

## AN ABLE SERMON

## ON CHRISTIAN HUMILITY,

Preached on Last Sunday Night, in St. Ann's Church, at the Close of the Retreat, by Rev. Father Strubbe, C.S.S.R.

"Amen, Amen, I say unto you, unless you become like unto little children, you shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

Upon the above text the Rev. Father Strubbe based a most timely and learned sermon. It was the close of the young men's retreat, and as a fitting termination to all those exercises, the subject of Christian Humility was most appropriate. By way of introduction, the preacher pointed out that young men, in order to persevere and fight the good fight out to the end should remain children. For truly to become great men it is necessary to become little children. No better, mightier and greater men than the Apostles, and they were ever like unto children. Their lives were noble, their deeds heroic, their works most effective and their fame—and that of the Church they had a mission to establish—immortal, and yet in heart they were children and beloved accordingly of God.

What is humility? St. Theresa tells us that it is the knowledge of the Truth; St. Francis de Sales says it is the courage to acknowledge before God what we are. There is nothing more certain than that we are frail, weak, and miserable. We are of ourselves impotent of good. Without the aid from above we are no more able to do anything than we are to grasp the stars. In a word we are weakness itself. But this our proud and foolish nature will not allow us to admit. We love to be considered powerful, and we glory in a strength that is not ours. But the acknowledgement of our littleness and our weakness is the humility we must have if we wish to be children and to persevere.

In order that we may succeed in this great race of life we have two laws of existence, two rules whereby to guide ourselves, two apparently contradictory, but really harmonious rules to guide us. The first is the law of separation; the second the law of union. Let us take a hurried glance at each of these as applied to our future. We will merely give the outlines of a picture the details of which the mind and experience of the hearer must fill in.

By the law of separation the young man will stay aloof from whatever might increase his weakness, from all temptations and causes of temptations. Here the preacher dwelt at length upon the numberless sources of weakness, the causes of so many falls in the pit of sin; the principal springs whence issue the waters of moral devastation. Amongst others he referred to the theatres, bad books, bad company, forbidden dances and saloons. On the point of dances he lingered for a time and pointed out the dangers of that perilous enjoyment. The round dances he said are forbidden by the Pope, the councils of the Church, the Bishops and the clergy. Moreover, common sense and experience combine to teach us that they are a fruitful source of temptation and therefore sin. Thus if a young man wishes to become a great man, in the true sense of the word, and to be humble as a child, he must follow into daily practice that rule of separation. He must separate from that pernicious literature that corrupts the mind, the evil companions that kill the soul, the occasions of sin in the whirl of the dance, the positive and unfailing danger ever present in the saloons.

The second rule is one of union. We must join in with whatever may decrease our weakness and augment proportionately our strength. There are for the young men present three particular objects to which they must unite themselves, if they are to become like unto little children, humble in heart and worthy the Kingdom of Heaven. The first is to join the Young Men's Society. In union is strength, and the Lord Himself has told us that when a few are collected in his name, lo! He is with them. On this point of the utility and extraordinary bulwark against sin to be found in such an organization for young men, the preacher spoke to some extent. Then he passed to the second object for which the young man should unite, that is the frequenting of the sacraments. Once each month, at least, should a man—a young man, especially—

approach the sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist. After this came the third point of the union referred to by the preacher, namely, a deep and sincere devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this point a strong appeal was made, and a glowing tribute paid to the Mother of God.

By way of a most fitting peroration Father Strubbe repeated the Act of Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and followed it with the Papal Benediction. During that portion of the ceremony, which combined with the closing of the sermon, the church and all the altars were gorgeously illuminated, especially the jewelled and flower-decorated shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Each of the young men held a lighted taper in his hand as the act of consecration was being pronounced and thus closed a magnificent sermon that will long be remembered by the young men of St. Ann's.

We may add, as a piece of church news, that during the retreat of four weeks ten converts were baptized, and several others are under instruction.

## RELIGIOUS NEWS.

The Vatican has chosen Cardinal Gibbons to be delegate to the Catholic Congress to be held at Chicago in September.

The next German Catholic congress will be held at Wurtzburg, a city in which three Irish apostles of the faith underwent martyrdom.

The Dominicans in this country celebrate a *triduum*, or three days' prayer of thanksgiving for the Pope's Jubilee, from the 6th to the 10th of February.

The latest case of treasure trove which has occurred in Hertfordshire, England, is the finding of three silver chalices that have probably been buried since the days of the Reformation.

The Pope has sent 40,000 francs, or \$8,000, through the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda, to the Apostolic Vicar of the Upper Congo for the redemption of the African slaves.

The growth of the Church in New Jersey has been wonderful. These are now in that State 191 Catholic churches with a seating capacity of 99,290. The Catholics in New Jersey number, it is said, as many as all the other churches together.

The Paulist Fathers of New York will shortly inaugurate a new religious departure by giving missions to non-Catholics. The first work in this direction will be in Detroit, at the request of Rt. Rev. Bishop Foley, and will be under the direction of Rev. Walter Elliott.

The Holy Father has nominated Cardinal Camillus Mazzella, of the Society of Jesus, Cardinal-Protector of the Order of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God and the Poor. These nuns, who have their mother-house in Rome, have houses in Paris, London, Liverpool, Dublin, Roehampton, etc.

Two brothers, Lodovico and Raffaele Spiridon, will exhibit at the World's Fair, Chicago, an original model of St. Peter's, Rome, according to the plans of Michael Angelo. This artistic work was begun in 1800 and finished in 1700. It is 30 feet long by 15 feet broad and reproduces the minutest details of the famous basilica, with its 500 statues. It is estimated to be worth half a million of Italian lire.

Monsignor Kain, who is now named in connection with the St. Louis coadjutorship was spoken of some time ago as likely to become auxiliary to Bishop Ryan of Buffalo, whose health is not of the best. The other prominent candidate, Bishop Spalding of Peoria, has, as is well known, been mentioned with reference to about every important vacancy that has occurred for years back in the hierarchy; and yet, according to himself, he prefers remaining where he is at the present time.

Archbishop Logue's promotion to the cardinalate appears to have given the greatest satisfaction to Catholic Ireland, all classes of which country are united in honoring the primate and congratulating him on the new dignity which has so meritedly come to him. The wonder is that some successor of St. Patrick was not made to be a cardinal before this. Ireland is confessedly the most Catholic of nations, and Armagh is, of course, the foremost of her sees; so it is somewhat strange that the red hat has not been worn by some of its earlier archbishops. The action of Leo XIII. in

granting cardinalical rank to Dr. Logue will commend him, if such a thing be possible, more warmly than before to the Irish Catholics. Cardinal Logue comes by birth from Carriffharr, near Letterkenny, and he was thus born within a few miles of his illustrious predecessor, Archbishop McGettigan. He is a comparatively young man, 53.

Archbishop O'Brien, of Halifax, observed the tenth anniversary of his consecration on January 21st, he having been mitred January 21, 1883. Dr. O'Brien has quite a literature; he has written at least one novel, and contributed verses to several Catholic publications. Bishop Moreau, of St. Hyacinthe, is another Canadian prelate who has an anniversary the 17th, of his consecration to celebrate in January. He was consecrated January 16, 1876, in succession to Dr. LaRocque, deceased.

The three religious congregations, namely, the Daughters of Charity, the Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo, and the Franciscans of St. Elizabeth, who responded to the appeal for help of the Senate of the city of Hamburg during the recent epidemic, have been made the recipients of a highly flattering distinction on the part of this exclusively Protestant assembly. Public thanks have been voted to them, and magnificent parchments inscribed with testimonies of their devotedness and the gratitude of the free town, have been delivered to them in perpetual memory of their self sacrifice.

## OBITUARY.

The Late James McCarthy.

It is our painful duty to record this week the death of a bright and promising young man in the person of James McCarthy, third son of our esteemed citizen, Mr. James McCarthy, section foreman of the G. T. R. at Point St. Charles. The sad event took place on the 30th January last. The deceased was in his eighteenth year. His young life was touched by the cold hand of consumption, and the Angel of Death came to his relief, even as he entered upon the path of success and honor. He was pursuing the course of studies at St. Laurent College, and had reached this class of versification. The funeral service was chanted by Rev. Father Shea, of St. Mary's, assisted by the Rev. Fathers Pelletier and Casey. At the grave the *Libera* was sung by Rev. Father O'Meara, of St. Gabriel's church. On the following day a solemn service was chanted in the College chapel at St. Laurent, where all his teachers and late companions assembled to pray for his soul and pay a well deserved tribute to his memory. While expressing our sincere sympathy to his relatives and friends, we join the church in saying, "May he rest in peace."

## A Chapter of Accidents.

Three men killed outright, one seriously, if not fatally, injured, four others with wounds and bruises, a gas tank blown up, one horse dead, two injured, and a building blown to pieces, are the outcome of two accidents yesterday afternoon within two hours. The first fatality was at the scene of the recent fire on St. James street, while the second was at the works of the Montreal City Gas company at the corners of Da-house and Ottawa streets, and although not so destructive to human life, it was yet the most dangerous, and the monetary damage was far greater.

## This is Meant for You.

It has been truly said that half the world does not know how the other half lives. Comparatively few of us have perfect health, owing to the impure condition of our blood. But we rub along from day to day, with scarcely a thought, unless forced to our attention, of the thousands all about us who are suffering from scrofula, salt rheum and other serious blood disorders, and whose agonies can only be imagined. The marked success of Hood's Sarsaparilla for these troubles, as shown in our advertising columns frequently, certainly seems to justify urging the use of this excellent medicine by all who know that their blood is disordered. Every claim in behalf of Hood's Sarsaparilla is fully backed up by what the medicine has done and is still doing, and when its proprietors urge its merits and its use upon all who suffer from impure blood, in great or small degrees, they certainly mean to include you.

Colonel Blusterton: I am a brave man, sir, and the man who aspires to marry my daughter must have done something heroic—something exceptionally courageous. Young Blusterton: Well—er—haven't I just asked your permission to pay my addresses to her?—*Funny Folks.*

## Everything.

Mr. W. H. Holabird, Gen'l Agent, Coronado Beach Co., San Diego, Cal., U. S. A., says: "I have used St. Jacobs Oil in my family for years, as well as in my kennels and stables, and it has never failed in a single instance to do everything that could be expected of it."



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## Professed Religion.

Thursday morning the following pronounced vows at the convent of Jesus-Mary, Hochelaga:

Vocal—Miss Alvina Morrisette, Hochelaga; Miss Malvina Champagne, Sorel; Miss R. A. Laplante, Beauharnois; Miss Delphine Duganals, Sault au Recollet; Miss Maggie Kearney, Roxton Falls; Miss Catherine Carey, St. Pierre-Joly, Man.; Miss Eliza Cown, Sarnia, Ont.; Miss Catherine Gosselin, Beloeil; Miss Augustine Ecrement, Montreal.

Converse—Miss V. Labissonniere, Red Lake Falls; Miss Georgiana Vezina, St. Narcisse; Miss Alphonsine Desloges, St. Timothy, Ont.; Miss Lea Geneet, St. Casimir; Miss Pomena Gauthier, Sandwich, Ont.; Miss A. Janisse, Sandwich, Ont. Archbishop Fabre presided at the ceremony.

## What Will the Parnellites Do?

It cannot be denied that the Parnellite faction of the Irish Nationalist party has hitherto commanded a good deal of sympathy on this side of the Atlantic. This sympathy has been wholly due to the ardent affection with which Mr. Parnell was regarded by Irish-Americans, and to the widespread feeling of regret at his untimely death. It would have been, and it will be, at once extinguished if Mr. John Redmond and his followers, betraying the cause to which Mr. Parnell gave his life, set the interests of their faction above those of their country, and repudiate a Home Rule measure which their deceased chief would have welcomed.

The new bill for the self-government of Ireland has been submitted to the leaders of the McCarthy party, and it has met with their approval. They do not say that it is a perfect measure; that it gives all that patriotic Irishmen would like to have; but they admit that it embodies the utmost concessions that could possibly be extorted from the present House of Commons. They declare, moreover, that it is a signal improvement on the bill of 1886, which Mr. Parnell accepted and commended to his countrymen. We have reason to believe that the superiority of the new bill is particularly marked in the delegation to the Dublin Government of control over the judiciary and the constabulary, and in the reduction of Ireland's share of the fiscal burdens of the United Kingdom.

We shall know very speedily whether these assertions are well founded. If they are, Mr. Redmond and his eight Parliamentary colleagues will do well to support Mr. Gladstone's measure, if they desire to excite any feeling but disgust and indignation among the real friends of Ireland in the United States. If the new bill shall prove to be a good bill—a better bill than that which had Mr. Parnell's approval—any Irishman who takes advantage of his seat in the House of Commons to co-operate with the opponents of the measure will deserve to be branded as a traitor to his country. No pretext will avail to save him from detestation and contempt.

It will be useless for Mr. Redmond to allege that his opposition is justified by Mr. Gladstone's inability to recast the bill at his dictation, or to accept an amendment which would drive away ten English votes for every Parnellite vote it might attract. Nothing could be more preposterous than the notion that nine members of Parliament should prescribe a course of action for 340 members. There is but one way in which Mr. Redmond could justify the desertion of Mr. Gladstone at this juncture, and that is by convincing intelligent Irishmen that the new bill, if passed, would place Ireland in a worse position than she now occupies. He would find it impossible to do this if the new bill were a *factum* of that which Mr. Parnell advocated. How much more should it represent a decided advance upon the former measure!

The readers of the Sun will have an opportunity of comparing, feature by feature, the forthcoming Home Rule bill with that introduced nearly seven years ago. They will be enabled to judge for themselves whether it embodies larger concessions to Ireland than those which Mr. Parnell was eager to obtain.—*N. Y. Sun.*