

SPAIN AND ITS RESOURCES.

[WRITTEN FOR THIS REGISTER.]

Perhaps never was this country in its choquered history called on by such unfortunate circumstances in which she is now enveloped, to display before the nations of the world her indomitable courage and her lofty patriotism.

For the last twelve months, she has organized, equipped and forwarded to the seats of war armies, vast battalions of human beings, which the most powerful of European autocrats might find a difficulty in concentrating in such limited time, and under such adverse circumstances.

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the life blood of its valiant sons. But by the results of this colossal campaign the pages of history elaborately makes us masters of its details and its successes; but scarcely has the battalions of the "Gran Captain" disappeared from Spain—unhappy Spain—than she is generation after generation the theatre of four successive civil wars.

Thus Spain continues to give its blood, and ready even to give it still in the future, generously and abundantly, with equal liberality it describes its wrongs. Here are the criticisms of any one class asked. Thus it is the poor that will give their blood, the rich the savings of years, and none show their self-abnegation so splendidly as the clergy of Spain. But this is only the first and the only one which is not at the moment the clergy of Spain less than their sacrifices for their native land.

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AN AFFLICTED WIDOW'S GRIEF.

Face to face With Mental Aberration—A Narrow Escape of Suicide.

Just three days ago, in my private office, I had a painful but rather instructive conversation with a mentally afflicted woman, who recently sought to end her life by her own suicidal hand. When she came to relieve her distressed mind by a recital of her crushing sorrows and an account of the terrible ordeal through which she had passed, her reason and composure had returned; and I therefore very searchingly inquired of the causes of her recent mental disturbance and the overpowering motive that drove her so near to self-destruction.

The sorrowful story disclosed much of the vexation and trouble that arise from the violation of trusts in the important cases of their property to children, who all too often prove unworthy of the trust. In the case I am dealing with now the trouble arose from the porverousness and unfaithful conduct of the victim's son, who had as father and mother got the better of her property. There was therefore a double degree of anguish owing to the afflicted woman's mind, sharp regret at her own premature parting with her possessions, and bitter sorrow at the abandonment of her child.

When again parents do not always wisely consider that effect it will have upon their future happiness if they unthinkingly part with their belongings while yet in possession of bodily health and activity. No do they always rightly gauge the disturbing effect that the loss of their property would have upon the conduct of sons and daughters, who have not been accustomed to the handling of property.

Returning to the main subject and viewing it from a wider angle, let us strive to determine what amount religious and spiritual strength the afflicted individual sought for in her dread hour of trial, and we regret to find that this saving supernatural element was almost ignored.

the grave, and that all who earnestly seek entrance into the never-ending life but proceed on the road towards it, bright with the heavy cross of humiliation and afflictions. The despairing woman with whom I discussed the concerns of life and death had not been in the daily or hourly habit of asking for divine help in the hour of her needs, and it was only through sheer necessity that she turned to the Holy Ghost for aid.

Two Methodist or other preachers had been called in the supreme hour of danger, one of them who appeared to be the pastor of the congregation, the other who, it is said, did his utmost to soothe the wounded soul and afflicted spirit, but when I heard the recital I contrasted the non-effect of spiritual words uttered by an untried minister—be they ever so zealous—with the precious and authoritatively words of the Catholic priest in an emergency such as is here described.

St. Joseph's High School. Entertainment by the Pupils at De La Salle.

The entertainment given by the pupils of St. Joseph High School girls at the De La Salle Institute on Thursday afternoon, was one that will long be remembered by the parents and large number of friends who were present. The large class rooms were tastefully decorated for the occasion, and when the pupils appeared upon the platform, the sight was one that made the hearts of all present swell with an honest pride for the girls of St. Joseph's School.

MR. LAURIER'S DOUBLE DEALING.

His Emancipation at Home Endeavor to Draw the Wool Over the Eyes of Cardinal Ledochowski.

A special correspondent of The Liverpool Catholic Times writes from Rome to this journal: Monsignor Bogie, Coadjutor-Archbishop of Quebec, Monsignor Gravel, Bishop of Nicolet, and Monsignor Labreque, Bishop of Chicoutimi, have just left Rome, where they have fully explained to the Holy See the rights of the Catholics in the Manitoba schools question, and pointed out the misleading character of Mr. Laurier's diplomatic action.

tives have not lost hope. They paint in sombre colors the state of Canada, the uncertainties of politics, and the changes of popular feeling. They have even gone so far as to get published. The Voto d-Illa Veritas a manifesto drawn up by certain revolutionaries calling for the annexation of Canada to the United States. The procedure has avoided some smiles. Finance and articles do not suffice to do the work of long experience at the Vatican, who have so often proved complicated affairs. Leo XIII. has declared to Mgr. Regis and his episcopal colleagues that the Holy See will not diverge from the course traced out by the Prefect of the Propaganda at the time of the elections and the decision of the supreme tribunal of the British Empire. As to the delegation for which Mr. Laurier has asked, the Pope deems it useless and this is also the opinion of the Bishops, who, it may be stated, are ready to elect a permanent delegate of the Holy See at Ottawa, devoted to Canadian affairs, but not an extension of the United States delegation to Canada.

A CANADIAN RELIGIOUS ORDER.

The universal sight of a convent illuminated from every window might have been witnessed by the wanderer whose steps led by the convent of the Precious Blood on St. Joseph St. on the evening of Dec. 8th, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The illumination was but a small part of the manifestation of joy over the most important event that can occur in the existence of the religious order—the final approbation of its Rule by the Holy Father. Most of our readers are aware that the community of the Sisters of the Precious Blood is—as all things Canadian—of comparatively recent origin, having been founded in 1841 at St. Hyacinthe, Que., by the present superior of the order, Rev. Mother Catharine. Of those associated with Mother Catharine at that time there is but one left, Mother S. Joseph, Superior of the order in Toronto. It seems a special mark of divine favor that the rule of this community should have received so soon the final approbation of the Supreme Pontiff, and it is a great happiness to the members to receive the approval in the form of a papal bull in the form of a papal bull.

Three days of special prayer, of praise and thanksgiving have been devoted in every house of the order to the celebration of this auspicious event. At the mother house, St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, at Montreal, Ontario, Toronto, Three Rivers, Brooklyn, N.Y., Oregon, U.S.A. and the last foundation, Nicolet, Que. The manner of celebration in Toronto may not be uninteresting to our readers.

The triduum began on Sunday, Mass being celebrated with exposition of the most Blessed Sacrament. Benediction being given at the usual hour in the afternoon half past four. Those ceremonies were repeated on Monday. On Tuesday, at nine o'clock, solemn High Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Kelly, C.S.B., with Rev. Father Montrouil, O.S.B., deacon and Mr. Sullivan, sub-deacon. The Sisters' choir furnished the music, led by the most devoted choir director. The sanctuary was most elaborately and artistically decorated, yet in such a manner as not to distract but rather to fasten one's attention to the solemn ceremonies. At four o'clock grand High Mass, with a choir of the most talented Sisters of St. Basil's of very excellent voice, Rev. Father Kelly, C.S.B., officiating. Benediction of the most Blessed Sacrament was given, and in presence of the Blessed Sacrament the forty assembled Sisters sang a grand requiem, and afterwards the renewal of their vows. Immediately afterwards a procession was formed to visit the different shrines that had been erected in every part of the convent. Processions seem to be the most natural method of expressing the feelings of the heart. They appeal directly to us, affect us, they enliven our sympathies with their object as nothing else can, and a religious procession is devoutly calculated to inspire devotion. The procession of the day was no exception.