

How St. John Observes Lent.

Since the advent of the Lenten season the social gayeries about town have subsided almost to a calm, and with the exception of a few quiet house gatherings the more convivial spirits are now to be found in a state of semi-religiousness, which in truth might only be a disguise for a deep and prolonged study of Easter surprises in the ever interesting line of dress. And yet an amateur opera, in which almost a half-hundred families are interested in being prepared for next week in a whirl of giddy excitement and happy anticipation, and the theatre continues to be well attended, but one can hardly call these adverse to Lenten vows, when it is considered one is for the sake of our soldier boys and the other a very subdued frivolity, if indeed a frivolity at all.

However St. John can boast its true church members, who never fail to adhere rigidly to the higher demands in such a religious season as the forty days preceding the crucifixion anniversary and the ascension, so many centuries ago.

Attending church regularly and hearing sermons is not all St. John people are doing to mark the season of fasting and prayer. Some methods of self-denial take peculiar forms. When a person wishes to do penance for a fault discovered in himself or herself, the sentence, fixed by the same mind that gave the judgement of guilt, is shown to be sometimes peculiar.

Many girls about town have forsaken candy in Lent, and in denying themselves sweets feel they have done something which is certainly a great sacrifice. To some the habit of eating candy has become such that to go without it gives a craving it seems must be satisfied. As a result of this resolution on the part of many young ladies having become known to certain young men, the young men have determined to call more frequently than before, as no box of "White's best" will be required while the resolution is in force. There will be no attempt on the part of the young men to make the girls break this good vow either.

Along with the denial in the candy line, which has been started by enterprising American maidens, has come the one of only receiving so many calls, if any in Lent. This is a case of involuntary self-denial on the part of young men who would like to come. At the same time it is pointed out to the "steady" callers, that by resolving to get along without their company, the young ladies are complimenting them, because it is to be supposed their absence will be greatly missed.

A certain young lady on G—street who has accused herself of vanity has resolved to leave off fine plumage in the way of hats, and don a sombre creation appropriate to the time. This principle is also being carried out by St. John people in many different ways as regards clothing.

Naturally there is a lack of dances in Lent and the Institute assembly rooms are vacant. Dancing in Lent is something that churchgoers here would not think of in most cases. Many believe it is out of place at all times.

While all denominations are observing Lent, more or less, and the churchgoers are keeping it to a greater or less degree, there is a general looking ahead to the ending of it all with Easter. At that time gay hats, new dresses and suits will proclaim the season at an end. Milliners are working on Easter hats which are intended to adorn the heads of St. John's fair ones on that Sabbath of ham and eggs, and while many young women are industriously observing Lent, their mind wanders once and awhile to the time when they will emerge from their period of denial.

From now until Easter Sunday the churches which make anything of Lent will be busy in its observance. The season has just begun and the attendance among all denominations has warranted ministers to believe it will be of unusual spiritual benefit.

Lent has come as an added force to those churches which have been for the last few months undergoing a series of quickening of spiritual life. It is expected the influence of the subdued pleasure season combined with revivals and union services, will raise the spirituality yet higher and make St. John of still greater power for good. Local ministers of all denominations are united in purpose for this end.

Home Sweet Home.

We may or may not have related in Our Dumb Animals the story of the young man

who went to serenade the Quaker's daughter, but by mistake got under the wrong window and serenaded the Quaker. After singing several love ditties, he sang "Home Sweet Home," when the old gentleman rising from his bed went to the window and said: "Young man, if thee hast a home and a sweet home, as thee sayest, why don't thee go home?"

The Late Mr. Ruel's Benevolence

In the excitement of the past few weeks the people have hardly given themselves time to realize the great losses they have sustained in the death of Mr. James Ruel, Senator Lewin and other worthy citizens. Mr. Ruel's demise is very regrettable inasmuch as he was one of the most public-spirited men in Canada. Even his advanced age did not prevent him from entering vigorously and enthusiastically into many



THE LATE J. R. RUEL, ESQ.

worthy movements for the betterment of St. John and its people;—the public library, the orphanage, various charities, christianizing movements, pure sport, such as yachting etc. His beneficence in connection with the Fernhill Cemetery was instituted. Accompanying this reference is an illustration of the Ruel fountain in the centre of the cemetery.

War as Many See It.

War, like the dyer's hand, is subdued to what it works in. The general sees in it the Victoria Cross or the Legion of Honor; the politician sees it reelection; the manufacturer, a foreign market for his goods. "Do you take an interest in the war?" A London householder lately asked his cook, seeing a brightly colored map of South Africa in the kitchen. "No,



THE RUEL FOUNTAIN.

she was the reply; "but I mean to 'ave a skirt like that brown bit, and blouses like these reds and greens and yellows. I am 'just keepin' the map to match the patterns with when I get an evenin' off, sir."

The Horse in Modern War.

In the war in South Africa of to day the hostile battalions of two hostile armies employ the same chaplains to repeat the same prayers in the same creed. And strange as it may seem, in spite of big guns that kill at six miles; in spite of dynamite bombs that will kill a whole company of soldiers if well directed; in spite of lyddite shells that tear up half an acre of solid earth, and in spite of all the devils of destruction that the genius of modern invention has produced, the cavalry horse and the army mule still remain the most potent factors of this war in Africa, In the land of the Transvaal, where the

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The Boers are now battling to hold their country against England, during the dry season the earth puts forth no verdure, and the rivers are emptied of their waters. How can an army of cavalry subsist in such a country as this? How can the horses of the United States or Europe live in a country where the thermometer ranges 120 degrees in the midday, even now. Already the English government has purchased in the United States over 15,000 mules that have been shipped to the seat of war in south Africa. Ten times 10,000 more mules will be wanted. And where are these much-wanted cavalry horses to come from? The United States and Canada will have to supply the demand.

A Boer Courtship.

There is something comic in the way a Boer manages his love making, says an exchange. Having asked the permission of his father to court a certain damsel in the neighborhood he proceeds to buy the most strikingly decorated and loudly colored saddle cloth for his steed that he can possibly obtain.

Having made his preparations he mounts his most spirited horse and journeys to the lady's home, but instead of seeking out the object of his affections he respectfully asks leave of her father to court her. The old man cautiously refrains from answering, but consults his wife, and the youth joins the younger members of the household.

No further notice is taken of the suitor for the rest of the day, but if the parents approve, when the rest of the household retire for the night the mother solemnly approaches the young man and maiden with a long tallow candle in her hand.

overintelligent men in the pannel, are we not in peril also from an excessively impartial judge, unduly truthful witnesses, too much pure air in the court room breathed by litigants anxious that their opponents shall win the suit? It may all be when men and women are really "too good to live;" but not until then.

COUGHING.

How the Annoying Habit May be Treated Effectively.

A cough is a spasmodic expulsion of air through the vocal cords, its use being chiefly to expel phlegm collected in the bronchial tubes. It is excited by any irritation of the mucous membrane of the respiratory tract from the vocal cords to the lungs.

This irritation may come simply from congestion or inflammation of the lining membrane of the bronchial tubes, even when there are no secretions, and consequently no phlegm to be coughed up. This is what is called a dry cough; it is seen in the early stages of a bronchial cold, and is usually succeeded by the loose cough as soon as the inflamed mucous membrane begins to secrete.

But a bronchial cough is by no means the only one, for we often see what is called a reflex or sympathetic cough arising from disturbances in other parts of the body. Thus we may have a cough excited by various digestive troubles, by affections of the liver, or by a disease of some other organ in the abdominal cavity.

Coughing may be excited by irritation in the throat, at the root of the tongue, or in the nose, and sometimes by ear trouble. It may arise from irritation of the respiratory nerves before they reach the bronchial tubes, as when they are pressed on by an aneurism or by some tumor in the chest or neck. Coughing may be excited by cold air striking the skin when one is dressing or undressing, or it may occur in some persons whenever the feet get wet or cold.

Sometimes a cough is purely "nervous," being caused by no trouble that can be discovered in any part of the body. A cough of this nature will sometimes begin in a school and spread rapidly, by force of imitation, until nearly every scholar is affected.

The treatment of a cough should depend upon its cause. When there is much secretion in the bronchial tubes the patient must cough or be suffocated, but in other cases the act is not only annoying, but may even do harm by disturbing the working of the heart or by interfering with other vital functions. Much may be done by striving to restrain the cough instead of letting it out whenever the tickling sensation begins. And many a cough which was at first involuntary and necessary, remains as a mere habit cough long after the need for it has passed.

A throat cough can often be quieted by gargling with water containing common salt in solution.

Presence of Mind.

Fireman—"Here, here, woman! what are you doing? Get out of here, or you'll burn to death!"

Mary Ann—"Shure, but Oi jist phwant 't lock me trunk."

St. Patrick's Day Humor.

A Dangerous Chance.

Far better keep cool when you celebrate, Pat! With your sprig of shamrock so slick. Have an eye on the shamrock you wear in your hat And don't let it turn to a brick.

A Mystery Explained.

Deacon Coldwater (pointing to snake in alcohol)—"You may not know it, my good man, but there's a snake just like that in every bottle of whiskey you purchase." Moriarty—"Howdy Saint Patrick! Divil a wonder that there's a hissin' sound iv'ry toime Oi drink wather."

No Snake There.

Saint Patrick, not a sin or crime Wouldst you now have to grieve? Had you been born about the time When Adam lived with Eve.

Medium.

"Fry me two aigs." Waiter—"How will you have them done—hard?" Irishman—"Naw; jist aisy."

In Honor of St. Patrick.

Come to your urgle, ye sons of toll, Und pad uh your dools vere dey cannot spoil, Vat do you want on your spade and hoe? I lendth you moolah, and yoe can go To honor der great Saind Patrick. Dose drei balls stand for der shamrock sign, A frend an der Irish is Insesteln. Ven you ex me to get ans your tools from pawa You finds your urgle years diamonds on In honor of great Saind Patrick.

St. Patrick's Day Patriotism.

Mr. Killilly—"Mrs. McShanagan, Oi've boarded wid yee now for four mont's, wid divil a kick about th' grub; but Oi draws th' loine on th' grane spinach this mornin'." Mrs. McShanagan—"Phwat's th, mather wid it?" Mr. Killilly—"Begorry! it hos a red hair in it."

Curious Grammatical Errors.

The curious grammatical error—almost incoherency—of the famous Monroe Doctrine has often been commented upon. Something near a parrell (to it appears in the recently negotiated treaty between this country and Great Britain for the construction and control of the Isthmian Canal. The text of that treaty provides that ratifications of it shall be exchanged "within six months of the date hereof, or earlier if possible." And the treaty was written and carefully revised and re-revised by one of the most accomplished literary men of the age. It is perhaps because the slip is so obvious that it passed notice.

Education For Cuba.

The best news which has come from Cuba in many a day is a statement by Professor Frye, who went there to establish a system of education for the island. In six months eighteen hundred and seventy eight free primary schools on the American plan have been opened. (The daily attendance is now one hundred thousand. By May Ist Professor Frye thinks it will be one hundred and fifty thousand. Cuba libre may still be a long way off, but this is certainly the road which leads to it.



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