

Two Little Hands.

Once on a summer day divine, Two little hands fell into mine; How pink they were, how frail and fine!

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS.

A CHARMING CORRESPONDENCE.

In a late edition of your issue, there are no fewer than six columns of "Letters."

In this vast garden of forced plants, however, there are beautiful blossoms of rare perfume; and many a one has been encouraged to noble efforts.

The little daughter of a prominent physician in New York while attending a convent school, had the idea of writing to His Eminence, and immediately put her thought into execution.

When he returned the child was not there. The child, repeating that his offering was accepted, repeated it each day, and each day the food disappeared.

But after some time, James perceived that his dear statue had not nothing of its old appearance, and that it certainly grew no fatter.

He complained to the priest: "For many days, I have shared my bread with the Holy Virgin in the church, the poor Holy Virgin who is so thin, but she does not seem to be any better. What do you think is the matter? I believe she is sick from hunger."

"But the statue of the Holy Virgin could not eat your bread!"

"Oh, yes! she ate all that I gave her."

The priest, greatly astonished, resolved to investigate the mystery. He bade James offer his bread as usual to the Holy Virgin, and secreting himself in the shadow of the confessional, which faced the statue, he set himself to watch the result.

James had already left the church some time, and nothing disturbed the silence save the distant sounds from the country, when the priest heard a further step. He saw a little boy, miserably clad, timidly advancing. Reaching the statue the child seized the bread which lay at the foot of the statue, kissed it, and was on the point of leaving, when the priest came from his hiding place and stopped him.

"The little one, trembling with fear, exclaimed: 'Father, I am not a thief! I come every day to take the bread which the Holy Virgin gives me?'"

"How do you know that the Holy Virgin gives you this bread?"

"I had been repulsed at many houses, and was dying of hunger. I did not ask any more. I entered the church and begged the Holy Virgin to give me something to eat. She did not turn me away—the good Mother! I raised my eyes and saw near her a piece of bread. She gives me the same every day."

James, who was approaching, heard the last of this touching explanation. He stood, stupefied, before the poor child, while the good priest said, with an emotion as he felt on the day he met him for the first time:

"Dear child, it is God Himself whom you have nourished under the form of this poor child. You have found what you sought; charity will lead you to Heaven."—Young Catholic Messenger.

"Who are you, my poor child, and whence come you?"

"I am little James. Papa and mamma have left me alone. They went to heaven. Mamma told me I would find them there. Where is this Heaven? I am very tired, for I have walked so far seeking for it!"

"Come with me, my poor child, we will seek it together," replied the priest with emotion.

It was thus that he adopted the orphan. James lived more comfortably with the kind priest, but his grief was always the same.

"Father," he said, "where is Heaven; why do you not take me there, as you promised?"

"Pray to God, my dear child; it is He who will lead you thither, if you are good."

Thereafter James addressed the most fervent prayers to God; nothing was more touching than to see the poor child kneeling before the altar, with his little hands raised in supplication. The church was his favorite resort. Instead of playing with children in his own age he passed long hours in this peaceful spot. The stained glass windows made for him a delightful picture book, and the statues of the saints became so familiar that he regarded them as true friends, and even spoke to them.

But he loved, above all, a statue of our Lady with the Infant in her arms; this statue, sculptured in wood, was very ancient, and of a true childishness, but you know, my children, that curious things are not always beautiful. This figure of our Lady was a proof of this, for it was not only very ugly, but most extraordinarily thin, as the infant was also.

But, to return to James. The little boy constantly stopped before the Blessed Virgin, whose aspect inspired the greatest compassion. In his childish simplicity, he one day imagined that the Holy Virgin was so thin because she was dying of hunger, and his eyes filled with tears at the remembrance of his mother's sufferings.

The next day he saved a portion of his dinner, and placed it at the foot of the statue, saying: "Eat without fear, dear Holy Virgin and dear Jesus, I have deprived no one. It is from my own share that I give you this, and I shall bring you as much every day."

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THE ANGELUS BIRD.

When travelling in the forests of Guiana and Paraguay, it is not uncommon to meet with a bird whose music greatly resembles that of an Angelus bell when heard from a distance. The Spanish call this singular bird the bell ringer, though it may be still more appropriately designated as the Angelus bird, for, like the Angelus bell, it is heard three times a day—morning, noon and night. Its song, which duty all description, succeeds one another every two or three minutes, so clear, and in such resonant manner, that the listener, if a stranger, imagines himself to be near a chapel or convent. But it turns out that the forest is a chapel and the bell a bird. The beauty of the Angelus bird is equal to its talents; he is as large as a jay and as white as snow, besides being swift in motion. But the most curious ornament of the Angelus bird is the tuft of black, arched feathers on its beautiful head. This tuft is of conical shape, and about four inches in length.

Bells, gongs, and skin diseases of all kinds disappear when the blood is purified by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. It has no equal as a tonic alternative, the results being immediate and satisfactory. Ask your druggist for it, and take no other.

On in Peril. Lives of children are often endangered by sudden and violent attacks of cholera, cholera morbus, diarrhoea, dysentery, and bowel complaints. A reasonable and certain precaution is to keep Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry always at hand. Minard's Liniment cures Colds, etc.

CARDINAL NEWMAN AT ROME.

A REMINISCENCE.

Special Correspondence of the Pilot.

Rome, Aug. 17.

The week that has just closed has been filled with sorrow, beginning on Sunday, August 10, at Hull, in Massachusetts, and continuing almost throughout the week and throughout the world.

The announcement of Cardinal Newman's death in Rome, on August 12, was received with universal regret. Though much has been written since of the more remarkable events of his life, little, if any, thing, has been said about his last visit to Rome. The news of his death brought up to my mind in a most vivid manner the circumstances surrounding his visit to the Eternal City and his reception of the Cardinal's last breath. This is the highest, the noblest, the most heroic of the dignities which the Church confers on adoption and devotion has in her gift. The fact that Leo XIII. was but little more than a year upon the Pontifical throne when he expressed his intention of creating Dr. Newman Cardinal, and the privilege he extended to him of afterwards living in England, were indications of the affection with which the Pontiff held the learned Oratorian.

It was on the afternoon of April 24, 1879, that Father Newman reached Rome, coming here to receive the dignity of Prince of the Church. An English Prelate and half a dozen laymen of various nationalities—Monsignor Stoor, Mgr. Gless, Cardinal Guala, the late Marquis de Papal Chamberlain, the late Marquis de J. Oliver, of San Francisco, and the Correspondent of the Pilot—were all that had gathered at the railroad station to meet this man whose name and fame were known and admired wherever the English language was spoken. And this was the appearance he then presented: an old man, with white hair, stooping somewhat, a gentle, resigned, and weary, though his thoughts were far away from his immediate surroundings. He was then seventy-eight years old, and he may well have regarded himself, when this great honor came upon him, as nearing the end of his days. He wore a black overcoat, a tall hat with a broad brim on the back, and a card in his hand, a small, brown, well-worn leather portmanteau. He did not indeed look like what fervent imaginations would picture a Prince of the Church, but rather a very meek, delicate old man, with a far-away look in his eyes and an absorbed expression on his face. The Marquis Oliver called his attention to more mundane matters, and spoke the silence which had fallen upon all by saying: "Dr. Newman, you are welcome to Rome." A smile lit up the old man's face as the kindly words were uttered, and as he held out his hand to the speaker.

The next time that he was seen in public was on the morning of May 12th. In one of the large halls of Cardinal Howard's residence, about four hundred persons from the United States, Ireland, England, and Scotland assembled to witness Dr. Newman's reception of the letter announcing his nomination as Cardinal, and to hear his utterance on this occasion. It is difficult to describe accurately the impression this event left on the minds of those present, but it would seem that they all had a great sympathy and a feeling of most profound respect for the object of this demonstration. When Father Newman, vested in the old, plain, simple costume of the Priest of the Oratory, entered the spacious and richly decorated hall, a hush fell upon the crowd, and every eye was turned upon him. He, who all his life had loved retirement, had to suffer a silence upon them, which was soon broken by the murmur of his own words. The Pontifical messenger arrived, bearing the document announcing the creation of Dr. Newman as Cardinal. The message was handed to Dr. Clifford, Bishop of Clifton, who was standing at the right of the Cardinal elect. When the Bishop had read it and handed it to Dr. Newman, the latter took from the breast of his soutane a roll of paper, and began to read his reply and the expression of his thoughts on the momentous occasion.

It was for this moment the people had waited so patiently during the long, hot hour and a half. Here were given the means of measuring the influence of that voice of which so much had been written and said by the most intellectual men of the day. And the profound silence he began, and after a few words in Italian to the bearer of the Pontifical message, he asked permission to continue his address in his "own dear mother tongue," because, as he said, "in the latter I can better express my feelings on this most glorious announcement which you have brought to me, than if I attempted what is above me." At first the sound of the word reminded one of a school-boy reading in a sort of sing-song tone. As, however, he proceeded, the emphasis upon a certain word struck the attention and set thought in action. There was a humility and tenderness in his next words that subdued hearts and minds alike, and criticism went to the winds, and the influence over the listeners of words and sense was now complete. The music and impressiveness of his voice were now subsidiary to the sense, as he said: "First of all, then, I am led to speak of the wonder and profound gratitude which came upon me, and which is upon me still, at the condescension and love towards me of the Holy Father in styling me out for so immense an honor. It is a great surprise. Such an elevation had never come into my thoughts, and I seemed to be out of keeping with all my antecedents. I had passed through many trials, but they were over, and now the end of all things had almost come to me and I was at peace. And was it possible that, after all, I had lived through so many years for this? Nor is it easy to see how I could have borne so great a shock had not the Holy Father resolved on a second condescension towards me, which tempered it and was to all who heard of it a touching evidence of his kindly and generous nature. He felt for me and he told me

the reason why he raised me to this high position. His act, said he, was a recognition of my zeal and good services for so many years in the Catholic cause.

After such gracious words from His Holiness I should have been irretrievably and heartily if I had had scruples any longer.

In a long course of years I have made many mistakes. I have nothing of that high perfection which belongs to the writings of adults, namely, that error can not be found in them; but what I trust I may claim throughout all I have written is an honest intention, an absence of private ends, a temper of obedience, a willingness to be corrected, a dread of error, a desire to serve His Church, and, through the Divine Mercy, a fair measure of success. And I rejoice to say to one great mischief I have from the first opposed myself. For thirty, forty, fifty years, I have resisted to the best of my power the spirit of liberalism in religion. And then I found the dangers of this liberalism in religion, in a series of arguments and examples which have since constituted a species of armor from which defenders of the Catholic Church draw most treasured weapons.

Concluding, he said that he lamented the liberalism deeply, because, as he sorrowfully declared, "I foresee that it may be the ruin of many souls; but I have no fear at all that it can do ought of serious harm to the Word of truth, to the Holy Church, to our Almighty King, to the Lion of the tribe of Judah, faithful and true, or to His Vicar on earth. Christianity has been too often in what seemed deadly peril, that we should fear for it any new trial now. So far is certain. On the other hand, what is uncertain, and what is commonly a great surprise, when it is witnessed, is the particular mode in the event by which Providence rescues and saves His elect inheritance. Sometimes our enemy is turned into a friend; sometimes he is despoiled of that special virulence of evil which was so threatening; sometimes he falls to pieces of himself; sometimes he does just so much as is beneficial and then is removed. I am sure the Church has nothing more to do than to go on in her own proper duties in confidence and peace, to stand still and to see the salvation of God. *Mansueti her edictum terram et dabitur in multitudinem pacis.*"

When the sweet voice had ceased, the eyes of many listeners were filled with tears. There was a silence as if more was expected, and then a great hush took the place of what, in other circumstances, would have been a cheer or a burst of applause. Then each came up to the venerable Cardinal elect to kiss his hand, receive his blessing and interchange a few words with him. On May 16, he was again visible, feeble and slow in movement, in the halls of the Vatican, when together with the Pontiff's brother, the late Cardinal Pecci, he received the red hat. That interesting event in no wise differed from similar ceremonies described frequently in these columns.

Still later he again appeared before a number of English-speaking persons—English, Scotch, Irish and Americans residing at Rome—who showed their deep and affectionate veneration for him by presenting him with a set of vestments. In the address read on that occasion mention was made of the value of Dr. Newman's admirable writings in defence of God and His Church; and of the honor done him and the English-speaking Catholics, who have long looked up to you as their spiritual Father, and as their guide in the paths of holiness. We hope," continued the address, "that Your Eminence will excuse the simplicity of this address, which is but the expression of the feeling contained in Your Eminence's motto: 'Heart speak to heart; for Your Eminence has long won the first place in the hearts of all.' This refers to the motto on the shield that Cardinal Newman has on his titular church of St. George in Valarona: *Cor ad cor loquitur.*

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