

ESTABLISHED, 1854

THE CASKET,

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There is what is called the worldly spirit which enters with the greatest subtlety into the character of even good people; and there is what is called the time-spirit, which means the dominant way of thinking and of acting which prevails in the age in which we live; and these are powerful temptations, full of danger and in perpetual action upon us.—CARDINAL MANNING.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21.

IN ANSWER TO "SACERDOS."

We have now before us in its entirety the case made by "Sacerdos" in support of the justice of the war now raging in South Africa; and while we believe, for reasons which we shall endeavour to show, that his presentation of the case will have convinced very few fair-minded persons at all conversant with the facts, we are confident that upon one point there will be a consensus of opinion among all who have read his letters—that the cause has found in him a champion whose skill and ability it would be difficult, if not impossible, to surpass. Any failure to carry conviction to the minds of his readers will have come from the inherent weakness of his cause, and not from any lack of skill in his presentation of it.

In view of the very considerable length at which the case has been set forth in his three last letters and in the articles from the *Tablet* which we have reprinted at his request, we shall have to ask the patience of our readers while we endeavour to reply with as much brevity as is compatible with the interests of what we believe to be justice and right. And here we may say that we would very gladly, in the present condition of affairs, be relieved of the necessity of discussing the justice of the war. Eyes have taken a turn which perhaps no one foresaw even one month ago; and not only is it now apparent that this war will tax the resources of the British Empire, but there are not a few who see in it a possible struggle for that Empire's very existence. And though this in no wise affects the initial justice of the war, nor, as we view it, our right to discuss the question of that justice, we are free to concede that, with the fate of the Empire trembling in the balance, good taste would, other things permitting, suggest a postponement of the discussion until the danger was past. But there are things of vastly greater importance than mere questions of taste; and among those things are truth and justice; and the interests of these do, in our opinion, imperatively demand that our correspondent's plea for the war be not suffered to remain on our pages unanswered for months. And we desire to say here that when he remarks, at the close of the first paragraph of the letter in our issue of December 7, wherein he resumed this controversy, that even if he believed this war unjust he should nevertheless feel under some obligation to keep his convictions to himself once the executive of the nation had declared war,—if he is not merely giving his personal view, but enunciating—as we have heard it enunciated—a general proposition, then we are presumptuous enough to differ from him upon that proposition. We go further, and say that that general proposition, if such be intended, involving, as it does, the position that the executive of a nation can, in any cause, no matter how glaringly and shockingly unjust, by the simple act of affixing its signature to a declaration of war, shut the mouth and paralyse the pen of every citizen of that nation whose conscience revolts at the iniquity—is, to put it mildly, one which will not commend itself to the enlightened judgment of mankind. The executive of our nation has in the not very remote past declared war for the purpose of forcing upon a heathen people an injurious and degrading drug. Must no voice in the British Empire, once that declaration was signed, be raised in protest against that enormity!

Time and time again, in the course of the Hispano-American and Philippine wars, have we had cause to believe that "Sacerdos," like ourselves, admired the fearless courage of those Catholic and other editors in the United States who protested against what they believed to be the injustice of each. Never once had we cause to suppose he held them to be violating any obligation in doing so. But alas for the eternal distinction between the going of our neighbour's ox and the going of our own, and alas for the peace of mind of him who is fair enough to ignore that fundamental difference!

Our correspondent complains, late in his third letter, that we put him in a false light in commenting on his first, inasmuch as, he contends, we made it appear that he drew a distinction where none existed. He asserts that there is, subjectively, a distinction between the propositions, "The cause is just" and "The cause is not unjust." He will pardon us for saying that his laboured effort to show such a distinction is a decided failure. There is a clear distinction between saying "I believe that the cause is just" and "I do not believe the cause is unjust;" for the latter predicates nothing of the cause, but only of the speaker's attitude toward a proposition. Our correspondent argues as if this latter were what he said, apparently losing sight of the fact that it was to the "unjust" and not to the "believe" that he attached the negative. "Not unjust" means just: if you assert your belief that that which these two words signify may be predicated of any given subject, you thereby assert your conviction that what is denoted by the term "just" is predicable of that subject. The man who cannot say "This is just" cannot without stultifying himself say of the same thing "This is not unjust"; for they are two ways of making one and the same statement.

This, we take it, is apropos of our correspondent's position. It is for him to say what that position is. But having resumed this discussion three issues back under a title of his own selection—"The Justice of the Present War"—and having asserted in the first paragraph of his first letter his belief that the cause of Great Britain therein was "just, or at any rate, 'not unjust,'" we, and we venture to say all our readers, have understood the issue between himself and us to be precisely that which he indicated by the words that he put at the head of each of his several letters; and as he has not even yet disclaimed that issue, we cannot do otherwise than consider it as the one between us.

On that issue, then, we might, if we chose to take that ground, concede every single fact contended for by "Sacerdos," and appeal with the utmost confidence to the judgment of every right-thinking, unbiased Christian—or enlightened pagan, for that matter—upon the question of the negotiations alone. To this phase of the question we shall therefore next address ourselves. We shall consider some of the salient points of the recent negotiations as they were, and the *Tablet's* travesty of them, and we will prove that its article does bristle with both suppression of truth and suggestion of falsehood. Meanwhile, upon the single point which our correspondent in his three lengthy letters scores against us, we yield with the readiness with which we are always prepared to yield when proved to be wrong. He does show that in saying that *The Tablet* cannot possibly be fair where British interests are at stake, we overstated the case; for he cites instances to the contrary. Of its fairness in the case in hand, which is the real question here, we shall see something later.

We wish all the readers of THE CASKET a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Catholic Notes.

A beautiful example of apostolic poverty was furnished by the late Bishop de Goesbriand of Burlington, Vt., whose death was recently noted in these columns. Many supposed that the Bishop had died quite wealthy; but it was found upon examination that he had left exactly \$2.12. The despatch which announced that fact added that it explained whence the money had come that went to erect many of the fine buildings of the diocese. Many of the greatest prelates of the Church have died in the same worldly circumstances as the venerable Bishop of Burlington.

There will be two canonizations during the Jubilee Year, by which, Blessed John Baptiste de la Salle, founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, and Blessed Ritar of Cascia, a religious of the Augustinian Order in the fifteenth century, to whose intercession many marvellous miracles, especially cures of diseases, are ascribed, will be raised to the honours of the altar. The ceremony of the double canonization will take place on May 6, and will undoubtedly be a very imposing one. The French National pilgrimage and the Franciscan tertiaries, assembled in congress, will then be in Rome.

It is pleasing to learn that the proposed monument in New York to the great Dr. Brownson will soon be an accomplished fact. The model, prepared by Mr. Samuel J. Kitson, the Boston sculptor to whom the work was entrusted, has received the unqualified approval of the Municipal Art Commission of New York, requisite in the case of all public monuments, and a site will soon be chosen. The design is a colossal bronze bust on a granite pedestal, and it is expected that the monument will be unveiled in May or June next.

The attention of the reader is directed to the "Regulations for the Jubilee" published on another page of this issue. By a later Apostolic Constitution, dated Nov. 1, the Holy Father enables cloistered Religious of both sexes, as also all re-

ligious communities of women, including novices and postulants, whether these communities are approved by the Holy See or not, to gain the Jubilee indulgence twice during the Holy Year, by performing certain works to be determined by the Ordinary in each diocese, and exempts them from the pilgrimage to Rome which is an essential condition of gaining the Jubilee indulgence next year in the case of the rest of the faithful. This same privilege is also extended to women employed in maternity hospitals, to captives and persons condemned to long imprisonment, to persons of both sexes who have completed their seventieth year, and in fine to all who by reason of sickness or feeble health are unable to undertake the journey to Rome. Others of the faithful, including even those to whom a visit to Rome would be a moral impossibility, must go to Rome next year if they want to gain the Jubilee indulgence, or else wait until the following year when it will be extended to the whole world.

War Notes.

There are 25,000 cases of canned meats for shipment to the British army in South Africa held at New York for lack of vessels to carry them to their destinations.

The War Office on the 17th announced that all the remaining portions of the army reserve would be called out, that nine battalions of militia, besides two battalions which had volunteered for service at Malta and one for service in the Channel Islands, would be allowed to volunteer for service outside of the United Kingdom, and that the offers received from the colonies would as far as possible be accepted, preference being given to mounted contingents.

The British authorities seem now to understand what a formidable task is on their hands in South Africa. Baron Roberts of Kandahar and Waterford, commander of the forces in Ireland, has been appointed commander-in-chief, with Lord Kitchener second in command. General Buller will conduct the campaign in Natal. Both Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener will go to Cape Colony. The former leaves for Cape Town on Saturday. The latter has left Omdurman for Cairo, where he will likely arrive to-morrow, and will start for Cape Town without delay.

Last week was one of disaster to the British arms in South Africa. On Sunday Dec. 10, General Methuen attacked 12,000 Boers in strongly entrenched positions, at Magersfontein near Modder River. The British artillery shelled the long hill held by the enemy until dusk, and at daybreak on Monday a fierce attack was made by the Highland Brigade. The assault failed, and at nightfall the troops retired with heavy loss. An official report places the killed, wounded and missing of all arms, in the engagements of both days, at 833. Of the officers 15 were killed and 47 wounded, with five missing and one captured. There were 650 casualties among the non-commissioned officers and men of the Highland Brigade. General Wauchope, who was in command of the Brigade, and who served in the Ashantee and Egyptian wars and in the Sudan and Nile expeditions, is among the slain. It is feared that Methuen's defeat will cause further disaffection among the Dutch of Cape Colony.

Joyful excitement prevailed in London for a short time on last Thursday afternoon when it was rumoured that Generals Buller and Clery had relieved Ladysmith with a great capture of Boers, the number being variously estimated at from 3,000 to 10,000. By midnight, however, it was definitely known that the rumours were without any foundation. Meantime the reports had been sent far and wide, and many persons here were disposed to believe them. Then came the news, only too true, that General Buller, at the Tugela River in Natal, had met with the most serious reverse in the whole campaign, being forced to retreat with terrible loss and having to abandon eleven of his guns. General Buller's despatch to London, which is the clearest one yet sent, says that he moved in full strength from his camp at Chieveley at 4 o'clock on Friday morning to cross the Tugela River, which is fordable at two points about 2 miles apart. General Hart, with his leading battalion the Connaught Rangers, was to attack on the left, General Hildyard, whose leading regiment was the East Surrey, on the right, and General Littleton was to take the centre to support either. General Hart lost most heavily in his vain attempt to force a passage, and was ordered to withdraw; General Hildyard then occupied Colenso station, but the whole artillery sent to support the attack, having advanced close to the river, was subjected to a withering fire, which cut off drivers and horses. Finding it impossible to effect his object, General Buller ordered the troops to retire. Ten guns had to be left behind, and one was lost by fire. The day was intensely hot and was most trying to the troops. The casualties amount to 1,097, including 82 killed, 348 missing, and 667 wounded.

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Handkerchiefs, Braces, Gloves, Mufflers, Etc., Etc.

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What more pleasing than a pair of Perrin's Silk-Lined Kid or Mocha Gloves, a box of dainty Handkerchiefs or one of those beautiful pictures we are showing in our western window.

With the Season's Greetings we wish our friends and patrons a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A. KIRK & CO.,
KIRK'S BLOCK, ANTIGONISH.

General News.

Five persons were burned to death and six others seriously injured in a fire in a five story tenement house in New York on Tuesday.

The Broadway National Bank, Boston, closed its doors on Dec. 16, and is in the hands of a receiver. It was incorporated in 1853, and its capital is \$200,000.

A preliminary statement issued by the Board of Agriculture estimates the wheat yield of Great Britain for 1899 at 65,523,325 bushels, as against 73,028,856 bushels last year.

Two Chinese officials have been sent by the Chinese Government to British Columbia to look into matters pertaining to Chinamen in Canada and more especially in that province.

During the past month about 3,000 Spanish prisoners held by the insurgents in the Philippines were released. The insurgent forces have been almost completely broken up by the recent successful operations of the United States forces.

Irving Shaw, a lad of fourteen years, was sentenced at Saratoga, N. Y., on Wednesday of last week, to life imprisonment for the murder of a playmate last October. He is said to be the youngest life prisoner in New York State.

Petitions have been sent to Washington from the people of Porto Rico complaining of the country's lack of a regular code of laws and of any political status, as well as of intense industrial depression, caused partly by the severe hurricanes from which the island has suffered.

The largest single consignment of mail from Europe to America was brought to Boston by the steamer New England of the Dominion Line on Dec. 14. Her heavy cargo was due to the fact that the British Government has chartered many liners for transport service.

The Elder-Dempster steamship Merrimac, which is over fifty days out from Quebec, bound for Belfast, is believed to have been lost. Her cargo consisted wholly of deals and her crew comprised 45 men. The Merrimac was a fine iron steamer comparatively new.

A resolution declaring that Italy had compromised her national honour by the recall of her warships from China was defeated in the Chamber of Deputies by a vote of 163 to 54, the Minister of Foreign Affairs declaring that they had never been negotiating with China for territorial concessions.

Germany is said to be making efforts to acquire the peninsula of Jutland from Denmark. A report that the latter country was negotiating with the United States for the sale of the Danish West Indies elicited an inquiry by Germany at Washington as to its truth, with the reply that it had no foundation.

The Philadelphia Friends Society has begun the shipment of 35,000 pounds of supplies to the Doukhobors of Canada. When the latter arrived from Russia, Philadelphia Quakers sent them about \$8,000, and a few weeks ago they received \$20,000 and 12,000 pounds of supplies.

Hong Kong advices say that there is likely to be trouble between China and France over the delimitation of French leased territory at Laing Chow Bay, and that Marshall Su, China's most famous general, was sent to the disputed territory with 30,000 men, with orders to uphold the Chinese cause even should he have to fight.

Two bye-elections—one in the fourth district of Queens and the other in the fourth district of Kings—were held in P. E. Island on Wednesday of last week. In both the Conservative candidates were elected, Attorney-General McKinnon being defeated in the latter district. The opposition appears to have now a majority of one in the Legislature.

Two dwelling houses were burned in Yarmouth last Thursday morning by the explosion of a lamp, and a woman 70 years of age, who was the only occupant of one of them, perished. A workman going to his work saw the lamp explode, and the aged woman rush around the room, but in his excitement he ran to give the fire alarm instead of trying to save the woman.

Mail reports received from China last week give somewhat meagre details of a most terrible catastrophe in the Molucca Islands, between Celebes and New Guinea—the destruction of many thousands of lives by an earthquake and tidal wave on November 2. The island of Ceram, one of the largest of the group, appears to have been the chief scene of the awful devastation. The wave followed a few hours after the earthquake, and covered the land to a depth of more than thirty feet. The reports say that out of communities numbering 18,000 on the island only forty persons escaped. The whole coast over an immense district was completely transformed.

Senor Silvela, the Spanish premier, replying to a question on the subject in the Chamber of Deputies, said that there was no truth in the report of an alliance

between Spain and Russia, based upon the cession of Ceuta, the Spanish seaport town in Morocco. He declared that Spain would not on any account cede her African possessions.

War Notes.

A Cabinet meeting was held at Ottawa on Monday at which it was announced that the Imperial Government had cabled its acceptance of the offer of the Canadian Government of a second contingent. Nothing was decided as to its character or strength, but it is thought that it will consist largely of cavalry, mounted police and artillery. The offer of a second Australian contingent has also been accepted.

Gen. Methuen has come in for a good deal of blame for his supposed failure to reconnoitre. It is now stated, however, that his scouts were out for two days, and that their movements served to show the Boers where the attack would be made. His position is one of peculiar difficulty. If he ventures far from the railway line he is apt to be cut off, and the Boers, who know this, throw their whole force along that line in front of him. There exists in military circles a fear that his line of communication with the base will be broken and his forces isolated. Experts think that he had better return to Orange River to replenish his supply of food and ammunition. Secret meetings of Boer sympathizers are being held in various parts of Cape Colony, and the whole country to the northward is said to be in a state of great unrest. The natives there, as well as those in Basutoland, are said to be losing heart regarding the strength of the British.

A despatch from Manila, dated Dec. 14, states that Major-General Henry F. Lawton, of the U. S. forces, had been shot and killed at San Mateo: He was standing in front of his troops when he was shot in the breast and killed.

The steamship Karami left London last week, for South Africa, with one of the heaviest cargoes of war material ever sent from British shores. Among the ammunition were 40,000,000 rounds of small arm ammunition, 7,000 rounds of shrapnel and common shell, 4,000 rounds of 5-inch lyddite shell and 851 boxes of fuse.

An outburst of patriotism followed the appeal of the British Ministry for men, and battalion after battalion of militia volunteered for foreign service. Mr. Goschen reports that the Admiralty has provided sea transport for 120,000 troops and that 120,000 more are available if needed.

Among the wounded in the engagement

at the Tugela River was Lieutenant F. H. S. Roberts, son of Lord Roberts, the new commander-in-chief. He has since died of his wounds.

Major Fowie, of the 21st Royal Lancers, arrived at New York on Dec. 17. He is on his way to New Orleans to purchase 900 mules for the British army.

McCURDY & Co. have received from the manufacturers a nice lot of ladies' white aprons, just the thing for Xmas presents.—adv.

BEST QUALITY CREAM CHOCOLATES, for Christmas, 30 cents a pound, at C. B. Whidden & Son's.—adv.

Two Travellers.

Amid the sparkling snows of Christmas Eve, While fiery stars startled the breathless cold, On a bleak country road two travellers bold Met, glad of heart. Cried one, "Now, by your leave

Good comrade,—we will hasten!—to receive Our homes' warm welcome earlier and behold Our children's merriment." His bright face told

That he, of all men, had light cause to grieve: Answered the other, "Gladly, friend of mine, I, too, press onward! See'st thou yonder light?"

There, in blest walls, the yellow tapers shine! Thither I journey, earth-love past from sight, Leaving my dead,—life, self!—at His dear call, The Christ who is my Home, my Light my All!" —Caroline D. Swan, in Catholic Columbian.

DIED.

DUNPHY.—At Guysboro Interval, on Dec. 12th, in his 67th year, having received all the rites of the Church he so cheerfully obeyed and dearly loved, John Dunphy, leaving a widow and three children to weep for a loss most keenly felt. Mr. Dunphy was an honest, punctual, and in every respect an upright man.

Obituary.

In the Sisters Hospital, Rossland, B. C., on Nov. 21st, from the effects of typhoid fever, there passed away to his eternal reward, after an illness of two weeks, which he bore with Christian patience and resignation, John A. Gillis, at the age of 25 years. Deceased was son of Donald Gillis, Pleasant Valley. He made numerous friends while at Rossland, and was beloved by all who knew him. Always a fervent Catholic, his devotion to his Church was rewarded by a happy death, surrounded by his parish priest, the Sisters of Charity and many friends. He leaves sorrowing parents, four brothers and three sisters to mourn the loss of a dutiful son and a kind brother. On Friday morning, Nov. 24th, after Requiem High Mass, by the Rev. J. Walsh, his mortal remains were taken from the Miners' Union Hall and interred in the Catholic cemetery. Mr. Alex. Gillis, of Granite, Montana, brother of the deceased, was present. His funeral was one of the largest ever seen in Rossland and testifies to the respect in which he was held. May his soul rest in peace.

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We have a very nice **SERGE OVERCOAT at \$3.00**

Our Men's Heavy Melton Overcoats

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- Men's Overcoats at - - - - - \$5.50
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- Men's Overcoats in Navy, Brown and Black, - - - - - 9.75
- Men's Ulsters, - - - - - 3.75
- Men's Ulsters, Fawn and Brown, - - - - - 5.00
- Men's Ulsters, Fawn and Brown, - - - - - 6.00
- Men's Ulsters, Fawn, Brown and Black, - - - - - 7.50
- Men's Reefers in Nap, Melton and Frieze Cloths, all prices, - - - - - \$3.75 to 9.00
- Boys' Ulsters at - - - - - \$2.75, 3.00, 3.50, 4.50
- Boys' Reefers, at - - - - - \$2.50, 3.00, 4.00
- Children's Reefers, \$2.00, 2.25, 2.50, 2.75, 3.25



A full range of Men's, Boys' and Youth's Winter Suits, single and double-breasted, in heavy tweeds and serges, equal in finish and fit to tailor-made, but will cost you one-third less than your tailor will charge you.

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We are showing

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- Men's Heavy Ribbed Shirts and Drawers, fancy stripe, each 37c.
- Men's Heavy Shirts and Drawers, fancy stripe, each 45c.
- Men's Heavy Ribbed Shirts and Drawers, blue grey, each 50c.
- Men's Heavy Ribbed Shirts and Drawers, each 60c.
- Men's Scotch Knit Shirts and Drawers, each 75c.
- Men's Fine Shirts and Drawers, each - - - 90c, \$1.00, \$1.10, 1.25
- Men's Heavy Top Shirts, fancy colors, - - - 50c, 60c, 75, 80c, 90c, 97c.
- Men's Navy Flannel Topshirts, - - - - - 50
- Men's Navy Flannel Topshirts, fancy front. - - - - - \$1.00
- Men's Navy Flannel Topshirts, - - - - - \$1.25, 1.50
- Full range of Boys' Topshirts at all prices.
- Men's Sweaters, - - - - - 75, 85, 95, \$1.00, 1.25 (Fancy Mixed, Cardinal, Brown, Green, and Black).
- Boys' Sweaters, from - - - - - 25c. to 75 cents
- Men's Fine Fleece Lined Underwear, - - - \$1.00, 1.50 and \$2.00 per suit.



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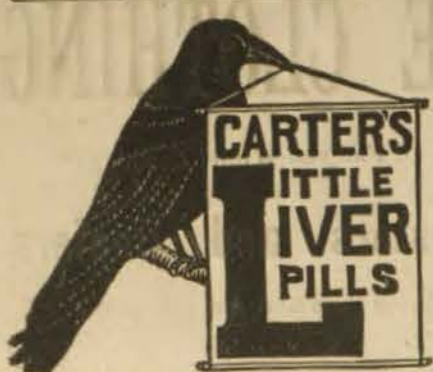
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Small Pill. Small Dose. Small Price.

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Good stabling on the premises. JAMES BROADBENT, Prop. Antigonish, June 8, 98.

Dr. De Costa's Statement.

With profound gratitude, I acknowledge the great goodness of God, who mercifully lightened my path, giving grace to overcome the deep prejudice implanted by false education.

The issue precipitated in connection with the Biblical Criticism, forms only one of many difficulties of the Protestant situation, and I came to recognize the Reformation of the sixteenth century, as, theologically at least, a monumental failure.

The world is now becoming more and more aware of the nature of that movement, and the passing of studious Anglicans over to the Catholic Church should not, under the changed conditions, be deemed phenomenal.

For the last forty or fifty years an impressive procession, composed of clergy and laity, has been moving on from Canterbury to Rome. The significance of this spectacle is too evident.

When the thinkers like Newman pass out from their environment and render their obedience to the Papal authority, thoughtful men must pause and ask what it means. Not a few of those in doubt and unable to make an original investigation, might reasonably accept the experience and counsel of men like John Henry Newman.

Party has had possession of this land ever since the first permanent English colony was planted at Jamestown, in 1607, one nevertheless discovers from the last census that in 1890, this party had not only failed to take religious possession of the United States, but had left forty-two out of sixty-two millions of the people outside of any ecclesiastical organization.

In what I have to say, I trust that I may be understood as desiring to express my views with all due respect for opinions of non Catholics, and that I may transgress no rules of charity in any allusion to the views of those with whom I was so long and pleasantly associated.

For some years I have stood with men who sought to vindicate the Sacred Scriptures and rescue them from a defense which is generally regarded as a dishonour: and since, moreover, it has been charged that those who go over from the Protestant to the Catholic Fold gain no advantage in respect to the condition of Biblical Criticism, I shall try to meet the charge.

It will make the enemies of religion much more bold and confident in attacking and mangling the Sacred Books; and this vaunted 'Higher Criticism' will resolve itself into the reflection of the bias and the prejudice of the critics.

The Arch of Victory: A Christmas Thought.

I find many notes of regret in the inexhaustible book, concerning the great weariness which falls to the lot of so many young women during this month of active business.

Many and many of you have watched the building of the Arch of Victory, under which our great admiral saw the grand procession pass on the day of his welcome. White and stately and wonderfully beautiful, it stands against the sky, looking as if human hands had never touched it.

When those last tiresome weeks before Christmas come, let those of you who are standing in your places weary in every nerve, just give some earnest thought to the building of the arch, and realize that you are doing something greater still.

Your courtesy satisfies one otherwise disappointed and sends people to their homes, pleased and grateful, ready to keep the feast in the right spirit and way.

I think it will cheer you and perhaps make the long hours have another meaning if you can realize that your limbs and head are not aching, solely because people have been so exacting and irritable and endless in numbers, but that you have been working your full and extra hours in the great workshops where the Arch of Love is being built.

Blistered by Doctors.

FOR HEART DISEASE WITHOUT HELP—DR. AGNEW'S CURE FOR THE HEART RELIEVES IN FIFTEEN MINUTES. Mrs. O. Ward, of Magog, Que., was a great sufferer for years from heart disease.

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