

YOUTH'S DEPARTMENT.

THE PROPHECY OF CAZOTTE.

A singular story is told by La Harpe, entitled "The Prophecy of Cazotte," which is repeated by Bulwer-Lytton in his novel of "Zanoni." A brilliant company is assembled in 1788 at the house of an academican. There are gathered Chamfort, La Harpe, Condorcet, Bailly, Cazotte, and many fashionable women, including Mme. de Grammont. They are talking of that golden age soon to come, when Cazotte, who was a mystic and a dreamer, commenced to speak. "When that golden age comes, Condorcet will die, self-poisoned on a prison floor, Chamfort will seek to escape from it by gashing himself to death. Bailly and Roucher will die upon the scaffold, and La Harpe will become a Christian."

Mme. de Grammont inquires what fruit shall women reap in the golden age, and the mystic responded: "There shall be no exemption for women. You and many others shall ascend the scaffold." "At least," she exclaims, "you will give me a confessor." "No," is the answer. "The last victim who will be so attended will die before you and he will be the King of France." Then the duchess asks: "And pray what shall be your fate in the golden age?" He replies by crying, "Ah woe to myself!" and leaves the room.

Before a half dozen years had passed the prophecy was fulfilled and Cazotte himself perished among the first.

As this story was not related by La Harpe until after the events had actually happened the critics are not inclined to accept it as an historical narrative. Nevertheless it has found believers and La Harpe relates it as true.

A FRENCH SATIRIST.

Chamfort's works have never been translated into English, but many of his maxims and sayings may be found floating through our literature, sometimes with his name, but oftener without. His definition of a maxim, as "The result of the labor of a clever man to spare fools trouble," is familiar. As a rule he is as quotable as Rochefoucauld.

"Love, as it exists in society is only an exchange of two fancies."

"You cannot cleanse the Augean stable with a dusting brush."

"The nobility, say the nobles, are midway between the king and the people. Yes, as the hunting dog is midway between the hunter and the hares."

"If you live among men your heart must either break or turn to brass."

"A man in love is a man who wishes to be more amiable and agreeable than he can be, and this is the reason why almost all men in love are ridiculous."

"What is celebrity? The advantage of being known to people who don't know you."

"The most utterly lost of all days is that on which you have not laughed."

"Whoever is not a misanthrope at forty can never have loved mankind."

"From a thousand characteristic traits which I have heard related, I am sure that if apes had the talent of parrots they would be made ministers of state."

"You yawn," said a lady to her husband. "My dear friend," replied her husband, "husband and wife are but one, and when I am alone I become weary."

Chamfort's sayings and stories are remarkable for their keenness of observation and vivacity of expression. Many of them were doubtless invented by him, but they give a graphic picture of the time and the society in which he lived and moved. They are well worth reading as a few examples show:

A gentleman had been for thirty years in the habit of passing his evenings at Mme. H.'s. At length his wife died and his friends thought he would marry the lady whose house he had frequented, and he was urged to do so. He refused, saying: "In that case where should I find a house of refuge to pass my evenings?"

A lady was at the representation of "Merope" and did not shed a tear. Everybody was surprised. Perceiving which the lady said: "I could, indeed, have wept, but I am engaged out to supper to-night."

A certain lady had lost her husband. Her confessor came the next day to see her and found her playing cards with a well dressed young man. Seeing the

confessor amazed she said: "If you had come half an hour sooner you would have found me bathed in tears, but I staked my grief against the gaiety of this gentleman and have lost as you see."

A lady, aged 90, said to Fontenelle, aged 95: "Death has forgotten us." "Silence! not a word," said Fontenelle, placing his fingers upon his mouth.

And so he goes on page after page with anecdotes and bon-mots—grim, sarcastic, ill-natured enough, but which illustrate the period as few other writings do.

Chamfort wrote plays and essays, or discourses, and some of his letters have also been preserved. He was one of the remarkable men in a great epoch. It is strange that he should be completely forgotten.—*Catholic Citizen*.

HOME HINTS.

A teaspoonful of ammonia to one teacupful of water for cleaning jewelry.

Before laying a carpet wash the floor with turpentine to prevent buffalo bugs.

Powdered pipe clay, mixed with water, will remove oil stains from wall paper.

Place a strip of wood back of the door where the knob hits the paper in opening.

In bottling pickles or catsup boil the corks, and while hot you can press them in the bottles, and when cold they are sealed tightly.

If shelves and floors of closets are wiped with water hot with cayenne pepper, and afterwards sprinkled with borax and alum, roaches and other vermin are kept at bay.

Vinegar and salt will clean the black crust off sheet iron frying pans, but they should be thoroughly scoured afterwards with sand soap or any good scouring soap.

Steel knives used at table, or for cutting bread, meat or anything for which a sharp knife is needed, should never be used for stirring or cooking anything in hot grease, as it makes them very dull.

A simple plan of disinfecting rooms consists in putting a saucerful of salt in the middle of the room and pouring on it a dram or two of sulphuric acid. The fumes that arise do the work of disinfection.

To prevent the spread of influenza where there is a catarrhal discharge, all handkerchiefs used by the patients should be placed where they will not be likely to be handled by other members of the family, or to come in contact with other clothing. When they are washed they may be thoroughly disinfected, freed from stains and whitened if first soaked in cold water to which a half-cupful of the best kerosene oil has been added. Add enough boiling water to the cold to heat it, and with soap wash them out of this water, and through another warm water containing soap and a little oil. Rinse thoroughly and dry in the open air, leaving them out of doors an entire day, when they should be entirely free from the smell of oil.

ALCOHOL AS FOOD AND MEDICINE

A few years ago, says the doctor whose words we have been quoting on the above topic, I met a German woman whose husband I knew well, and had reason to fear that beer drinking was doing him great harm. I said to her, that, on her husband's account, she should never let another drop of beer enter her house if she could help it. "Why," she exclaimed, "I cannot do without beer. I suffer so much during and after confinement, and am so weak, and have so little milk for my child, that my doctor says that I must have beer to give me strength." She was then expecting to be confined within a few months. I replied to her by saying: "I have attended a great many more patients during confinement than your physician has ever attended, and after the first three years of my practice, I never gave a single patient beer, fermented wine, whiskey or brandy, or any other intoxicating drink. Now, if you will follow my advice, you will have a very different time from what you have ever had before; and my advice is that from this time forth you do not taste a single drop of beer, wine, or any other intoxicating drink." She said she would follow my suggestions. I met her again when her child was a few months old,

and she looked like another woman. She came up to me and said: "Well, doctor, I have followed your advice strictly. I have not tasted beer, wine, or any other intoxicating drink, and I never before had such a comfortable time during my confinement. I never was so strong or gained my strength so rapidly. I never had so much nurse for my child, and I never had such a good-tempered baby before." She was the mother of several children.

Such are the results of the two methods of treatment.

There is no surer way to retard and often prevent recovery than to give patients drinks or even remedies which contain an appreciable quantity of alcohol. Where the tendency to recovery is strong they will recover sooner or later in spite of the treatment; but in many cases the physician may keep a delicate nervous patient sick as long as he gives alcohol in any form.—*Sacred Heart Review*.

A NOTED CONVERT.

Few people will be astonished in Germany if the announcement that the Grand Duke of Baden has become converted to the Roman Catholic church proves to be correct, writes the Marquis le Fontenoy. Notwithstanding the fact that he has hitherto figured as one of the principal supporters of the Lutheran church, it is no secret that both the grand duchess and himself have long shown a marked inclination for the Roman Catholic form of worship. They are both known to have been in entire accord, as far as matters of faith are concerned, with the grand duchess' mother, the late Empress Augusta, who is popularly believed and reported to have become a convert to the Church of Rome just before her death. The belief has been strengthened by several remarks which has been made by the Pope and by members of his entourage, and it was but recently that in receiving Count Kaunitz, who is one of the great feudal magnates of Prussia, that Leo XIII. went out of his way to specially dwell on his regard and affection for the grand duchess of Baden and her husband. There have been a number of conversions from Protestantism to Catholicism in the royal house of Prussia during the last decade, and among the most notable members who have thus gone over are the late queen mother of Bavaria, who was a Prussian princess and Princess Frederick Charles, the widow of the famous Prussian cavalry leader, who used to be known by the name of the Red Princess.

"But evil is wrought by want of thought, As well as want of heart."

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Hostess to Bobby, who is dining out with his mother: Will you have another piece of pie, Bobby? Bobby: Yes'm. Hostess, smiling: And so you are one of the fortunate little boys whose mamma let them have a second piece of pie? Bobby: Yes'm; she does when we're 'out visitin', but a home I never get but one piece.

GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT.

A LETTER THAT SPEAKS VOLUMES.

(The following letter from the Rev. Father Fleming, of Bracebridge, requires but little comment. It is with friends like these that a Catholic paper will eventually succeed. We publish the letter exactly as it has been sent to us, as an acknowledgment to the new subscribers and as a proof of how much can be done in the cause of true Catholic literature by men who have at heart the welfare of the Church and the glory of God. It is an example worthy of imitation.—Ed. T. W.)

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

DEAR SIR,—Enclosed please find an order of \$40, the remittance of as many subscribers to your valuable paper that I was fortunate enough to secure during my last travels through our extensive mission. I may remark that it is not only a pleasure to me to make this feeble effort towards the further advancement of your worthy journal, but I look upon it as the accomplishment of a pleasing duty, as a priest, to see that as far as possible the minds of our poor people are not perverted by the false and pernicious doctrine propagated daily in our midst. To my mind nothing is so well calculated to counteract those evil effects as the wide circulation of good wholesome matter, such as is to be found in the columns of THE TRUE WITNESS, which should find a place in every Catholic home.

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T. F. FLEMING, P. P.

March, 1893.

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