

A Glad New Year.

Sing soft and low, with tender tone, Rejoice for the years gone by...

MODERN RELIGIOUS SKEPTICISM.

Bishop Ryan's Eloquent Discourse on Some of its Causes.

Western Watchman. CONTINUED.

Again, how often do we see it asserted, and no doubt the assertion has produced skepticism in our minds, that the immortality of the soul was not recognized in the Jewish Scriptures...

BOTH ASSERTIONS ARE FALSE—

Both the assertion that there is no evidence of the doctrine before the captivity, and the assertion that there is no evidence of the immortality of the soul in the Jewish Scriptures...

LEARNED MEN TO INSTRUCT HIM,

But the Scriptures and the learned men and their teachings come also within the domain of private interpretation, and there is no living speaker with authority to explain what is the meaning when there is doubt in the mind...

THE THIRD CAUSE,

As it seems to me, of the religious skepticism of this day is the Parthenian training in religion of our children. This is not peculiar to any church...

malice of Judas without having his remorse—the man whose rational character is infinitely beneath that of a tramp...

I have thus endeavored to show you, my dear friends, that ignorance and not knowledge is the cause of much of the skepticism of the present day...

LEFT SOMEONE ON THIS EARTH To teach them that if they were without a teacher they should be skeptics...

Of the skepticism of today and of every age is the war between conscience and the sophistries of passion. Man lives in warfare. Passion is always contending with conscience and conscience with passion...

But the Scriptures and the learned men and their teachings come also within the domain of private interpretation, and there is no living speaker with authority to explain what is the meaning when there is doubt in the mind...

That pride of intellect which will not trust in the little affairs of every day life, but must go and consult some one else before we risk a little money; that intellect which wisely and reasonably we distrust somewhat because of our past experience with it...

As it seems to me, of the religious skepticism of this day is the Parthenian training in religion of our children. This is not peculiar to any church...

of home, gives up entirely the practices of religion, and tries to doubt the truths he has heard and to get rid of the causes of the old systems that disturb him...

Teach him that He is a God who loved little children, that He is a God who made stars and everything in creation; the God who, incarnate, went to the feast at Cana, in Galilee, and gave those who were there the means to enjoy it a little longer...

THE FOURTH CAUSE Of the skepticism of today and of every age is the war between conscience and the sophistries of passion. Man lives in warfare...

Now, before I close, having endeavored to show you some of the causes of the religious skepticism of the nineteenth century, I wish to give you a few words on what I consider remedies for these causes...

LET US ASSESS IN THE PAST;

That pride of intellect which will not trust in the little affairs of every day life, but must go and consult some one else before we risk a little money; that intellect which wisely and reasonably we distrust somewhat because of our past experience with it...

Here, in the midst of danger, I have met despairing men who had scorned me and endeavored to find the way alone...

with a halo of sanctity. How does he speak? I give you this remarkable extract to show you how dangerous to society is the skepticism of the age...

"Employment is good, and frenzy and love are good, but hatred answers well when we can not love. Wealth is good because it can be charged into enjoyment. Power is good because it satisfies our pride...

THE LEGITIMATE RESULT. This is the legitimate result of the principle that we are not born but for pleasure, and as pleasure is the end of man, whatever stands between him and his god is evil...

From the valleys of the heart rise the exhalations, poisonous and dark, that settle upon the head lands of the intellect, and they must be removed before God is seen...

THE LIGHT OF HEAVEN IS SHED.

The great sea with its ships appears, the mountains in their glory, and all the works of God, with heaven's golden sunshine streams above and ground them all. Purify the heart, and things will appear differently to the inclination...

And, as on the Alpine heights, when the traveller meets the mist on the mountain, and possibly the great dangerous precipices, and possibly the loud catarrh, and is in the midst of danger, only enlightened by the flash of lightning that comes but for a moment...

Here, in the midst of danger, I have met despairing men who had scorned me and endeavored to find the way alone...

who have come to me and I have seen them safe over the precipices. I have dwelt among these precipices, amid sunshine and storm for those nineteen centuries, and I have had skiefties to give me their hands and say, "Lead me in the way that old Aquinas was, the way Augustine and Copernicus and of other great and intellectual men...

Learn something of the character of the teaching of our Divine Lord. The apostles in their day had false philosophers to meet and skeptics to refute. How did they refute them? "For the Jews," says the Apostle, "seek a sign and the Greeks search for wisdom, but we preach Christ and Him crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Gentiles folly, but to all who are called, whether Jew or Gentile, Christ, the wisdom of God...

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A PARTING WORD TO SKEPTICS.

And now, skeptics, who may have come here to night, one word before we part, perhaps never to meet again, such as the last time that you may hear from a Christian pulpit of the great truth of Christianity and its beauty and its consolation for souls...

If tonight, speaking in his name who hath sent me, I have said anything that brought even a momentary illumination of your intellect, or touched your heart, if you doubt, and difficulty, tossed upon the storm child of sorrow, sent by God, who through it would save you—if I have said anything concerning Him, whom I represent, say to him, in the prayer of the skeptic, "If it be Thee, Lord, command me to come to Thee..."

And he will stretch out his hands as He did to doubting Peter, and you will be enabled to walk upon the troubled water. His side and He will lead you to the bark. And as when they of old entered the bark, the wind ceased, so shall the storm of doubt...

and difficulty cease in the depths of your soul. And no longer doubting, but falling at the feet of Jesus, your skepticism will disappear and you will cry in the veneration of your faith and hope and love, and gratitude to God, "Indeed, thou art the Son of the living God. Here is peace. Here is certainty. Here is the answer to the questions of my soul. Here is the truth, the answer to the cry of the darkness of my heart, my God and my God, indeed thou art the Son of the living God."

A CALVINIST ON THE JESUITS.

The Abbe Moigno has the following in the last number of Les Mondes: My friend, M. Sacc, who has taken such a lively interest in progress under every form, sends me the following letter on his return from South America, where he made a lengthened sojourn. It is the more worthy of notice that it comes from the pen of a Calvinist...

"During my long peregrinations from one end of America to the other, the immense services rendered there by the Jesuits were made in some manner palpably visible to me. To them alone the civilization of that immense continent is due, and what remains of their works attests both the might of their genius and the perseverance of their efforts to civilize those wonderful countries which their barbarous Spanish conquerors sought only to profit by...

"It is my conviction that nothing short of a recall of the Jesuits can raise the republics of South America. They are fallen so low merely because they have become a prey to constant revolutions brought on by ambitious men who place the government of their country in jeopardy by the vilest devices. The order of the Jesuits alone, with its military organization, represents the interests of all, and can bring back order to those unhappy countries. They alone can save the Indian tribes, which are threatened with complete extinction, although laborers are the only thing required to work out the incalculable wealth of that soil, which contains all imaginable treasures, either at its surface or in its bosom. When the civilization of these tribes is brought about, colonization will be easy enough, because they know the country thoroughly, without them it will always be extremely difficult, chiefly on account of the obstacles they put in the way. Unfortunately it is to be feared that the recall of that order so deservedly famous will meet with many difficulties, because it would stand in the way of all those personal ambitions to whose shameless and relentless rivalries those unfortunate states have become a prey."

What the "Pledge" is.

Total abstinence practiced through a supernatural motive is a great virtue. The motive may be a desire to avoid the occasion of falling into the sin of intemperance, or it may be mortification or self-denial, or a desire to save the souls of others by means of good example. A temperance pledge is a public avowal of one's resolve to abstain wholly from the use of intoxicating drink through one or all of these motives, and is therefore a great act of virtue. On the other hand, it should be distinctly understood that the will of the Church in this matter is that persons taking the pledge are not to bind themselves under the pain of sin. A pledge is not a vow. Of course, it is possible for persons to thus bind themselves; but such is neither the intention nor the wish of the Church. A vow should never be made unless under the direction, or with the consent, of one's spiritual adviser. Much harm, we mean much sin before God, may result from the mistaken idea that a temperance pledge binds under pain of sin. Some years ago the Archbishop and Bishops of Quebec petitioned the Holy See to favor in a special way the total abstinence societies of that Province. The Holy Father replied that their request was granted, "providing the members of said societies bound themselves by neither vow nor oath, and providing that the promise to abstain from wine and other intoxicating drinks would be so made that its violation be not a sin."

It is, however, one's previous intemperate habits make intoxicating drink in any quantity an immediate occasion of drunkenness, then such a one commits a mortal sin by breaking the pledge or by indulging in it at all even if no pledge were made.—Apostolic Aurora.

Get Rich.

When Hops are \$1.25 per lb. as now, an acre will yield \$1,000 profit, and yet the best family Medicine on earth. Hop Bitters, contain the same quantity of Hops and are sold at the same price fixed years ago, although Hops now are twenty times higher than then. Raise Hops, get rich in pocket; use Hop Bitters and get rich in health.

lection with ultimate divergence downward and outward, the effect would be to cause the "rays" of light to fall obliquely on all objects within the immediate area of illumination.

Improvements will no doubt be made to remove the objections that have been raised to the use of electric light after the present methods.

SOUND DOCTRINE.

A respected Western contemporary lays down a solid proposition, when it asserts that society cannot exist without virtue, or, in other words, that civilization without religion can have no enduring basis to rest on.

seeks to live not only without God, but in defiance of Him. That he cannot so live will become very evident in the course of events clearly at hand.

A GOOD RESOLUTION.

In these days, when legislative bodies decree so many things of a senseless and utterly purposeless character, or adopt measures at variance with the dictates of right reason and conscience, it is pleasing to note a resolution unanimously adopted some weeks ago by the Diet of Tyrol.

MISSION OF ST. JOACHIM, RUSCOM RIVER.

Blessing of the new Presbytery—Erection of the Stations of the Cross.

Some ten months since, His Lordship Bishop Walsh formed a new mission out of a portion of Belle River and Stoney Point. The new parish, known by the name of St. Joachim, is about at equal distance from the two above mentioned places, and its inhabitants, who are mostly farmers and Canadians, are settled in the neighborhood of the poetical little River of Ruscom, whose verdant banks are most charming and attractive.

way to the soul-damning sin of despair. They were exhorted to perform as often as possible the devotions of the Stations of the Cross, on account of the many spiritual advantages they would derive from it.

THE CATHOLIC CLUB.

Father Ryan's Lecture on Moral Philosophy—Man's Place and Power in the Material, Mental and Moral World.

Father Ryan continued his interesting and instructive lectures last evening at the weekly meeting of this Club. The members assembled in goodly numbers and listened to the lecture with eager attention and evident interest and pleasure.

TERRIBLE HOLOCAUST.

Burning of a Hotel Full of Guests at Milwaukee.

Milwaukee, Jan. 10.—About three o'clock this morning a fire occurred at the Newhall House, which spread with such rapidity that but few inmates escaped. One hundred lives are lost, fifty bodies, mostly women, already having been found. The majority were killed by jumping from the upper windows, the fire having cut off all means of escape.

The fire broke out in the kitchen, and the flames soon reached the dining room, where a number of the guests were sitting at table. The fire spread rapidly, and in a few minutes the building was a mass of flames.

THE MISSING.

The following are missing: W. J. Durand, insurance agent; Geo. G. Smith, passenger agent, Lake Shore Railway; Mrs. L. W. Brown, Miss Challis, dressmaker; Walter and Wm. Glendon.

THE SERIOUSLY INJURED.

are Orange William, residence unknown; Ben. Tice, clerk of the house; L. W. Brown, train master N. W. Road; T. B. Elliot, lawyer, Fally; W. R. Bussenbach, General Western Passenger Agent of the Michigan Central; Rose Burns, Mary Owens, Nancy McLaughlin, Kitty Combs, Dorsetown, servants.

and they all knelt in prayer. One of the girls had a crucifix and a woman prayed out loud. Just as they had given up hope the window was crashed in, followed by the appearance of a fireman with a ladder.

COLONEL JAMES A. MULLIGAN.

An Irish Soldier—A Catholic Gentleman.

July, 1864, Colonel Mulligan received his death wound while leading his famous "Irish Brigade" on the disastrous field of Winchester, in the Valley of the Shenandoah. "He fell," says a contemporary account, "while rallying his men."

to the end he was enthusiastic in the cause of Ireland. How his cheeks glowed and his eyes glistened as he talked about it; and how eloquently he could publicly discuss among the living.

WILLIAM J. OSAHAN.

By Holydays at Niagara Falls.

Tired and weary from the din and bustle of city life, I resolved to shake off its cares and to take refuge in Nature's favorite and most favored spot, the world renowned Falls of Niagara, where my expectations were more than realized.

and who recognized in him the attributes which constitute the heroic soldier. "A minute ball passed through his thigh, and he fell from his horse. His staff gathered around him, and, assisted by the brave men of his command, endeavored to bring him off the field. It was almost certain death to every man who approached him, and yet the gallant men of the Irish Brigade, with their colors planted close to his body, rallied around him, determined, if possible, to bear him off the field. The enemy, perceiving their intention, concentrated their whole fire on them for a moment, and every second a dozen men would drop dead around him."

WILLIAM J. OSAHAN.

By Holydays at Niagara Falls.

More than eighteen years have passed since that fateful day when the life of that gallant soldier ebbed away on the bloody field. His remains were carried back to the city which honored him living and mourned him in death. All that mortal honor and affection's tribute could then bestow was showered on his coffin and festooned over his grave.

The Cry of the Suffering Souls.

BY KLEANOR G. DONNELLY.

Out of the sea of suffering... The cry of the suffering souls... Miserere mei miserere mei!

Deafness that is caused by colds, inflammation of the membrane of the ear... The Had and Worthless... Miserere mei miserere mei!

EARLY AWAKE... FLYING THE KITE... FAITHFUL COMPANION... THE BURIAL OF THE PET BIRD... HAPPY CHILDHOOD... THE LITTLE SAILOR... GOING TO THE PASTURE... GOING FOR A RIDE... THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN... THE TEN COMMANDMENTS!

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS!... THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN... THE TEN COMMANDMENTS!

THE IDEAL AND THE REAL PRIEST... The ideal priest has a pleasant life... He says his duty makes, recites his... He finds the important habits of...

CATHOLIC ART... A Suggestion to the Heals of Catholic Families... A few weeks ago I visited several...

How to get along... Never stop to tell stories in business... If you have a piece of business...

Our Progress... As stages are quickly abandoned... the completion of railroads, so the huge...

How it works... Malarial Diseases, so prevalent in the Spring and Fall, such as Ague, Chills, Fever, Bilious Fever, &c., depend upon an inactive state of the liver, bowels, skin, kidneys, etc.

Nothing Short of Unmistakable Benefits... Conferred upon tens of thousands of sufferers could originate and maintain the reputation which AYER'S SASSAPARILLA enjoys... It is a compound of the best vegetable alteratives...

JACOBS OIL... THE GREAT GERMAN REMEDY FOR RHEUMATISM... Neuralgia, Sciatica, Lumbago, Backache, Soreness of the Chest, Gout, Quinsy, Sore Throat, Swellings and Sprains, Burns and Scalds, General Bodily Pains, Tooth, Ear and Headache, Frost-bitten Feet and Ears, and all other Pains and Aches.

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