy."

Sheridan, indeed, has published an elaborate vindication of Swift; but having determined that his character should be of pure and unmixed excellence, he has plunged into a series of inconsistencies from which he never knows how to extricate himself. The truth is that Sheridan was proud of the original information and materials which he had been able to collect and did not perceive that although they might furnish an impartial life of Swift, they could not support a continued panegyric.

Yet for this Swift is not accountable. His conduct, measured by his own principles, is seldom mysterious, and becomes so only when attempts are thus made to render it consistent with a character which he did not possess. Doubts have been justly entertained of his religion; and there are many proofs that it was a religion which did little honor to the church of which he was a member. His notions of what became the dignity of a ministerial or clerical office appear to have been very lax. Although Swift professed to make the Lord Keeper give livings to persons whom he could not mention without contempt, his biographer informs us that he was most circumspect in matters within his own gift. "He was extremely exact and conscientious in promoting the members of the choir according to their merit, and never advanced any person to a vicarage, who was not qualified for it in all respects, whatever their interests and however recommended. He once refused a vicarage to a person for whom Lady Carteret was very importunate, at the same time declaring to her ladyship that it had been in his power to make the gentleman a Dean or a Bishop he would have obliged her willingly, because, he said, deaneries and bishoprics were preferments in which merit had no concern, but the merit of a vicar would be brought to the test every day."

In his attempt to "develop Swift's mysterious conduct towards Stella and Vanessa," he has certainly removed much of the mystery, but leaves Swift's character as liable to censure as he found it. When he allows that he had a love for Vanessa, and none for Stella, and that he kept up a correspondence with Vanessa which it was necessary to conceal from Stella, he irrefragably places in a situation more irreconcilable with honor and humanity than perhaps he intended; and although his account of the whole transaction is minute and interesting, it is doubtful whether it was ever read without feelings of a very different kind from what he meant to excite. Dr. Johnson has noted the affair with more levity; he

OUR CURBSTONE OBSERVER ON BUBBLES.

The other day as I was walking along one of the streets in the north end of the city I saw a lad of some nine or ten years, seated on a door step, with a bowl of suds and a clay pipe, and amusing himself making bubbles. It was a real enjoyment to watch the keen pleasure of the lad, as he would blow a string of bubbles from the pipe, and then watch them floating off in the air till they disappeared or vanished into the same air. As I moved on I reflected on all the bubbles I have blown in my life, and I wondered, as did the lad, where they had all gone to. When I was a tiny boy I spent a great many hours at the same amusement, and the sight of the boy and his game brought it all back most vividly to my memory. And as I grew older I began to blow other kinds of bubbles that have all vanished like those I had made from soap.

MY FIRST BUBBLES. - I could vividly recall those long holidays when home from school, I would walk, all alone, and for hours around my father's farm, and make bright and airy bubbles. I built up imaginary castles; I carved out great careers; I saw myself at one time rolling in wealth and becoming a great philanthropist, at other times holding listening thousands entranced by the magic of a fiery eloquence that I then believed I possessed. As I look back over the desert space of the long intervening years, I can see those bubbles rise again, delight my fancy's eye with all their variety of color, and finally disappear forever. They melted into air, and I was left with the sad realities of life before me. In years that followed, as I progressed through school, came out, entered upon the study of a profession, and finally graduated into its ranks, I sat many a night making bubbles for the future. I saw them in chains of successes all lined to each other, all beautiful in their form and all different in their attractiveness, and I admired them in anticipation of their realization. And to-day, as I tread the city curbstone and see myself and my past as they really are, I lament for the bubbles of other days, and I wonder where they have gone to; but experience has taught me not to wonder that they were only bubbles.

BUBBLES I'VE SEEN. - I can count along the pathway that I have trod such a vast number of human bubbles that are to-day (save as concerns their souls) just as if they had never been. The first time, as a young man, I took part in a trial, I remember with what awe I looked upon the judge, how I admired the Crown lawyer, and how I almost envied the notoriety of the prisoner. That is many years ago. The very Court House in which that event took place no longer exists—it was a huge bubble that went the way of all other frail things of earth. The judge, the sheriff, the Prothonotary, the crier, the High Constable, the turnkey, the jailer, the chief bailiff, the crown prosecutor, the two lawyers for the defence, the prisoner, the foreman of the jury, the doctor who gave medical evidence, and all of the others whose faces I can remember, have long since gone away forever from this sphere; they were bubbles and nothing more, and they

has said all that can be said in excuse. As a critic Sheridan has not always been successful. Swift's style was, beyond all precedent, pure and precise, yet void of ornament or grace and partook in some instances of the pride and dogmatism of the author. Those who wish to appreciate Swift's character with justice, must derive their information from his voluminous writings, which undoubtedly place him among the most illustrious ornaments of literature, as an author of incomparable ability, of multifarious talent, and inexhaustible fancy. But the most charitable conclusion that can be formed of his private life, or the general tendency of his writings, will not, I fear, differ much from the opinion of a celebrated writer, who, with the "justest relish for wit and humor, never loses sight of more important considerations. "In Swift we see a turn of mind very different from that of the amiable Thomson. Little relish for the

vanished after a brief space and are now amongst the persons and things that belong to the past. I alone serve them all, and I count the bubbles on life's ocean that I have seen, and I realize what a very insignificant bubble I must be. Of course I am not alone in these experiments. Every one else has had them, but possibly everyone else does not reflect upon them.

A LESSON IN BUBBLES. - A few nights ago business brought me to the capital, and having little to do, to while away the time, I went to the House to hear the big debate on the great Transcontinental railway. I sat in the gallery and looked down at the scores of eager members awaiting a momentous vote. I noted them all from the Premier, all along the lines behind him, to the Leader of the Opposition and the men who support him. But my thoughts were far from the subject of debate. Thirty one years ago I sat in that same gallery, in that same seat, and I looked down on that same House. There was then the question of the first great transcontinental line under fiery discussion. Where the Premier of to-day sits, then sat Sir John A. Macdonald; where Hon. Mr. Borden now sits, then sat Hon. Alex. Mackenzie. In all that assembly I could count only three men who were there on the former occasion - Sir W. Laurier, Hon. Mr. Haggart and Hon. Mr. Costigan. All the rest, old as the oldest may be, are very recent introductions. Since then Mackenzie has occupied the Premiership; then Sir John Macdonald; then Sir John Abbott; then Sir John Thompson; then Sir M. Bowell; then Sir Charles Tupper. And the two last mentioned are out of that House forever, while all the others have gone as the bubbles of my youth, and their names are not even recalled. This was a grave lesson for me in the matter of bubbles, and it taught me most potently how small and unimportant we all are. In this connection I came upon some lines that appeared in the Indianapolis News, a short time ago, but without any signature. These lines added to my own reflections, will complete my observations and remarks upon bubbles.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES. - The writer lays down a set of principles, that of a very good. Of course embrace all, nor near be taught, if it is a school-boy should be ligious. But they cor best of all, that can public or non-Catholi are the principles mer "There is a God, y His hand, Who gave also take it when an Him. He has made ject to certain laws, man a certain limit of which to regulate h The will of God is should live at peace and this can only be each member of the observing certain ree-free-will, shall we religion, to curb his instincts. Man must come unselfish, pure, forgiving, for truth, effacement are in the ful things, and their man the power ove and others. God is of strength, directly mediation of the Red ever be the creed und to teach the you of God, His mercie law, is the best gift which we can send treet even that some trinity of evil, the w and the devil. Hono self-denial: does it no that; whether we t tablet of stone, or t Jesus Christ? If we have all, and we give

A MASS OF DETAIL. - This is an estimate of Dean Swift taken from men who lived with him, knew him and had opportunities of forming sage judgments regarding him.

RELIGION

There is an article in the "Contemporary" signed "H. V. Weiss" important subject of the School Boy. Intention to analyze, to place before the article. I have good doing so, because it Catholic readers and rect manner. Take t paragraph: "A short time ago colleague that I was i over the manner in gion of the schoolboy cussed with profit, an cerity, and found m with the unexpected case, "Has he any tected, for my col Holy Orders. This w fice me as a justifica not seriously offend, if that the religion tau rage boy at the aver practically a negligib ordinary life. In so I do not for one mo a view to fostering d cept the view that s without religion; in hold that every boy ously, has one or code, which controls generally colors his l

There is a doubt upon the existence of gion in the school; what his teaching m a further explanation "All moral teaching der any Protestant Jewish or other form is excellent. The bea of obedience to Divin abnegation, of moral corporal purity, is e attainment to a high practice of these virt aim of surpassing im the rejection of the o duty, the failure to punishable here and i in the eternal hereaf I quote this, becau the subject and in cludes everything exc religious and moral i are, therefore, plac the author, with Pr Judaism, but there i or reference to Catho say that all the stri religion of the preser boy do not affect C those who ignore C and Catholic systems

LINES ON BUBBLES. - Where are the snows of yesteryear? Where are the names we once held dear? Where, oh where is all the radiant race Whose names once thronged the head-line space? Where's Madame Humbert and Oem Paul? Where's Funston and Hobson? Where ah, me, The names each morning we joyed to see? There's all the scintillating mob? Where's Letter? Sully? Where is Schwab? Where's Croker, Dick? and Debs, Eugene? Where's Thomas Lipton? Where's the craft That Langley built, and while the others laughed Where, where is all the glorious throng That erstwhile went the gait so strong? Now other bubbles trim the cup; And still my envelope comes up?

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