





The Old Year's Blessing.

DELAIDE PROCTOR. I am fading from you. But one draweth near. Called the Angel-guardian Of the coming year.

predecessors. They absolutely deny all inspiration; they reject Holy Writ, and proclaim that all sacred objects are human inventions and artifacts; they regard the Sacred Books not as containing the exact narrative of real events, but as inept fables and lying histories.

On this subject it is necessary to remark that in addition to the causes of difficulty which present themselves in the explanation of no matter what ancient authors, others have to be supplemented which are peculiar to the explanation of the Sacred Writings.

At the outset of their studies they should examine into the nature of the intelligence of their disciples, cultivate it, in fact, so as to fit them at once to preserve intact the doctrine of the Holy Writings and to comprehend their spirit.

another may be expounded in a consecutive and elaborate manner — at least every exertion should be exercised that the passages chosen for interpretation should be studied with sufficient completeness. Pupils allured in a sense, and instructed by this mode of explanation, might be able to re-peruse and relish the rest of the Bible for the duration of life.

Where God has placed His treasures there truth should be sought. The men in whom resides the succession of the Apostles, St. Irenaeus has already taught us, explain the Scriptures without danger.

By this law, full of wisdom the Church does not arrest or retard in the slightest degree the researches of Biblical science, but maintains them in the shelter of all error, and punitively contributes to their veritable progress.

fixed sense these texts of Scripture whose signification has been authentically indicated, whether by sacred writers whom the guidance of the Holy Ghost inspired, as occurs in many passages of the New Testament, or by the Church, assisted by the same Holy Ghost and by the means of a solemn judgment, or by its universal and ordinary authority.

Let the interpreter learn, then, that he is bound to follow their footsteps with respect, and avail himself of their labors with an intelligent discrimination.

The Church, in fact, has received from the Apostles the mode of interpretation, and has approved of it by its example, as shown by the liturgy. It is not that the Fathers pretended to demonstrate by themselves the dogmas of faith, but that they have experienced that this method was good to nurse virtue and piety.

theology and become in a manner its soul. Such has been at every age the doctrine of all the Fathers and of the most remarkable theologians — doctrine which they have supported by their example. They devoted themselves to the establishing and strengthening by the Holy Books all the verities which are the object of faith, and those which flow from them; and it is these Holy Books, as well as divine tradition, which they have employed to refute the novel inventions of heretics, to discover the *raison d'être* (cause of being), the explanation and the interdependence of Catholic dogmas.

There is nothing surprising in that to him who reflects on the immense space the Holy Books occupy among the sources of divine revelation. To such a measure is this true that, without their study and daily usage, theology could not be treated in a way appropriate and worthy of such a science.

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Give us the particulars, gentlemen! Give us the particulars! Wherein, we ask, has Rome or Catholics been aggressive?

The progress of Ritualism is exercising the minds of Anglican authorities. Let them have no fear; a man who believes in nothing but embroidered capes and flowers never yet entered the Catholic Church.

Some papers are publishing laudatory criticisms on Oscar Wilde's latest dramatic production. His epigrams are, so critics say, sparkling, but then critics are not infallible.

OUR exchanges, with few exceptions, denounce the unseemly exhibitions that pass muster as athletics. There is too much savagery about them for civilized people.

The question of duelling has come up again. Is it lawful? The question is old, and time and again has received a negative answer.

IT WAS a grand and inspiring scene, the reception of four thousand Lombard and Venetian pilgrims by Pope Leo XIII. The director, Mgr. Spigardi, read an address expressive of filial devotion and homage.

It is worthy of note that the greatest paintings are from the brushes of Catholic artists. An eminent art critic gives us the following list: Raphael's "Transfiguration and Sistine Madonna," Michael Angelo's "Last Supper," Domenichino's "Last Communion of St. Jerome," Rubens' "Descent from the Cross," Volterra's "Descent from the Cross," Guide's "Beatrice," Titian's "Assumption," Carregio's "La Motte," Murillo's "Immaculate Conception."

DR. BARNARD, of child-protectory fame, is known to a great many this side of the water. He passes as a philanthropist who rescues children, irrespective of creed, from beggary and degradation.

THE news of the death of the Right Rev. Bartholomew Fitzpatrick will bring sadness to many a one in America. The sainted Cistercian lived to the ripe old age of eighty-three, and bequeathed to his community of Melray the priceless treasure of the example of an unselfish life.

Church, he betrayed none of the gloom and melancholy which is popularly supposed to be associated with the religious life. He was gentleness itself, and few there were who were not improved by his winning personality.

HITHERTO at the meetings called for the purpose of considering the question of Christian union, there has been no thought of consulting Catholic divines as to how such union ought to be effected.

THE Holy Father's Encyclical on Biblical study, which has been for some time in preparation, is now being published in the CATHOLIC RECORD. The document is of very great scientific value from the care bestowed upon the consideration of the proper rules of Biblical exegesis, and it will on this account be of great worth for the right interpretation of the Bible, especially where it bears any relation to modern scientific discoveries.

THE Rev. Alexander Milne, pastor of the Congregational Church of Columbus, Ohio, does not hesitate to act with the courage of his convictions in regard to the A. P. A. His scathing denunciations of that infamous association have attracted much notice throughout the country, and his recent utterances in the same direction are no less to the point than his previous ones.

IN a recent book issued by Dr. H. K. Carroll on the religions of the United States, it is said that the last census shows "seven sects of Catholics, twelve of Presbyterians, thirteen of Baptists, sixteen of Lutherans, and seventeen of Methodists."

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ment divisions, and are really distinct Protestant sects. CORNELIUS VANDERHILT, of New York, is erecting a palace that will cost over a million dollars, and thousands of men, gaunt and hungry-eyed, walk the streets, and thousands of wives and children are starving.

is unanswerable if he can prove the statements it contains, not otherwise. Would it not have been better for him to have devoted some time to the proof of those assertions, instead of building a fabric of reasoning on false assumptions?

ROMAN Catholics emphatically deny that they owe any civil allegiance to the Pope, and moreover the Pope does not, and never did, claim temporal power or civil allegiance outside of the Pontifical States.

THE organization formed in Denver, for the purpose of fighting the A. P. A., has issued certain principles, based on the liberty that each one has of worshipping God according to the dictates of his conscience.

ON Sunday week, Christmas Eve, His Grace the Most Rev. James Vincent Cleary, administered the Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Mary's Cathedral, Kingston, to 276 candidates, of whom 128 are males, and 148 females, having devoted several days previously to their examination and instruction in the prescribed forms of daily prayer and the Catechism of Christian Doctrine.

THE second consideration concerns our Supreme Pontiff, Leo XIII, now happily reigning. It is a fact never to be forgotten by us that he, in a quite peculiar manner, merits from all Catholics, above all from Catholics who work for science and who value liberty, a quite special devotion.

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THE CONSPIRATORS AT BAY.

WE reproduce with pleasure the following clever letter written by Mr. A. B. McDonald, of Prescott, to the Toronto Mail: Sir—Permit me to devote a little attention to that letter signed "Amicus" which you published in the Mail of the 18th inst.

ceded to the request of the Protestants, to be permitted to witness the solemn celebration and listen to the sermon of the Archbishop. The poor convicts, one and all, comforted themselves with as much religious decorum as is exhibited by the best congregation in this city or elsewhere.

THE following list of persons confirmed in the city of Kingston from 1883 to 1893 will be interesting to many: 1883—males, 149; females, 215—total, 374; 1884—males, 227; females, 251—total, 478; 1885—males, 159; females, 193—total, 352; 1886—males, 192; females, 211—total, 403; 1887—males, 129; females, 148—total, 277; 1888—males, 91; females, 8—total, 99; 1889—males, 11; females, 4—total, 15; 1890—males, 10; females, 5—total, 15; 1891—males, 884; females, 1053—total, 1937.

CHRISTIAN AND SCIENTIST.

St. George Mivart has an article well worth reading in the Nineteenth Century for December, "The Index and My Articles on Hell." We quote the concluding portion. Mivart is a great scientist, but a greater Christian.

ARCHDIOCESE OF KINGSTON.

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It is a satisfaction to me to have been a means of making this evident to all who have so misunderstood the Church's real spirit. The second consideration concerns our Supreme Pontiff, Leo XIII, now happily reigning. It is a fact never to be forgotten by us that he, in a quite peculiar manner, merits from all Catholics, above all from Catholics who work for science and who value liberty, a quite special devotion.

AT LOURDES.

Wonderful Cures Show That the Age of Miracles is not Passed. The Annals of Our Lady of Lourdes for October, published by the missionary fathers in charge of the shrine, contains a notice of the following miraculous cures: Mlle Constance Piquet of Soulaire (Euro-Loir), for upwards of eighteen months, had suffered from a tumor in her left breast.

examining the tumor, pronounced it cancer. A subsequent examination, made one year later, namely, in 1893, confirmed Dr. Martin in the correctness of the first diagnosis of the case, but in view of the small success attending surgical operations as remedies, he preferred to let the cancer run its course, and thus prolong for a few years the life of the patient.

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On the 21th day of the same month of August, Constance, at 9:30 a. m., took the third bath, when the cancerous tumor and its chords wholly disappeared. Out of herself with joy, she made her way to the medical experts, twelve in number, an English Protestant doctor among them, where, after a minute searching examination, they found no trace of the cancerous tumor.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN KINGSTON.

The following letter reveals an interesting condition of the public mind in the city of Kingston anent the election of Mayor. Candidates came forward and were duly proposed and seconded. One of them, a certain Dr. Herald, who has filled the position of alderman in the City Council in latter years, chose to say on the day of his nomination that he apprehended the "solid Catholic vote" would be adverse to him for some little foolish reason, out of which he expected to make capital.

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It seems to me that present submission to the decision of a court of law, whether of Pope or Queen, is due from any one who claims to be a loyal subject of both, provided such submission can be honest and sincere.

But, in the present case, there are two considerations which make submission more than a duty, and lend to what might be deemed exclusively painful, a feeling of real pleasure. The first of these is the refutation these decrees give to a notion, which here and there existed, tending to degrade the majesty and authority of the Church.

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FIVE-MINUTE SERMONS.

How Our Saviour Takes Away Sin.

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who taketh away the sins of the world. (St. John 1, 29.)

After our Blessed Lord was baptized by St. John the Baptist, beloved brethren, He retired into the desert, where He remained forty days in prayer and fasting. At the end of this time He directed His steps towards the river Jordan, where John was baptizing. Here a large concourse of the Jewish people had assembled to listen to the preaching of the forerunner of Christ. In the midst of these St. John, inspired by the spirit of God, and professing His deep ardent faith, testified of our Lord that He is the Lamb of God, and that it is He who taketh away the sins of the world.

What a glorious testimony this, and how cheerfully received by the fervent Christian! Have you ever pondered over these beautiful words, and made them the subject of your meditation? Have you ever tried to find out their true meaning, and thus make them profitable to your souls? Yes, truly, Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God. He is the Lamb slain from the beginning of the world. For you and for me He voluntarily left the bosom of His Father, and lowered and even debased Himself by assuming a nature like our own. For us He endured the sufferings and privations of His childhood; for us He sent up many heartfelt prayers to God the Father, before the beginning of His public life; for us He labored and preached; for us He suffered the ingratitude of His disciples, the ignominies of the Jews, the insults of the soldiers, the hardships of the journey to Calvary, and, finally, ended His torments on the cross, with the cry "Consummatus est (it is finished)." This, and much more, did our Blessed Lord gladly undergo for us all. And how have you, dear brethren, requited such infinite love? Fathers, are you solicitous for the little household which Almighty God Himself has so fondly entrusted to your care? Then are you imitators of the patience and endurance of your Saviour during His bitter passion. Mothers, do you strive to make yourselves patterns of the Christian virtues of gentleness and forbearance? Then do you imitate the example of your Lord in bearing the defects of others and treating them with kindness and compassion. Oh! how watchful would we not be, dear brethren, could we but understand the infinite love our Lord Jesus Christ manifested for us during His life on earth! But St. John not only gave testimony to our Lord being the Lamb of God, but He further testified that it is He who takes away the sins of the world. He did not come simply to announce to the world the divine mission which He received from the Father; He also came to heal the infirmities of our souls by imparting to them the abundance of His grace. This office He performed Himself during His mortal life on earth. He it was that purified the souls of Mary Magdalene and enriched it with sanctifying grace. It was He who gave the living water of eternal life to the sinful Samaritan woman. And what our Lord did for these and many others, beloved brethren, He is now effecting, in the midst of us. It is not necessary to remind you of how our Lord chose a band of apostles, and made them the beginning of His Church; how He bestowed upon them and their successors the unheard-of and marvellous power of forgiving sins. Yes, brethren, the Bishops and priests of the Catholic Church are the visible representatives of Jesus Christ; they are the comfort of the afflicted, the strength of the weak; they have an efficacious remedy for those who are living in the state of mortal sin; by pronouncing the words of absolution they restore to the penitent and contrite sinner his lost inheritance of sonship, and make him an heir of the kingdom of heaven. Oh! how thankful we should be for the mercy and goodness of our God! What a tender love we ought to cherish for the Church, the Bride without spot! What respect is not due to those who hold the place of Christ in our behalf! How sufficiently prize the inestimable blessing of the tribunal of penance! Let us remember and meditate upon those three precious graces, beloved brethren, that they may be the source of sweet joy to us now, and the earnest of a happy eternity hereafter.

How They Worked Their Way.

By MAURICE FRANCIS EGAN, LL. D.

IV.—CONTINUED.

"Dear me!" said Daphne Higgins, who lived on a thrifty farm down in the Hollow. "Dear me!" she said, as her husband came in at noon. "What do you think, Josh. The Beresfords are going to have a concert to-night, and we've got an invite."

"You don't mean to go, Dalph," said Josh, raising his head from the basin, in which he was washing his face. "The priests' going to be there."

"Well, I am going, Josh, priest or no priest. I wouldn't hurt Mrs. Beresford's feelings for the world. Nobody knows how kind she was to our Lib, when she was sick. I'm not afraid of the priest. If everybody was as good as the Beresfords, I wish there were more priests."

Daphne looked around uneasily as she spoke, as if she felt that she was making a shocking admission. "I'm not finding fault. You needn't snap my head off," answered Josh. "We'll go—I like the Beresfords, if they are Romanists."

The rumor of the Beresfords' concert set the neighborhood in a flutter of excitement. Mr. Thorne and Mrs. Thorne announced their intention of going, but Miss Sabina Thorne wept. Her new silk gown was not made yet, and she said she would not go to the house of such "stylish" city folk without it. Finally, she was persuaded to accept the invitation.

Father Hogan had a good tenor voice, and he volunteered to sing. A little after seven o'clock, Mr. Beresford was put in his place near the grate; and shortly afterwards, the guests began to come. The room was quite crowded. It looked very pretty, lighted by a dozen candles. The bright flowers glowing in the dark green of the festoons, excited special admiration.

"This is style," Miss Sabina Thorne, who had spent two weeks in town, was heard to say. Father Hogan entered, in his cassock, and a thrill of awe ran through the room. Mr. Beresford introduced each person to him. He was exceedingly genial and pleasant.

By the time that Dermot had given out the programmes, the guests had concluded that a priest might be very nice. The programmes were neatly written on small sheets of paper, on each of which Mary had drawn a flower design.

PROGRAMME. Overture—"Semiramide" (piano) Mary Beresford. Mary Beresford. Mary Beresford. Popular airs—(violin) Brian Beresford. "Last Rose of Summer," tenor, Father Hogan. "Carnival of Venice" (piano), Kath. Beresford. Duet—"Back to Our Mountains," A. and R. Doran. Imitation of Mocking-bird (violin) Brian Beresford.

INTERMISSION. Quartette—"Negro Melodie" Dermot, Brian, and Kathleen Beresford. "Ten Little Indians" (violin and voice), Brian and Kathleen Beresford. "She Wore a Wreath of Roses," Mrs. Beresford. "Monastery Bells," Mrs. Beresford. "The Gypsy Countess," Dermot Beresford. "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep," Dermot Beresford. "Ave Maria" (violin and voice), Gounod Mrs. Beresford and Brian.

Every piece on the programme was demanded twice, except the overture. Dermot had written a translation of the words of the "Ave Maria" on the second page of the programmes.

Father Hogan's clear, pure tenor was well suited to "The Last Rose of Summer," and when the last tenor note died away, there was a dead silence of approval. Then he sang "The Minstrel Boy," when he could no longer refuse.

The Rationale of Confession

How many are the souls in distress, anxiety, or loneliness, whose one need is to find a being to whom they can pour out their feelings unheard by the world? Tell them how they must, they cannot tell them out to those whom they see every hour. They want to tell them and not to tell them; and they want to tell them, yet, be as if they be not told; they wish to tell them to one who is strong enough to bear them, yet not too strong to despise them; they wish to tell them to one who can at once advise and can sympathize with them; they wish to relieve themselves of a load, to gain a solace, to receive the assurance that there is one who thinks of them, and one to whom in thought they can recur, to whom they can betake themselves, if necessary, from time to time, while they are in the world. How many a Protestant's heart would leap at the news of such a benefit, putting aside all distinct ideas of a sacramental ordinance, or of a grant of pardon and the conveyance of grace! If there is a heavenly idea in the Catholic Church, looking at it simply as an idea, surely, next after the Blessed Sacrament, Confession is such. And such it is ever found in fact—the very act of kneeling, the low and contrite voice, the sign of the cross hanging, so to say, over the head bowed low, and the words of peace and blessing. Oh, what a soothing charm is there, which this world can neither give nor take away! Oh, what piercing, heart subduing tranquility, provoking tears of joy, is poured almost substantially and physically upon the soul, the oil of gladness, as Scripture calls it, when the penitent at length rises, his God reconciled to him, his sins rolled away for ever! This is Confession as it is in fact.—Cardinal Newman.

Dermot turned to Dick with tears in his eyes. He took Dick's hands in both of his. He felt now that gratitude and kindness had levelled the barrier between them. Dick was no longer a poor, dependent youth, taken out of charity, but a friend, richer than a millionaire; for what money can buy hearts? What advantages are better than frankness and kindness?

Dermot's day for going came at last. He was sorry to leave his father, but he loved the city, and the humdrum work of the farm was tiresome and monotonous. Mrs. Beresford hated to part with him, yet she fondly hoped to see a career opened before him. Dermot took off his age, was staunch in his religious duties, and used to the ways of cities. She had little fear that he would forget his lessons. She smiled as she said—

"God bless you! Dick and Brian went with him to the station—and the old life began again without him. During that winter, all the inmates of the farm studied hard. Anna Doran made great progress. Nobody would have recognized in the gentle, lady-like girl, she to whom Mary had lent the white gown to make her First Communion.

Dick, too, made advances in his studies. The family was very happy. "Cheerfulness" was the motto of the household.

At Christmas Dermot came back, with a good account of himself. They noticed that he left reluctantly. In February, the cauliflower was planted.

Mr. Beresford, who gained some strength as the spring approached, gave Mr. Fitz a little, two-story, wooden house that stood on the edge of his farm. There Job and his father took up their abode, and watched the precious plants.

The kindness and patience of the Beresfords had their effect on the old man. Gradually, seeing that they were never idle, he went to work. As for Job, he was a changed boy. He spent two nights of the week in the Beresfords' sitting-room.

One day, Father Hogan asked Brian and Anna if they would be sponsors for Job. He had quietly resolved to become a Catholic. Mr. Fitz followed him into the Church, and afterwards led a very exemplary life. It was he who in later days collected most of the money through the country, to build a chapel near the Beresfords'. Mr. and Mrs. Thorne began to go to Mass.

"I'm only waiting till Easter," Mrs. Thorne said. "I feel that there must be truth in your Church, since you, who naturally know better than any of us, are so good. I like and I will join your Church at Easter."

"Beresford's" is a place of consolation and comfort for the neighbors. The cauliflower experiment was successful. The Beresfords needed no money after that. Dick's share of the profits enabled him to buy a smaller farm next to "Beresford's."

Brian and he are looked upon as the most promising young farmers of the place. Mr. Dow did you do at all?" asked Mr. Dow when he came to pay a visit to his nephew and niece, accompanied by their mother. He looked at the smiling fields—at the happy faces of all who had assembled on the porch after supper, and heard the gay greeting that a neighbor sent to Mr. Beresford.

"You must have had a hard time. How did you and the boys work your way?" "God helped us," said Mr. Beresford, reverently, "and we tried to live according to His precepts—to fulfill the end for which He made us."

"It was a lucky day when I lent you that white gown," said Mary to Anna. "What! you and we have done without you and Dick."

"But what could we have done without you?" asked Mrs. Doran. The setting sun flashes on a figure coming up the road. It is Dermot. "I have passed!" he cries. "I'm a lawyer now!" Mrs. Beresford looked at her son wistfully. She had hoped he would be a priest. Brian understood the look, and whispered something to her. Her face brightened. "You will go to the seminary next year! Oh, how good God is!"

Everybody cheers. The Beresfords have worked their way to the beginning of a new life, although one of them—the father—is about to leave it. They can not fail to succeed in the best way, for they well know its object: "To know God, to love Him, and serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next."

How to Get a "Sunlight" Picture.

Send 25 "Sunlight" Soap wrappers (wrapper bearing the words "Why Does a Woman Look Old Sooner than a Man") to LITTLE'S BROS., LTD., 45 Scott Street, Toronto, and you will receive by post a pretty picture, free from advertising, and well worth framing. This is an easy way to decorate your home. The soap is the best in the market, and it will cost little postage to send in the wrappers, if you leave the ends open. Write your address carefully.

VARIEBLE APPETITE and itching at the nose are signs of worms. Dr. Low's Worm Syrup is the best cure.

Minard's Liniment cures Dandruff.

TESTIMONIALS published in behalf of Hood's Sarsaparilla are as reliable and worthy of confidence as if from your most trusted neighbor.

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Mrs. J. HACKETT, Linwood, Ont. WILD CHERRY and HYPOPHOSPHITES are combined with Cod Liver Oil in Milburn's Emulsion, the best Lung remedy.

HE LOVED good bread, pie, and pastry, but his stomach was delicate. SHE LOVED to cook, but was tired and sick of the taste and smell of lard. They LOVED more than ever, because she made better food, and he could eat it without any unpleasant after effect. Now THEY ARE HAPPY in having found the BEST, and most healthful shortening ever made—COTTOLENE.

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Table with 4 columns: Year, Income, Net Assets, besides un-called capital, Life Assurances in force.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS & OINTMENT. THE PILLS Purify the Blood, correct all Disorders of the LIVER, STOMACH, KIDNEYS, AND BOWELS.

Common Error. Chocolate and Cocoa are by many supposed to be one and the same, only that one is a powder, (hence more easily cooked), and the other is not.

Christmas Booklets. Star of the Morning... 15c. Lead Kindly Light... 15c. Christmas Echoes... 25c.

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HELLO! What is it? 25c. Scarfs and Ties for 20c. 50c. Scarfs and Ties for 45c. 75c. Scarfs and Ties for 65c.

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