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## The True Cross.

Information as to its Original Size and  
Weight and the Number and  
Bulk of its Relics.

Often it has been asserted that many of the relics of the True Cross are shams; that there are more than could be carried by three hundred men; that a house or a battleship could be built with them, etc. Calumnies innumerable and baseless as these are circulated among non-Catholics, and are accepted by them without doubt because they heard them in their childhood. A learned Passionist Father performs a valuable service, therefore, when, in concluding an article on the True Cross in "The Record," of Louisville, he gives the following brief summary of most important and useful items to be preserved for future reference:

1. After the body of Christ was buried the Cross was thrown into a cavern on Mount Calvary. There it remained until found by St. Helena in 326. The feast of "The Finding of the Holy Cross," May 3, commemorates this fact.

2. St. Helena built a magnificent church over the place where the Cross was found, and in it she placed the greater part of the Cross, enclosed in a silver casket. In 614 the Persians carried it away, but ten years later Heraclius, Emperor of Constantinople, compelled them to restore it. The feast of "The Exaltation of the Holy Cross," celebrated this event on September 14.

3. From that time (624) the wood of the Cross became the object of veneration, and small particles were eagerly sought for and venerated as precious relics.

4. The first authentic example of death by crucifixion is probably that of Pharaoh's chief baker, mentioned in Genesis, chapter xl.

5. Four kinds of crosses were used as instruments of punishment—the Crucifix, or forked stake, like the letter Y; the Cruc Decussata, or oblique cross, like the letter X, sometimes called St. Andrew's cross; the Cruc Patibula, also called Tau Cross, because it is like the letter T, pronounced in Greek Tau; finally the Cruc Immissa, or Latin cross. This is the ordinary cross, and generally supposed to be the kind on which our Savior died.

6. The dimensions of the Cross of Christ were as follows: The upright beam was 15 feet long; the transverse beam, 7 1/2 feet long; each of these beams was 7 1/2 inches wide and 6 inches thick.

7. The entire Cross contained about 65-8 cubic feet of wood, 11,448 cubic inches. The wood belonged to the Pinus or pine tree genus.

8. The entire Cross weighed about 200 pounds, but as it trailed on the ground when our Lord carried it, the actual weight on his shoulders was about 150 pounds.

9. Only 291 cubic inches of the True Cross are still in existence, and would weigh, if brought together, only five pounds and two ounces.

10. The average size of a relic of the True Cross is about one-sixteenth of an inch long, and as thin as an ordinary thread. A common match will yield no less than 1,400 such pieces. One cubic inch of wood will produce 32 matches—32 multiplied by 1,400 equals 44,800, which means that from one block of wood, whose entire bulk is only one cubic inch, no less than 44,800 relics may be made.

11. With the foregoing figures as a basis of calculation, the entire Cross, containing 11,448 cubic inches, could produce no less than 508,193,600 relics, enough to give each Christian man, woman and child of every denomination, one relic and still have 56,118,442 remaining, for there are 56,118,442 Christians in the world.

However, only 291 cubic inches of the True Cross still remain, and of these 154 cubic inches are cut up into twelve large pieces, varying in size from 38 cubic inches down to 6 2/3 cubic inches. These large pieces are preserved in various cities. Only 107 cubic inches, therefore, remain for general distribution. Yet according to the calculation given above in number 10, these 107 cubic inches should yield no less than 4,793,600 relics—exceedingly more than enough to account for all the relics claimed by Catholics to be genuine.

## Death of Archbishop John J. Williams of Boston.

Death came shortly before 9 o'clock on Saturday, Aug. 30, to the Most Rev. John J. Williams, Archbishop of Boston, dean of the hierarchy of the Catholic Church in America, and for a generation or more the spiritual head of the Church in New England. Following a recent visit at Lake Hemlock, N.Y., the Archbishop became seriously ill with stomach trouble, with which he had long been afflicted. The last sacraments of the Church were administered by the Rev. Dr. John T. Mullen, the rector of the Cathedral.

John Joseph Williams was born in Boston on April 27, 1822. His parents were Irish Catholics, who had come direct to Boston from County Tipperary in 1818. At that time, besides his brother Cheverus, there were only two Catholic priests in the city. Young Williams first attended Miss Newman's school in Fittion, in the school conducted by years under the tuition of Father Fittion, in the school conducted by Bishop Fenwick, under the old Cathedral in Franklin street. At the age of eleven years he entered the college of the Sulpicians in Montreal, where he completed his philosophical course at the age of nineteen years. He then went to France and studied theology at the Grand Seminary of St. Sulpice, in Paris, where the celebrated Abbe Hogan was his fellow student and intimate friend.

In 1845, at the Trinity ordinations, he was elevated to the priesthood by Archbishop Affie, of Paris, and, returning to his native city, he was appointed an assistant in the Cathedral and placed in charge of the Sunday school. In 1855 he became rector of the Cathedral, and two years later he was made vicar general and rector of St. James' Parish. After filling this dual office for nine years, he was named as coadjutor bishop with Bishop Fitzpatrick, with right of succession and the title of Bishop of Tripoli.

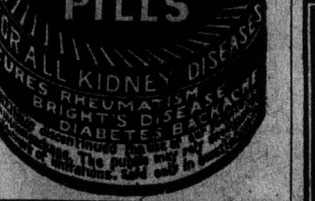
Bishop Fitzpatrick dying before the Papal bulls for his coadjutor's consecration reached Boston, Dr. Williams was consecrated as fourth bishop of that city, on March 11, 1866, by Archbishop McCloskey, of New York. His see at that time included the whole of Massachusetts. While in Rome in 1870, in attendance at the Vatican Council, Bishop Williams succeeded in obtaining the erection of the diocese of Springfield, and in 1875 his own diocese was raised to a metropolitan see by Pope Pius IX. Cardinal McCloskey conferred the pallium on him in the new Cathedral of the Holy Cross on May 2 of that year, in the presence of the Papal Ablegate, Monsignor Cesar Ronetti.

Archbishop Williams' administration of his diocese was marked by wonderful growth and development of the Church in Boston, while his own piety, wisdom and judicial temper won for him the love of the Catholics and the respect of the other citizens of the city, the admiration of the Catholic hierarchy in America, and the confidence and approval of the Holy See and the Sacred College in Rome.

At the funeral on Wednesday, at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Cardinal Gibbons officiated. The Rt. Rev. Bishop O'Connor, assistant to the late Archbishop, pronounced a masterly eulogy. Hundreds of priests, religious, members of societies, people of every denomination filled the immense edifice, testifying to the universal affection and esteem in which deceased was held.

On Wednesday last at St. Paul's, the Hermit, was celebrated a double golden jubilee, that of the parish priest, Rev. Father Lesage, also that of the parish itself, which had been founded fifty years ago. During that time the parish of St. Paul had had but two priests, Fathers Huot and Lesage. High Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Jubilarian, who was assisted by Rev. Abbes Pauze and Comandant.

His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi assisted in the sanctuary, with Rev. Abbe Villeneuve as priest of honor. Rev. Canon Deary and Rev. Abbe Leblanc were the deacons of honor. The sermon was delivered by Rev. Father Marien, O.P., a native of the parish.



the church by a friend, the father of one of the youthful communicants. "Master," said he, "let me introduce you to a boy who loves music very much, who has just received the benediction of an artist."

"My boy," cried Gounod, "I am not worthy, to-day, to loose the latchet of your shoe. You carry God in your heart, so his you will bless me."

And, cutting the action to the word, the great musician bowed his head, and fell upon his knees before the astonished lad.

## PIUS X.

Do you ask, How does the Pope look? Well, I should say he does not look like any pictures of him I have seen in America. They do not give his expression or his figure. They are ideal likenesses only. Pius X. is a plain, matter-of-fact man, patient and good-natured without, I think, any dominant trait of character being visible in him. Goodness, perhaps, is his strong point. He is 72 and looks it.

He was never very tall, and the stoop he now wears is in his neck rather than in his shoulders, and this adds something to his stout, heavy form, for in his day he must have been of strong frame and robust constitution. His eyes are grayish blue, and his white hair is longer than I had expected to see it.

There is some color left in the face of the Pope, and it is becoming to him. I should say the expression of his face, as I saw him at noon on last Sunday, was a blending of fatigue, sadness and complete resignation.

Pius X. likes to see the common people and he thinks of them, and they, in turn, are fond of him. No one would take the present Holy Father for an Italian. Certainly he is not a Roman. When I saw Leo XIII. he looked me through and I was afraid of him; because I knew he was the Pope and I thought he might be another Leo or Hildebrand who had just stepped out of the pictures on the wall. Dear Pius X. inspires no such feelings. Unlike Pius IX., who was a humorist, the present Pope is almost always grave, and paternal—Father Talion, in Western Watchman.

## Ancient Psalter Found.

Abbot Gasquet, the learned English Benedictine, whose historical studies are well known, has given a representative of a London paper some interesting facts concerning a valuable discovery he has made of an ancient English Psalter. He was recently on a visit to Mr. Turville Petre, of Bosworth Hall, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire. There, in the library, he found the Psalter, which dates back, it is believed, to 970 A.D., and bears traces of Glanborough authorship. His own joy at the find has been shared by other competent authorities, who, on seeing the beautiful manuscript, have expressed their surprise that such a literary treasure had remained hidden away in a private library, unknown to scholars for so many years.

## Death of Pope's Brother in Law.

News of the death of John Parolin, brother-in-law of Pope Pius X., is at hand. Deceased was married to Miss Theresa Sarlo. He died in his native town of Riese, at the ripe old age of seventy-seven. During his life he was an inn-keeper, and was a member of the municipal council of Riese for over fifty years.

When his brother-in-law, Cardinal Sarlo, was elected Pope, John Parolin refused to change his modest mode of life, saying that he would maintain the traditions of the Sarlo family for simplicity and frugality. He requested to omit flowers and the usual oration at his funeral. His son, Rev. Mgr. Parolin, is archpriest of Possagno, and his daughter, Glida Parolin, is living with the Pope's two sisters in Rome.

## Holy Land, Rome, Lourdes, and Loretto.

A Pilgrimage to the above, together with a grand tour of Egypt and the south of Europe is offered by McGrane's Catholic Tours, 187 Broadway, N. Y. City, to leave New York, Feb. 5, 1908. Cost, from \$575 up. Write for particulars.

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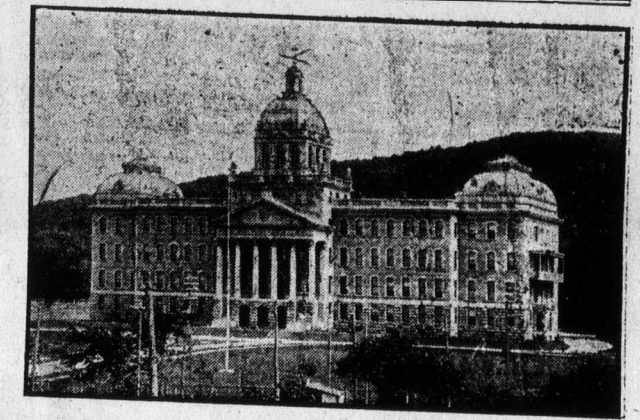
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