

THE VATICAN HOUSE-CLEANING.

Working on Precious Frescoing and Statues.

The Vatican is undergoing a kind of Easter housecleaning. Last year after the death of Professor Seitz his place as director of the Vatican picture galleries was taken by Professor Cavenaghi, who had shortly before gaudied the hearts of all art lovers by what was regarded as almost an artistic miracle. The famous "Last Supper" of Leonardo da Vinci in Milan had for years been looked upon as doomed to disappear. Every day infinitesimal particles of the painting detached themselves from the wall, and it was only a question of time (and not a long time) when the marvellous painting would be a thing of the past. Then Cavenaghi presented himself before the proper authorities and declared that he could save it without using a drop of paint. The commission was given him as a forlorn hope, and after a whole year Cavenaghi succeeded in rescuing the masterpiece from its very agony and saving it for a remote posterity.

He gladly accepted the invitation of the Holy Father to dedicate himself to the custody of the artistic treasures of the Vatican, and had much to do with the definite systematization of the new picture gallery. Now he has worked for months on the cleaning of the precious frescoes which adorn the walls of the Sistine. Michaelangelo's wonderful roof was cleaned

without the use of paint, a few years ago, and now it only remains to perform a similar office for the painted statues of the Popes between the frescoes and the roof. When this is finished the present windows will be replaced by others presented to the Holy Father on the golden jubilee of his priesthood by the Prince Regent of Bavaria. A commission of artists of various countries was appointed last year to decide on the exact shade of color for these windows, and this fact apparently so insignificant, offers eloquent testimony of the fine artistic spirit which prevails in the Vatican under the pontificate of Pius X.

Again, nearly all the modern pictures which occupied the halls leading to the stanze of Raphael are to be removed to the Lateran palace, and their place taken by the artistic old tapestries, which hitherto have been visible to the public only on rare occasions of Papal functions, when they are exposed in the Sistine.

Finally, a large building has been erected in the grounds of the Vatican to serve for the numerous employees and their families who have been living in the Vatican itself. This building is now completed, and will be ready for habitation at the beginning of May.

CONTRACT AWARDED.

Mr. Andrew H. Farrell, Fredericton, has been awarded the contract for doing the iron and cornice work of the new Catholic school building to be erected on Regent street in that city.

WHAT SHE SAID.

(From the 'Youth's Companion'.)

When a person's dress and bearing are striking it is natural to expect that voice and conversation will be in keeping. Nevertheless it does not always turn out so.

A man standing on the street corner waiting for his car saw two pretty and tastefully dressed girls approaching from opposite directions. Their smiling faces showed that they were acquaintances, and as they came nearer the observant man prepared to hear gracefully expressed greetings and well bred tones of voice.

What he heard, in a chirping bird-like treble, was this: 'Wot you chawin' May?'

BUT THEY CAN.

Mrs. Muggins—When a girl is married she is apt to think her troubles are over.

Mrs. Buggins—Yes; she does not seem to realize that things can go amiss with a Mrs.

TO BE MARRIED IN BOSTON.

Mr. Edward McCarthy, brother of Mr. M. J. McCarthy, the Union street tailor, leaves today for Boston, where he will be married to Miss Etta Kelly on June 1st. The family of the prospective bride removed to that city a few years ago, and Miss Kelly went on last week. Mr. McCarthy will be accompanied by his mother and sister, Miss Nellie.

PAYING TAXES PROMPTLY.

Although the discount on civic taxes is allowed until July 7th, returns are already being received from the tax bills which were sent out during the past fortnight. Quite a steady stream of tax-payers are visiting the chamberlain's office with their contributions for the city treasury, although the rush will not commence until the middle of June.

A CANADIAN CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

It is stated that The Montreal Standard, which, from its commencement leaped into the first place among the illustrated papers of the continent, will this year publish a Christmas Number, which promises to be a marvel of beauty and a credit to Canadian enterprise. It is said the best artists in Canada, England, and the United States have been for a year at work on this superb number which will be the highest expression in art

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THOSE TRINITY GIRLS.

A sensational news item, describing a wild panic resulting from a false alarm of fire, wilfully given by the participants in a class prank at Trinity College, Washington, D. C., has been making the rounds of the press, being telegraphed from Washington by a correspondent of one of the yellow papers.

It is gratifying, in view of the prominence given this report, to watch the lurid details disappear upon investigation. Trinity is a Catholic college, for the higher education of women, and it is only simple justice to state that there was no such thing as a fire alarm, no panic, no expulsion of students. There was the annual class celebration, of which the outside world knew nothing for more than two weeks when a sensational reporter drew on his imagination for material that he knew would please his superiors, says the Catholic Sun.

SURE.

Never proclaim yourself a failure. Your friends will do that for you.

A VEGETABLE LESSON.

Celery originated in Germany. The chestnut came from Italy. The onion originated in Egypt. Tobacco is a native of Virginia. The nettle is a native of Europe. The citron is a native of Greece. Oats originated in North Africa. The poppy originated in the east. Rye came originally from Siberia. Parsley was first known in Sardinia. The pear and apple are from Europe. Spinach was first cultivated in Arabia. The sunflower was brought from Peru. The mulberry tree originated in Persia. The gourd is an eastern plant. The walnut and peach came from Persia. The horse-chestnut is a native of Thibet. The cucumber came from the East Indies. The quince came from Crete. The radish is a native of China and Japan. Peas are of Egyptian origin. Horseradish is from southern Europe.

BISHOP HOGAN IS 81.

Bishop John J. Hogan of Kansas City, Mo., was 81 years old May 10. Bishop Hogan's health is as good as it has been for years. He was consecrated a Bishop in 1868 and ordained a priest 58 years ago April 16th last. Only one priest of Missouri is older than he. Bishop Hogan was born in Ireland, April 10, 1829, and came to America when he was 18 years of age.

IN BUSINESS 31 YEARS.

Presentation of Address and Chair to Mr. John O'Regan, Saturday.

The thirty-first anniversary of the establishment of Mr. John O'Regan's business, which occurred on Saturday, was marked by the presentation to him of an address and an office chair by the members of his staff. Mr. O'Regan who was greatly surprised and deeply touched made a fitting reply to the address. The chair, which is a very handsome one of solid walnut, upholstered in heavy leather, was specially imported for the presentation. The address was as follows:

St. John, N. B., May 21, 1910.

Dear Mr. O'Regan:

We beg to manifest in a tangible way our interest upon an important occasion which the year 1910 has brought to you—the thirty-first anniversary of the birth of your business.

Your reflection upon thirty-one years will revive memories of happiness and of sorrow, while together they have meant for you a very great experience in business circles and a widespread connection with the business world.

We recognize, in you, dear Mr. O'Regan, a man of no mean ability, and a man of exemplary business principles.

We ask you to accept this gift as a token of our esteem, and—trust you may be spared many years to enjoy continued good health, happiness and prosperity.

We remain,

Respectfully yours,

JNO. J. BRADLEY,

HARRY B. TIPPETT,

WM. M. MURPHY,

LEO V. McMINAMIN,

ESSIE McMINAMIN.

NOTED ENGLISH CONYERT OBJECTS.

In view of the revival of Catholic protest against the King's oath, which is brought about as the result of Mr. Redmond's letter to Mr. Asquith, it will be of interest to recall what Rev. Robert Hugh Benson, a convert son of the Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury said when asked: "Has the coronation been modified since the succession of King Edward? He answered: 'No, it has not in spite of the admitted fact that there is no reason for retaining those features which insult and wound the feelings of Catholics. The King of England rules over Mohammedans, Buddhists, Confucians as well as Catholics; why single out the Catholic Church for especial reference in this oath—and a reference too, that is simply insulting? It should be enough for the king to say, 'I am a true and loyal member of the Church of England. I do not acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Pope in England.' This would be a declaration that not even a crypto-Catholic could possibly make; and would, effectually secure the Protestant succession."

CHIDES CATHOLIC PUBLIC.

Dr. Maurice Francis Egan in a foreword for a collection of short stories declares: "I regret to say that the Catholic public with the exception of that small fraction of it called the 'reading' public, which has been created by the clergy, the publishers and the educational institutions, sees the necessity of paying cash for everything except ideas. The priest gives his ideas for almost nothing. This may be the reason why our people expect intellectual stimulus and delight for nothing from everybody else. If a Catholic paper is started, to fill one of these long-felt wants—that feeling of 'goneness' we have all heard about—the intellectual side as an expense is last thought of. The presses cost money, the typesetter must have his wages, the bill for heating must be settled in a reasonable time, the solicitors and agents draw large profits, but the editor, who is holding the fort, as it were, and making the paper what it is—the writer, who is so important in the economy of secular publications—hardly counts at all. Who is to blame for this? The Catholic public alone."

ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY.

"Do you think they approved of my sermon?" asked the newly appointed rector, hopeful that he had made a good impression.

"Yes, I think so," replied his wife, "The were all nodding."

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