

The Catholic Record

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London, Saturday, Aug. 3, 1918

THE EPIDEMIC OF STRIKES

We have cast stones at other countries where there have been war-time strikes, but now we know how easily such deplorable disputes may arise among ourselves. Strikes are unpatriotic, but strikers may be just as patriotic as any other men. It takes two to make a quarrel, and the real fault, and therefore the real failure in patriotism may be on the part of the employer.

PUBLICITY IN CHARITY

In the annual report of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Toronto, which was published in our columns a fortnight ago, there were some words of discussion on the extent to which the Society was justified in giving publicity to its good works.

meant that the Society was not to give a record of its work. On the contrary, it was a rule of the Society as laid down by Ozanam that such records were to be published, and great care was taken to ensure that these records would be reasonably complete.

"During the first days of our existence . . . not only did we abstain from making known to the public the amount of the alms we distributed to the poor, not only did we abstain from publishing any report or general account, but we even hesitated to solicit the donations of such persons as were not within the usual circle of our connections. In aftertimes, what at first had been deemed inadvisable became on the contrary equally right and opportune.

There are certain kinds of publicity much in favor at the present day that are entirely contrary to the high Catholic spirit inculcated by Frederick Ozanam. For example, it is a familiar and not an unnatural thing for men interested in good works to make public their praise and appreciation of some associate who has performed exceptional service.

"THE PROBLEM OF IRELAND" We reproduce in this issue a masterly review of the whole Irish problem by the well-known Nationalist leader T. P. O'Connor, M. P. Lengthy as the article is it will repay careful perusal by all those who realize that the Problem of Ireland is, as Mr. Aqunth said not long ago, a world problem which imperatively demands solution.

SANITY AND THE SPECIALISTS

There are welcome signs that common sense is triumphing over the "experts" who have been tyrannizing over us of late years, especially in the sphere of education and what is called uplift or social service.

"The teacher we have quoted has also some very sensible things to say on the school superseding the home and trying to do more than it is capable of." "The Department of Education has adopted itself the children of today, taking the place of mother and mentor. The system undertakes so much for the children that the parent has become indifferent, considering the system as a foster parent to be, in some vague way, capable of turning out a better product than the parent could produce."

THE WRONG TO BISHOP BUDKA Last week we mentioned the fact, without commenting upon it, that The Toronto Globe featured in its news columns the arrest of Bishop Budka on a charge of sedition, but did not give a line to the news that the charge against His Lordship was withdrawn by the prosecution.

NOTES AND COMMENTS THE RATHER extraordinary circumstance of a body of city scavengers (an occupation requiring the minimum degree of intelligence) receiving better pay than the carriers of His Majesty's Mail in Canada, has been before the public within the past few weeks.

IN REGARD to the Machin charge against Ontario Methodism, the Methodist Army and Navy Board, which met in Toronto a week ago, placed itself on record after this fashion: "The attention of the board was called to the recent astonishing statement of Lieut. Col. Machin, M. P., but the utterance was as irresponsible in itself, so completely unrelated to the apparent subject under discussion, and so absolutely without foundation in fact, that the board decided to give no attention whatever to it."

AN ITALIAN citizen writes to the Toronto Star the following appeal for fair play to his country and its flag: "The Italian colony of Toronto today receive no more respect or

honor than a common alien enemy. The Italians who have been so loyal and patriotic to Canada and who so long have worked and helped to beautify Canada with its beautiful railways, cement works, roads, harbors and every nature of work that other nationality of peoples refused today, taking the place of mother and mentor. The system undertakes so much for the children that the parent has become indifferent, considering the system as a foster parent to be, in some vague way, capable of turning out a better product than the parent could produce."

"The teacher who writes in that strain is in peril of being called a reactionary, but our progressive age is learning to believe that reactionaries are sometimes right."

AS WE LEARN from an authoritative source, the project of making Rome a seaport is likely to be realized in the not distant future. A convention has been signed by representatives of the Italian Government, and by accredited delegates of the city and province of Rome, for constructing a port at Ostia Nuova, which when completed and connected with the Tiber by means of a navigable canal will give harbor facilities to Rome and thereby realize an old ambition of its citizens.

THIS WILL probably constitute one of the after-war undertakings of the Government, to provide work for discharged soldiers. The first group of works to be constructed will cost about 47,000,000 lire (between nine and ten million dollars) which is to be advanced by the Commune, the State reimbursing, according to the convention, 50% and the Province 10% of this sum. The capacity of the port on completion will be for 1,000,000 tons annually. Its bearing upon the future of Rome is obvious.

ANOTHER GREAT project which has been approved by the Government of Italy is that of connecting the Adriatic with the Mediterranean by a water route. This provides for the construction of a navigable canal from Milan via Lodi to the river Po, and thence down that tributary to Venice. As the Milan Port Construction Works, to which the preparation of details has been entrusted, must present its report to the Minister of Public Works within six months, and the actual work of construction will have to be begun within six months of its acceptance by the Government, it is in a fair way of being realized.

THE CANADIAN Food Bulletin publishes an extract from a recent letter from Paris which should afford profitable reading to Canadians generally. Those disposed to chafe under the trifling restrictions of the Food Board, and to turn up their noses at "War bread," should meditate for a little upon conditions in the French capital, and in the provinces.

AS YOU may know, no white bread is to be bought in Paris, and I am told that in some parts of the provinces conditions are even worse—that bread of any sort is difficult to get. The quality of the bread in Paris is very poor. It is mixed with many substitutes which do not seem to respond to the yeast. It is generally sour and clammy, and has made a number of people sick. Besides no white bread, there is no cream or sugar or butter desserts of any kind except shaved and treated cream served in any hotel or restaurant; and no cheese is served if the cost of the meal exceeds a dollar and twenty cents. Imagine sitting down to the early French breakfast at a hotel like the Ritz, in Paris, and being served sour war bread and this miserable French coffee which tastes like elshury and soft soap, and then being told that you could not have butter for your bread, nor sugar nor cream for your coffee."

IF UNDER such conditions the heroic people of France can maintain their proverbial buoyancy of spirit and adamant determination in presence of the foe, the people of this continent should not be behindhand in the good work under so much more favorable conditions.

AS REGARD food restrictions, the people of Great Britain also are bearing up with cheerfulness and fortitude. During the recent food queues outside provision shops, we are told the best of good spirits prevailed

through all the weary hours of waiting. One of the conservation rhymes referring to bread reads: Each ounce that you take Has a life at stake And is helping to lose us the War. Think once and think twice Ere you cut a new slice, And show honor and pluck and good sense.

There are no stronger weapons against the Huns than national fortitude and cheerfulness.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

THE CAPTURE by the French of Oulchy-Le-Chateau and the recapture of Villedomont, with seven hundred prisoners, furnish indisputable evidence that the army of the Crown Prince is having a hard time of it in the Marne salient.

POCH was not accommodating. The enemy's depots and roads have been shelled and bombed continually for a week, and in defending his stores the German army has been so cut up that the Crown Prince's reserves have been reduced to the vanishing point in making good the wastage. There are believed to be but thirty divisions now available for immediate use of that vast reserve of over a hundred divisions with which the German leaders set out in March to win a German peace.

A FRENCH official return concerning the results of airplane fighting during the first two weeks in June shows how recklessly untrue are the German reports, which invariably place the losses of the Allies at from twice to thrice those incurred by the German aviation service. During the fourteen days in question, which included the closing phase of the battle of the Aisne and the entire period of the battle of the Oise, the French aviators and anti-aircraft gunners destroyed or forced to land in French territory 199 German planes. In addition 161 others were damaged—many of them probably being destroyed, although no assurance could be had of this. The French lost only 72 machines in action, and twelve of these were only damaged. This indicates a net loss of at least three German planes for every French machine. The ratio of British losses is equally low. The aerial supremacy of the Allies is now indisputable, and latterly the Germans have not dared to face the music. This refusal of battle is not due to cowardice—for the German fliers are brave men, though less thoroughly trained than those of the Allied armies—but is probably the result of orders issued to prevent the wastage of aviators and airplanes from booming dangerously large. When vital necessity arises for airplane activity either in fighting or scouting the German machines have to take their chance.

BRITISH day and night reports tell of unsuccessful attacks by the enemy on the recently won British positions in and around Meteren. There was also some sharp fighting around Hebuterne, on the Albert sector. There are no signs of an enemy assault in force on the British front.—Globe, July 27.

SITUATION IS TRANSFORMED

(Canadian Press Despatch) With the American Army on the Aisne-Marne Front, July 26.—The allied offensive has slowed down, but has not been checked. Franco-American troops today forced back the Germans a bit farther north. The greater part of the fighting is taking place in the big forests north of the Marne and along the western flank of the salient.

London, July 26.—As a result of the past week's activities, the whole situation on the Western front has been transformed. The Germans, according to despatches from the front, have used 65 divisions on the Champagne front, and the whole of the Crown Prince's reserves have been exhausted. The only fresh reserves remaining to the Germans are less than 30 divisions attached to Crown Prince Rupprecht's armies.

Last week it appeared certain that Prince Rupprecht would be called upon to launch an attack on the British front, but the enemy put off this attack, and the psychological moment for it probably has passed, for the Germans appear committed to the great battle in progress, and cannot afford to stake heavily on a dubious operation at another part of the front, according to the view of British experts.

IMPARTIAL TESTIMONY TO BRAVERY OF FRENCH PRIESTS

An anti-clerical journal in Italy—L'Italia—publishes the following statement: "Of the 750 Jesuits in the French Army, 112 were killed, 23 taken prisoners, and 48 were wounded; there are still 528 in active service, over 160 minor officers, so

much for efficiency; and as to how, enough to say that in all, for 525 enlisted men, there were bestowed 400 decorations or distinctions.

And still some say the Catholic religion is destructive to patriotism.—The Monitor.

PROBLEM OF IRELAND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

have something of the qualities, curiously enough, of the other race and the other creed with which they are constantly at war; they are resolute and very practical; very passionate in their convictions. The possibility of their being left out of the Irish Parliament, for which they had worked for generations and against such gigantic obstacles, was loathsome to everybody in the Nationalist circles, and the only justification that could be found for their temporary separation from the rest of their countrymen was that, in the nature of things, the separation could only be temporary; economic and other reasons would have drawn the rest of Ulster into the common life of Ireland.

THE ULSTER CONVENTION It was the intensity of the passions that raged and the vital issues that were involved which made the Belfast Convention that had to do with the rejection or the acceptance of the compromise one of the most exciting and interesting assemblages ever held. There were only a few people present, outside the delegates, and some of them were from England; one of them was a Welshman, a friend and a representative of Lloyd George. Everybody who saw the famous convention agrees in describing it as one of the most impressive gatherings they had ever beheld. There was now and then some interruptions, passionate and approaching the insulting; but, taken as a whole, the proceedings were characterized by an orderliness, a sobriety and a seriousness worthy of the greatness of the occasion and of the issues. And the convention produced a man and a speech worthy of the opportunity; it was this man who ultimately turned the oft wavering scale and who achieved, over apparently irascible forces, one of the most notable triumphs of oratory that Joseph Devlin records. That man was Joseph Devlin. It is difficult for anybody who has never been under the spell of this remarkable man's oratory to realize what a force he is. A small man with a massive head that seems as big as the short body—not unlike Stephen A. Douglas in physique and in gifts, of an uncertainty of mood that comes from super-sensitive nervousness, but who has the courage of a lion combined with the nerves and quiver, tremble and torture in moments of anxiety, Joseph Devlin is to say the man above all others who can control an Irish meeting, and who can interest, amuse, entrance even the House of Commons.

And never in the course of his life had he to face a task more difficult than that of the convention. Mr. Redmond, in the chair, had spoken solemnly with his sober elegance and impressive manner, but he had left the audience cold and hostile. Mr. Dillon did not remove the bad impression of the opening speech of Redmond, for he had no faith in the possibility of the success of the negotiations and was still under the impression of the horror of the rebellion and the execution. He had lived six days and six nights in his house in Dublin, which was not a stone's throw from the area where the bullets were filling the air and where first the battle, when the conflagration and finally a looting and wild mob threatened the lives of himself and his six children. Mr. Devlin faced the conference, and his speech of an hour so swept the audience off its feet that there could be no doubt as to the results; and the compromise was carried by a large majority.

THE GREAT BETRAYAL

On the other side, Sir Edward Carson had his own difficulties, but he also carried his man; and so the two Irish parties presented to the Government the agreement which had been suggested to them by Mr. Lloyd George, with the approval of their constituents. It looked as if there were nothing to be done but to get the necessary legislation rushed through Parliament, and the opening of an Irish Parliament after an interval of 116 years, seemed at hand. It was then that occurred one of the most flagrant breaches of faith even in the history of England and Ireland. Lord Lansdowne, and then other Tories, raised the standard of revolt against all of the terms of the agreement; then Mr. Asquith weakly agreed to modify the agreement in two important particulars. What he should have done was to have told these reactionaries that his motor car was at the door of No. 10 Downing Street and that in three

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

REV. F. F. HICKET, O.S.B. ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE ENEMIES OF THE CHURCH; THEIR ALL, THE DRINK EVIL.

He that contendeth in small things shall be little and little. (Eccles. xix. 1.) We have studied the great enemies of the Church—the World, the Flesh, and the Devil.

And my aim this morning is to warn and frighten beginners, and not to try and reclaim habitual drunkards.

Others, not prone to this vice, the devil has to lay siege to and make captive in some way.

xxvi. ii.) Honour that man, and call him father! He is the thief of the household; he has drunk the money that should keep and provide for you; he makes you an outcast from the Church; and you have to honour him!

Qumrrellings and murder, forbidden by the fifth commandment. Does not drunkenness lead up to nine tenths of these crimes? And the sixth, Drink is secretly ever mentioned in the Scripture without a reference to the sins against the sixth commandment.

Yes, even worse may follow; a drunkard's death is no uncommon thing. Alas! then our Lord's words come true: "You shall die in your sins." (John viii. 24.)

My dear brethren, will you be wise and take a word of warning? You may never yet have been tempted to drink, but you can be humble and afraid of it.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

THE DOCTRINE AND PRACTICE OF PRAYING FOR THE DEAD AMONG ANGLICANS

Nine years before Newman became a Catholic, his heart beating with the surging of the rising tide of truth, he wrote as follows of the commemoration of the faithful departed in the early Christian Church:

"The first Father who expressly mentions Commemorations for the dead in Christ is Tertullian, . . . about a hundred years after St. John's (the apostle's) death. This, it is said, is not authority early enough to prove that ordinance [custom] to be apostolical, though succeeding Fathers—Origen, St. Cyprian, Eusebius, St. Cyril of Jerusalem, etc.—bear witness to it ever so strongly." Yet St. Paul's Epistle to Philemon is for the first time mentioned by Tertullian, and yet it is now universally accepted.

Now, I ask, why do we receive the Epistle to Philemon as St. Paul's, and not the Commemorations of the faithful departed as apostolical also?

which is acknowledged on all hands to have been observed as a religious duty down to three hundred years ago. (Discussions and Arguments, pp. 204, 205.)

They are at rest; We may not stir the heaven of their repose. With loud voiced grief, or passionate request, Or selfish plaint for those Who in the mountain grotts of Eden lie, And hear the fourfold river as it hurries by.

They hear it sweep In distance down the savage vale; But they at eddying pool or current deep Shall never more grow pale; They hear, and meekly muse, as fain to know How long untired, unspent, that giant stream shall flow.

And soothing sounds Blend with the neighboring waters as they glide. Posted along the haunted garden's bounds Angelic forms abide, Echoing, as words of watch, o'er lawn and grove, The verses of that hymn which Seraphs chant above.

To be sure this is a mild view of the Purgatorial state of suffering, yet adaptable to some gentle phases of it, as expressed by St. Bede and many others; who, however, do not fail to tell the severer lessons of purgatorial experience, those that are for other than mere waiting.

Remember thou keep holy the Sabbath day. Remember! How can he? The drunkard has no senses to remember! How can he? The drunkard has no senses to remember with.

The fourth Commandment! Poor children, how can you keep that, when you see your parents drunk? Honour her a drunken woman, a mother! Her reproach and her shame shall not be hid. (Eccles.

tion shall be ended; and also that the prayers of the living help these patient sufferers forward towards heaven, especially by the offering of the holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Among Anglicans, therefore, a shadowy doctrine and a poetical imagining about the future middle state was all; except here and there a group of half-Catholicized High Church worshippers could be found, thinking right and praying right about the faithful departed; yet even these super-high spirits disliked the term Purgatory, and not seldom struck hard blows at it.

This awful War, which is the broad and crowded road of death, trodden not by thousands or tens of thousands, but by millions of men who are pressing across the borders of eternity, has lifted up its voice with bleeding insistence and drowned the hateful cry of Protestant revolt against a sweet Catholic truth.

In other words, a person who is habitually constipated, is poisoning himself. We know now that Auto-intoxication, due to non-action of the bowels, is directly responsible for serious Kidney and Bladder Troubles; that it upsets the Stomach, causes Indigestion, Loss of Appetite and Sleeplessness; that chronic Rheumatism, Gout, Pain In The Back, are relieved as soon as the bowels become regular; and that Pimples, Rash, Eczema and other Skin Affections disappear when "Fruit-a-tives" are taken to correct Constipation.

"Fruit-a-tives" will protect you against Auto-intoxication because this wonderful fruit medicine acts directly on all the eliminating organs. 50c. a box, \$ for \$2.50, trial size 25c. At all dealers or sent on receipt of price by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

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In other words, a person who is habitually constipated, is poisoning himself. We know now that Auto-intoxication, due to non-action of the bowels, is directly responsible for serious Kidney and Bladder Troubles; that it upsets the Stomach, causes Indigestion, Loss of Appetite and Sleeplessness; that chronic Rheumatism, Gout, Pain In The Back, are relieved as soon as the bowels become regular.

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bishops, and of the deputies both lay and clerical, adopted a really Catholic prayer for the departed, and directed its insertion in the Prayer Book ritual service. A yet hotter and fuller recognition was largely desired; but what was won was unquestionably a triumph for Catholic truth in this matter.

"With respect to Prayer Book revision the progress was less than had been hoped for, but it was good as far as it went. The principle of direct prayers for the departed has been accepted by such overwhelming majorities in both houses that it is never likely to be questioned again.

"THAT ANGEL OF THE WORLD"

"That Angel of the World" is the beautiful title Shakespeare gives "reverence." For, like a celestial spirit, that fair virtue safeguards purity, recognizes authority, protects innocence, honors integrity, venerates age, defends helplessness, does homage to sanctity, and gives God the worship that is His due.

"Now to entreat of that question, whether we ought to pray for them that are departed or no. Whosoever it will cleave only unto the word of God, then we must needs grant that we have no commandment so to do. For the Scripture doth acknowledge but two places after this life, the one proper to the elect and blessed of God, the other to the reprobate and damned souls, as may be well gathered from the parable of Lazarus and the rich man."

"For the sake of peace, and to avoid the charge of heresy, it was wisely judged that the doctrine should be left open, so that it should not seem to be a matter of faith."

"Now to entreat of that question, whether we ought to pray for them that are departed or no. Whosoever it will cleave only unto the word of God, then we must needs grant that we have no commandment so to do.

FLANDERS BELLS

Oh it's I that would be hearing The Flanders bells again, The way they used to murmur Across the evening plain, The way they used to jangle Through rainy dawn or fair, And laugh the people's laughter And pray the people's prayer.

The farm-lads done with plowing, The oxen safe in stall, The teamsters back from fairing, The old bells knew them all, And children ceased their playing And harkened on their knees What Angels was saying Above the roadside trees.

Oh, it's I that would be seeing The men come home again Along the Flanders highways Through sunlight and through rain; Their voices would be tender, Their weary eyes be wet, To hear the great bells crying What no man could forget.

Evening they knew and morning, We'ding and funeral, And songs of little children— The chimes could sing them all! And many a woman listened After her prayer was said, To hear the bells go flying Like angels overhead.

They've melted them for metal, They've melted them to guns, Go bring them home to Flanders The patient exiled ones! When all the guns are captured Melt them, melt them down, And mold them into bells again For every Flanders town!

Pending in Rome is beatification of the 1,743 martyrs of Tonkin, China. The documents in the process make nine large volumes.

THE PRIEST'S HELPER

A certain clergyman says: In my experience as a priest I have found that the weekly advent of the Catholic newspaper is one of the greatest helps that a priest can have in his parochial work.

Cultivation is as necessary to the mind as food to the body.—Cicero.



Far more effective than Sticky Fly Catchers. Clean to handle. Sold by Druggists and Grocers everywhere.

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And yet your uninvested funds are worth 5% to 7% in safe and convenient forms of investments, due to the same economic causes.

Larger amounts in proportion. Interest payable every six months at all banks.

Advertisement for Graham, Sanson & Co. Investment Bankers, including a table of interest rates and contact information.

Economy! "SALADA" TEA

is not only the most economical on account of its great strength but you have the refreshing and delicious qualities as well.

Advertisement for Stained Glass Memorial Windows and Leaded Lights by B. Leonard, Quebec, P.Q.

Large advertisement for McClary's Sunshine Furnace, including a diagram of the furnace and detailed text about its efficiency and availability.

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

Better than gold is a conscience clear. Though toiling for bread in an humble sphere. Doubly blessed with content and health. Untried by the lusts and cares of wealth.

YOU WILL NEVER BE SORRY

For living a pure life. For doing your level best. For looking before leaping. For hearing before judging. For being kind to the poor.

DON'T BE CARELESS IN YOUR WORK

Never get careless about your work or think you are indispensable. No one is indispensable; there is always some one who can take your place.

was discharged from a responsible position a few years ago on the ground of unfitness. The blow considerably damaged his confidence. He came very near going into another line of work that he was plainly unused to.

I have just heard of an eccentric employer who takes his men off on occasional outings. His competitors like to laugh at him. But he thinks he has the laugh on them. He knows that his personal relation with the men makes them work all the harder.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

SHORT SKETCH OF LIVES OF SAINTS OF THE WEEK

JULY 29.—ST. MARTHA, VIRGIN

St. John tells us that "Jesus loved Martha and Mary and Lazarus" and yet but few glimpses are vouchsafed us of them. First, the sisters are set before us with a word. Martha received Jesus into her house, and was busy in outward, loving, lavish service, while Mary sat in silence at the feet she had bathed with her tears.

JULY 31.—ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

St. Ignatius was born at Loyola in Spain, in the year 1491. He served his king as a courier and a soldier till his thirtieth year. At that age, being laid low by a wound, he received the call of divine grace, and left the world. He embraced poverty and humiliation, that he might become more like to Christ, and won others to join him in the service of God.

AUGUST 1.—ST. PETER'S CHAINS

Herod Agrippa, King of the Jews, having put to death St. James the Great in the year 44, in order to gain the affection and applause of his people, caused St. Peter, the prince of the sacred college, to be cast into prison. It was his intention to put him publicly to death after Easter.

He was fastened to the ground by two chains, and slept between the two soldiers. In the middle of the night, a bright light shone in the prison, and an angel appeared near him, and striking him on the side, awakened him out of his sleep, and bade him instantly arise, gird his coat about him, put on his sandals and his cloak, and follow him.

The apostle did so, for the chains had dropped off from his hands. Following his guide, he passed after him through the first and second wards of watches, and through the iron gate which led into the city, which opened to them of its own accord. The angel conducted him through one street, then suddenly disappearing, left him to seek some asylum. The apostle went directly to the house of Mary the mother of John, surnamed Mark, where several disciples were met together, and were sending up their prayers to heaven for his deliverance.

AUGUST 21.—ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI

St. Alphonsus was born of noble parents near Naples, in 1696. His spiritual training was entrusted to the Fathers of the Oratory in that city, and from his boyhood Alphonsus was known as a most devout Brother of the Little Oratory. At the early age of sixteen he was made doctor in law, and he threw himself into this career with ardor and success. A mistake, by which he lost an important cause, showed him the vanity of human fame, and determined him to labor only for the honor of God.

AUGUST 22.—ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI

When Our Divine Lord, as St. Alphonsus records, "declared: 'But I say unto you swear not at all... but let your speech be yes, yea; or no, and so be your yea, yea; and your no, no; that you may not be defiled by the teaching of the Old Testament by forbidding all oaths, but rather confirmed its prohibition of such rash and unnecessary oaths as men frequently employ in their daily intercourse with one another.'"

AUGUST 23.—THE FINDING OF ST. STEPHEN'S RELICS

This second festival in honor of the holy protomartyr St. Stephen was instituted by the Church on the occasion of the discovery of his precious remains. His body lay long concealed, under the ruins of an old tomb, in a place twenty miles from Jerusalem, called Caphargamma, where stood a church which was served by a venerable priest named Lucian. In the year 415, on Friday, the third of December, about 9 o'clock at night, Lucian was sleeping in his bed in the baptistry, where he commonly lay in order to guard the sacred vessels of the church. Being half awake he saw a tall, comely old man of a venerable aspect, who approached him, and calling him by name, bade him go to Jerusalem and tell Bishop John to come and open the tombs in which his remains and certain other servants of Christ lay, that through their means God might open to many the gates of His clemency.

then shut them up. The Bishop consented to leave a small portion of them at Caphargamma; the rest were carried in the coffin, with singing of psalms and hymns, to the Church of St. Stephen. The translation was performed on the 29th of December, on which day the Church hath ever since honored the memory of St. Stephen, commemorating the discovery of his relics on the 3d of August probably on account of the dedication of some church in his honor.

OATHS

Proper reverence for the Name of God demands that we use careful precaution in the taking of oaths. When a man takes an oath, he calls upon God to witness the truth of what he is saying, and in so doing, he virtually exercises an act of Divine worship.

We have perhaps heard that tribute sometimes paid to a man's veracity in the assertion that "his word is as good as his bond," that is to say, his simple statement may be relied on with as much confidence as though he backed it up with a sum of money.

There are certain forms of bad language which resemble oaths. Their nature will depend on the intention of the person who uses them. Such expressions as "Before God," or "As God is my judge," may really be oaths, if those making them intend to invoke God's witness to the truth of their statements.

UNFAILING SOLACE

The "Imitation" has helped many a man to live well and to die holily. In the introductory study which Mrs. Wilfrid Ward contributed to the volume of "Last Lectures" by her husband, the late Dr. Ward, she tells of the things that comforted him in his closing days—the care and devotion of friends, the tender solicitude of his household, and the spiritual solace that was greatest of all.

He usually managed to walk up the steep hill to the church, where he said the Miserere, and each night he read the whole chapter of the Royal Road of the Cross from the "Imitation of Christ," and often the one preceding it. He read, too, his old favorite—the little volume of Fenelon's "Letters to Men." On the last night at Buxton, he said to me:

GOSSIP

Gossip is interesting. Few will deny that. But gossip is not worth while. And even if you must go to extremes to break yourself or your family or your friends of the habit of gossiping, you should persevere in a self-imposed task to lessen the number of gossipers in the world.

A person cannot stop gossiping suddenly, unless they have great self-control and a strong, compelling purpose. They must gradually accustom themselves to the change: they must give themselves something else to think about.

Harmless and friendly talk about one's neighbors and acquaintances is all very well; and to talk of one's friends is the most natural and laudable thing in the world. Such kindly talk can do no harm, and often accomplishes much good.

Perjury, strictly speaking, consists in taking deliberately oath to the

truth of something which one knows to be false. It is a grievous sin because of the insult it offers to Divine Truth. It is not only a lie, it is a sacrilege. Not everyone who tells a lie while under oath is a perjurer, however. A man on the witness-stand may become so thoroughly befuddled by the cross-examination of a lawyer, that he will swear to anything and everything; there is no guilt there, because there is no "deliberation."

What obligation am I under to keep my oath? If it was a valid oath, I am under a serious obligation. If, on the other hand, I bound myself to do something which is unlawful, I am under no obligation. I did wrong in making any such promise but I would do greater wrong were I to fulfill it. If I make a promissory oath and have no intention of ever keeping it, I sin grievously, and indeed against truth. Wherefore no one should promise under oath what, as he sees it, there is no real probability of his being able to fulfill.

For the consolation of those who report, annually or oftener, to the priest, to take a temporary pledge which they break at an often, it may be mentioned that they are not guilty of having sworn falsely. Their act was a simple promise not to do what they knew they were unable to do. There are certain forms of bad language which resemble oaths. Their nature will depend on the intention of the person who uses them.

There are certain forms of bad language which resemble oaths. Their nature will depend on the intention of the person who uses them. Such expressions as "Before God," or "As God is my judge," may really be oaths, if those making them intend to invoke God's witness to the truth of their statements. Generally, however, they are not intended in so serious a sense. Oaths are often necessary. When they must be employed, our ambition should be to honor the Holy Name in which they are made.

But we should strenuously avoid all those careless figures of speech in which the Holy Name is sounded irreverently. No tribute is paid to God by such appeals, nor is any greater force attached to what we say by the repeated mention of His Holy Name.—Catholic Transcript.

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