

THE CASKET.

\$1 Per Annum.

A Catholic Journal Non-Partisan in Politics.

\$1 Per Annum.

Fifty-sixth Year

Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Thursday, December 24, 1908.

No 52.

THE CASKET.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTIONS, \$1.00.

No Subscriptions discontinued until all arrears are paid. Subscriptions in United States are discontinued at expiration of period paid for.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24.

Dorando's countrymen in London were very much elated when they heard that he had beaten Hayes. On the other hand his countrymen at home seem to take no interest in him since he became a professional runner. There are many disquieting symptoms in the national life of Italy, but this is not one of them.

The District Council of Brentford, England, is erecting a monument on the Bank of the Thames at Brentford Ferry, to commemorate the spot where the ancient Britons made their stand against Julius Caesar when the army of the latter forced the passage of the river for the first time. They are satisfied that the exact spot has been identified by a local antiquarian.

The growing freedom of speech to which we referred in Sir William Butler's case is sarcastically referred to by a high-class English review in the case of the latest novel by a woman who has never been classed with the scrofulous school of writers. Says the reviewer: "The note of modernity is boldly struck by the introduction of the word 'damn' into the heading of her first chapter."

It is astonishing how people who consider themselves educated can be so ignorant of the nature of the Government which they profess to be so proud of. Father Lambert has had frequently to point out to those who declare that separate schools are against the American Constitution, that this is not at all the case. Education is a matter over which each State has exclusive jurisdiction within its borders, and if any state chose to establish separate schools, the Federal Government could not say it nay.

We are not very superstitious, but if we had in our possession certain prescriptions given by a priest-physician whose extraordinary powers of healing seemed not unlike those exercised by Him who said to His apostles "You shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover;" and if after the death of that priest-physician we should undertake to make a commercial speculation out of the skill for which he had always refused gift or fee, we would stand in constant fear that God might punish us by permitting his spirit to haunt us till we renounced our purpose of making gain in such a fashion.

A despatch from Rome to the Montreal Star stated that the decree of beatification of Joan of Arc was read in the hall of consistory on Sunday, December 13, and that she will be canonized at Easter. *L'Action Sociale*, which is more likely to be accurate, says that it was only the formal closure of the process of beatification which took place on that occasion, and that the glorious Maid of Orleans will be formally declared Blessed Joan of Arc at Easter. At the same time several missionaries martyred in Tonquin and Cochin China were declared "Venerable." They are Etienne Eudes, Jean Guenot, Peter Neil, Francesco Neros, Theophane Venard, and twenty-nine companions.

Benziger's Magazine has been coming to our table every month for the past year and we have neglected to give it a notice. To make amends for

our neglect we cannot do better at present than refer our readers to several selections which we have made from the Christmas number. These selections will give them an idea of the character of the magazine. It is chiefly devoted to stories, written especially for it by the best Catholic writers in the United States, but it has also articles of travel, and a review of the events of the month, both finely illustrated. The "Woman's Realm" contains such matter as is usually found in fashion magazines, and there are games and amusements and a puzzle column for the younger members of the family. The subscription price of the magazine is \$2.00 in the United States, and \$2.50 in Canada.

There are some very disquieting symptoms in the national life of Belgium, but there are also some very encouraging ones. The establishment of houses in which workmen may gather to make a religious retreat under the direction of a Jesuit Father, has grown to a very satisfactory number. Alken, in the province of Limburg, has received 3,385 for retreat since 1904; Liege, in the province of Liege, has received 10,485 since 1901; Lierre, in the province of Antwerp, has received 17,685 since 1899; Arlon, in the province of Luxemburg, has received 8,145 since 1896; Ghent, in East Flanders, has received 14,822 since 1894; Fayt, in Hainault, has received 23,721 since 1891; making a total of more than 78,000 men who made a three days' retreat. At present the average number of workmen who take part in these exercises each year is 10,000. Last summer the House of Retreat at Fayt held what is called a "Social Week," devoted to lectures and discussions on the various phases of the Social Question, in which priests and laymen exchanged views and studied the best means of promoting the temporal and spiritual welfare of the working classes.

The *Independent* has many religious vagaries of its own, but it is admirably sane in its remarks on the protest made by the Lutheran Synod against President Roosevelt's statement that a Catholic has as good a right to be President of the United States as anybody else. The Lutherans say no to this, on the ground that Catholics believe in union of Church and State, which is forbidden by the American Constitution. The *Independent's* comment is as follows:

"This discussion whether a man should be regarded as ineligible for public office because he is a Unitarian or Roman Catholic is tiresome at its best. It is belated, where the opposition on such grounds is not bigoted. Here are some Lutherans replying to the President and declaring that a Catholic should not be a voter because the Catholic Church in Rome has repeatedly opposed the separation of Church and State, and so does not stand for perfect religious liberty. Well, suppose it has done so; it does not do so in this country. And if it did, the union of our Church and State, is not forbidden by our Constitution. A number of States had an established religion long after the Constitution was adopted. A citizen may hold that view and many other foolish or erroneous ones.

The current number of the *American Magazine* contains a little poem by the Rev. John B. Tabb, which is so brief that it may be quoted here. It is entitled "Influences," and it runs as follows:

"Each separate life is fed
From many a fountain head:
Things that we never know
Into our being flow,
And rays of the remotest star
Converge to make us what we are."

The editor of the magazine introduces the poem in his table of contents by saying:

"Father Tabb, for John B. Tabb is a priest in the Roman Catholic Church, continues writing inspiring verse even though he has grown practically blind. He has just issued a new volume."

But Father Tabb is determined to discourage sentimentalism concerning his affliction, and so he writes to the *New York Times Saturday Review of Books*:

"The note on my lines in the *American Magazine* is misleading and irrelevant."

"I have issued no recent volumes of verse, and blindness is less of a hindrance to thought than is a slight toothache."

JOHN B. TABB.

In answer to the question "What is news?" a great journalist lately said "Sin is news." We are apt to think the world much worse than it is if we read the daily records of crime without remembering that the great majority of men never do anything, good or bad, which the newspapers think worth recording. But even with this in mind the number of drunken brawls on Christmas Day is something to appal those who consider what Christmas means. It is shocking to think that the pretext of keeping the festival should lead many to intoxication which passes so often and so quickly from conviviality to quarreling and from quarreling to murder. The fact that such a pretext is employed is a reason why many earnest Christians, whose number we hope is steadily growing, practise total abstinence at the Christmas season whether they do so at other times or not. They wish to make an Act of Reparation to the Babe of Bethlehem for the horrible deeds done at Christmas, deeds which would never be done by men in their sober senses. And lest they should be a stumbling-block to others they also resolve not to put temptation in the way of their brethren by offering them intoxicating drink at a time when an evil custom supported by the traditions of centuries allures men to excesses whose consequences can never be foreseen, yet may be of such a character as a man would gladly live his life to see undone.

The *Saturday Review's* brief notice of "Lourdes; a History of its Apparitions and Cures. By Georges Bertrin. London: Kegan Paul, 1908. 7s. 6d.," indicates the reviewer to be one who feels that it would be unfair to ignore such a book, but dreads to think what conclusions must be drawn if the testimony therein given be true. Here is the *Saturday's* notice:

"The author of this account of Lourdes is Professor Georges Bertrin, of the Paris Catholic Institute. Mrs. Philip Gibbs has made an authorized translation, and Father Stanislaus St. John, S. J., has introduced it to English readers in a preface. We shall not attempt to state the impression this narrative of miracles has made upon ourselves. In a book of this kind the effect must depend on the mind and education of the individual reader. But we must note that Father St. John claims that the apparitions and the miracles will bear the strictest evidential test that can be applied to them. His position is similar to that taken by some of our scientific men as to certain alleged psychical manifestations which the physical scientist has put aside as impossible on a priori grounds. He holds, undoubtedly rightly, that it is unworthy in the name of science to dismiss these miracles without inquiry; and moreover he holds that they have been indubitably proved. A further point we might notice. The narrative contains many accounts of the miraculous immediate healing of fractures and physical lesions which in the ordinary operations of nature must be long continued. Father St. John affirms that these must have taken place by Divine interposition. The Lourdes miracles have often been explained, as cures of nervous complaints on understood pathological principles. This does not apply to many of the cases here narrated. We shall say no more than that the book is a remarkable one from any point of view."

At the time when it was thought that the Education Bill, framed on the lines of a compromise between Premier Asquith, representing the Non-conformist interests on the one hand, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, representing the Church of England on the other, was likely to pass through the House of Commons, and perhaps even through the House of Lords, the *Saturday Review* published a leading article, the opening portion of which is quite in harmony with one of the last articles which Dr. MacDonald wrote for THE CASKET. The *Saturday's* leader begins as follows:

"There are minds to which the word 'compromise' sums up all wisdom and contains all statesmanship. The question for them is not how much they can keep of what their side holds dear, but how much they can give away. To them a conviction can never be worth fighting for in its entirety; the larger part is an item to bargain with, a superfluity that can very well be exchanged against something else. This love of compromise is

really cynicism; it is the blasé man's view that nothing really matters. As a policy it rests on the assumption that more is asked for than is expected, or even desired, in order that the difference may be given away, and thereby credit for moderation won. In mundane affairs that may work well enough; but when it is applied to religious beliefs the honest man must object. He will not admit that his creed contains more than he believes or desires to believe, and that therefore he may with alacrity jettison or barter away a large part of it. He feels that if religion is true, it must be supreme; that it cannot be sacrificed to other things, but other things must be sacrificed to religion. In a word, a man's faith must be either true or untrue; it cannot be a proper field for compromise. The moment religion loses this supreme claim on its followers it ceases to be religion. This no doubt makes religion frequently a disturbing and very awkward element in the ordinary affairs of the world. It is not compliant and flexible as convenience requires. Very naturally those who either ignore or deny the claims of religion resent this lack of adaptability. He who will not treat his convictions as a matter of bargain is no doubt something of a nuisance to the world. He expects to be thought a nuisance; he does not even resent the charge; it is the natural attitude of the natural man. But he does resent this attitude in those who purport to be his religious guides. When he sees a disposition in his spiritual fathers to make their peace with the world by the surrender of principle, he grows restive."

A subscriber has sent us a newspaper cutting containing the platform of principles and declaration of policy adopted by a Labor Party, which we suppose from a reference to the Dominion Senate to be the Canadian Labor Party. We are asked whether a Catholic can subscribe to it, and we must say that of the twenty-three clauses which the platform is composed we see only one, the first one, which may not be advocated by a Catholic. This first proposition reads as follows:

"The ultimate aim of this Party is the collective ownership of all the means of Production, Distribution and Exchange."

If this implies, as it certainly does in the minds of Socialists, of whom the Canadian Labor Party has a good many among its members, that the holding of private property and the employment of private capital is unjust and must not be permitted, then no Catholic can subscribe to it. The seventeenth clause which demands "absolute freedom of press, speech and assemblage," seems altogether unnecessary, unless it is intended to permit anarchists like Johann Most and Emma Goldman inciting their hearers to assassination. If it is, a Catholic must cut that clause out of the platform also. Two or three other clauses, notably the twenty-second, which asks "that all Judges be elected by the people for short terms," we consider very unwise. On several others we have no opinion to offer just now. But with most of the propositions, such as a legal working day, Government inspection of all industries, a minimum wage tax reform, the abolition of child labor, and a graduated income tax, we are thoroughly in sympathy, and we should like to see all Catholic public speakers and writers, when denouncing the impracticable and immoral demands of Socialism, advocating at the same time the genuine reforms which Socialists advocate. This is the surest way to keep our people out of the ranks of Socialism.

Our correspondent asks what are the best books or tracts to put in the hands of our people to counteract the influences of Socialism. We have already recommended in these columns a paper-covered book of 135 pages, entitled "Questions of Socialists and Their Answers," by the Rev. William S. Kress of Cleveland, Ohio, and it is still the best book we know for popular reading. It may be obtained by sending 20 cents to "Librarian, 6914 Woodland Avenue, S. E., Cleveland, Ohio," or ten dollars for a hundred copies. Bishop Spalding's "Socialism and Labor," published by A. C. McClurg, Chicago; Bishop Stang's "Socialism and Christianity," and Father Cathrein's "Socialism," both published by Benziger Bros., New York, are

excellent, but they do not treat the subject in as popular fashion as Father Kress' book.

The late Principal Grant, of Queen's College, Kingston, on returning from his last visit to Europe, said he thought that Scotland possessed the ideal school system. He was particularly pleased with the harmony which he noticed existing between Protestants and Catholics. We said at the time that we thought the worthy Principal's ideal was not a very lofty one, but we had no statistics at hand to discuss the subject in detail. During the present session of the British Parliament, however, a Bill has been under consideration, which proposes to increase the Government grant to Scottish schools. This led to an opening up of the subject that shows the position of Scottish Catholics under the school system which Principal Grant thought ideal. Sir Henry Craik, Member for Glasgow University, during one of the debates in the House, said that there was no question that for all practical purposes the school system of Scotland was a denominational system. In nine-tenths of the schools the Presbyterian form of religion was taught to the satisfaction of the great mass of the people. He thought it right that the majority of the inhabitants of a district should have the right to choose the religion to be taught in their schools, provided that the minority had their rights reserved, and were not crushed down by grants withheld or by taxation which they did not share. But this is precisely the position in which Scottish Catholics stand. The Presbyterian schools are built and equipped at the public expense, out of funds contributed by Catholics as well as Protestants. They are maintained partly by Government grants, and partly by local taxation, known as the rates, to both of which funds again Catholics as well as Protestants contribute. The Catholic schools are built by Catholics out of their own pockets, and are maintained by Government grants without a penny from the rates. All the local school tax paid by Catholics as well as Protestants, goes to the support of Protestant schools; Catholic schools get none of it. The result is that Catholics receive nearly seven dollars a head less for their pupils than Presbyterians receive. Sir Henry Craik called it unfair, and he knows the situation well, having been Secretary of the Scottish Education Board in Mr. Balfour's Government. And if his testimony be doubted, as being an opponent of the present Government, Mr. Halley Stewart, Liberal Member for Greenock, and Mr. J. Annon Bryce, Liberal Member for Inverness Burghs, spoke in a similar strain. Mr. Stewart said that the result of the educational system provided for in the Bill was that in nine cases out of ten, perhaps in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the school boards in Scotland would be Presbyterian boards giving Presbyterian teaching to Presbyterian children. That would be at the expense of the community, including the Roman Catholics. That was not justice, concluded the Member for Greenock. But the Government could not be moved; the additional grant proposed is to be given to all schools alike, and the Catholic schools are relatively no better off than they were before. These schools have been built by Catholics out of their own pockets, at an expense of five million dollars; they are educating 100,000 pupils, or one-ninth of all the school children in the country; they must keep their schools equipped and staffed to the satisfaction of Government Inspectors, who will require that they be in no way inferior to the other schools which receive all the local taxes. This certainly cannot be done with the Government grant alone, and therefore the Catholics of Scotland, after having paid part of the cost of building and maintaining the Presbyterian schools, and all the cost of building their own schools, must put their hands in their pockets again and make up the amount required to put their schools on the same footing as the Presbyterian schools. Surely Dr. Grant cannot have known all the details of the case when he called such a system ideal.

The Holy Night.

No princely door gave greeting warm To Mary's Child; No palace welcomed from the storm God's Undeified.

Lord, in the manger of my heart Be Thou revealed For always, wondrous'er Thou art, This Christmas morn.

THE WONDERFUL FLOWER OF WOXINDON.

(By permission of the publisher, B. Herder, St. Louis, U. S. A.)

CHAPTER XIII.

I answered that I did, and that I admired my uncle's acuteness. Of course I was heartily willing to cooperate with him, as the welfare of her Majesty and the stability of the reformed religion were at stake.

Finally I asked him what he thought of Parma's scheme, and what measures he intended to take against it. He shrugged his shoulders, and said the project might take definite shape, but not for some time yet.

What we have do now, he said in conclusion, 'is to carry out our design in regard to the Queen of Scots. The first step is for Gifford to lay his toils, in order to intercept the correspondence between Babington and the prisoner.

So saying Walsingham filled our glasses again with the ruby coloured wine, and bade me drink to the prosperity of Babington's conspiracy, which was to bring about the end we desired.

CHAPTER XIV.

The reader is shown how the snare is laid, and is introduced to an 'honest man.'

The brewer from the neighbouring town of Burton, between whom and Paulet it was arranged that he should deliver to Paulet every acre, his might receive either from Gifford to Mary, or vice versa.

My uncle whose custom it was to set his agents to watch one another, assigned the unhappy apostate Gifford to the charge of Thomas Philipps and Arthur Gregory, two spies, or members of his secret police, who lived in St. Paul's Churchyard.

My uncle had already mentioned to me one of the secretaries of the French ambassador, named Cherelles, whom he had bribed, a young man, leading a gay life, and head and ears in debt through gambling.

observation and especially to expedite her correspondence. The private secretary of the ambassador, Cordaillot by name, was intrusted with the interests of the royal captive, and the packet of letters of which Cherelles had spoken, were in his safekeeping.

Gifford was introduced to Cordaillot by Cherelles. His Catholic name, and the excellent recommendations he had brought from Paris, carried weight; also the scheme he had concocted appeared feasible.

Walsingham's surmise was correct. We heard from Cherelles that a messenger was despatched that very day to Paris; and about a week later Gifford was summoned to the embassy.

A mile off we crossed the river, the ice cracking with noises like pistol shots as our horses picked their way gingerly over it. On the opposite side was a dense jungle of bulberry bushes, and on breaking through this we found ourselves galloping up a long, winding valley, which led back many miles into the hills.

Accordingly the next day I started on my way. The distance to Chartley, which is on the borders of Staffordshire and Derbyshire, not far from Burton-on-Trent, is 130 miles, so that it took me two days hard riding, to get there.

(To be continued.)

Getting Christmas Dinner on a Ranch.

(By Theodore Roosevelt)

Note:—This vivid little sketch of President Roosevelt's was written twenty years ago, and published in a paper of small circulation, now defunct. We are glad of the opportunity of republishing it now.

One December while I was out on my ranch, so much work had to be done that it was within a week of Christmas before we were able to take any thought for the Christmas dinner.

Accordingly one of the cowboys rode out in the frosty afternoon to fetch in the saddleband from the plateau three miles off, where they were grazing.

long file, their unshod hoofs making no sound in the light snow which covered the plain, turning it into a glimmering white waste wherein stood dark islands of leafless trees, with trunks and branches weirdly distorted.

Choosing out two of the strongest and quietest, we speedily roped them and led them into the warm log stable, where they were given a plentiful supply of the short, nutritious buffalo grass hay, while the rest of the herd were turned loose to shift for themselves.

It was necessary to get to the hunting grounds by sunrise, and it still lacked a couple of hours of dawn when the foreman awakened me as I lay asleep beneath the buffalo robes.

A mile off we crossed the river, the ice cracking with noises like pistol shots as our horses picked their way gingerly over it. On the opposite side was a dense jungle of bulberry bushes, and on breaking through this we found ourselves galloping up a long, winding valley.

As the dawn reddened, and it became light enough to see objects some little way off, we began to sit erect in our saddles and to scan the hillsides sharply for sight of feeding deer.

Riding to one side of the trail, we topped the little ridge just as the sun flamed up, a burning ball of crimson, beyond the snowy waste at our backs.

We both laughed and called out "dinner" as we sprang down toward her, and in a few minutes she was dressed and hung up by the hind legs on a small ash tree.

No sooner was the sun up than a warm west wind began to blow in our faces. The weather had suddenly changed, and within an hour the snow was beginning to thaw and to leave patches of bare ground on the hillsides.

cedar canyons and gorges, in which we knew the old bucks loved to lie. It was noon before we saw anything more. We lunched at a clear spring—not needing much time, for all we had to do was to drink a draught of icy water and munch a strip of dried venison.

This was all we could carry. Leading the horses around, we packed the buck behind my companion's saddle, and then rode back for the doe, which I put behind mine.

Correspondence.

Editor of Casket:

Christmas Island, Dec. 11th, 1908. SIR.—The intelligence received here last week that our beloved pastor, Rev. J. A. M. Gillis, is to sever his connection with us in a few days has caused profound regret throughout the parish.

When the late lamented Rev. Dr. Angus Cameron was forced, thro' illness, to give up the charge of this parish, there was deep, sincere sorrow in the hearts of his parishioners. Every one loved the pious, genial "Dr. Angus," and the expression, "we shall never see his like again," was heard on all sides.

But the foregoing is not all. As a result of his eloquent preaching on the subject, nearly the whole of the population who have reached the age of reason are now enrolled in the League of the Sacred Heart.

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JOHN McDONELL, Dunmore, Ant. Co. Nov. 10th, 1908.

GATES LIFE OF MAN BITTERS

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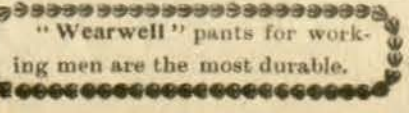
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ESTABLISHED, 1852

THE CASKET,

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AT ANTIGONISH BY THE CASKET PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY, LIMITED, M. DONOVAN, Manager.

Subscriptions Payable in Advance

RATES—Canada, \$1.00 per year
United States, \$1.50 " "

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 24.

THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

One of the titles by which the prophet Isaiah hailed the coming Messias was Prince of Peace. Into the weary world, given up to strife since the day when human blood was first shed by the fratricidal hands of Cain, the rumor went forth that a great peacemaker was at hand. And when there came the momentary lull which followed the conquests of Augustus Caesar, the nations of the earth held their breath in expectation.

The Messias came, an infant born in a stable, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, his only attendants his mother and his foster-father, his only courtiers a few shepherds who were keeping night-watch over their flocks. But the army of heaven, the choirs of angels, bore testimony that this was He, and sang "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will."

The Prince of Peace was in the world, but the world knew Him not. Even the chosen people, in whose hands were deposited the prophecies, expected the Son of David to be a warrior-king, who would give to Juda the leadership among the nations, and in a literal and material sense, make a footstool of his enemies. "The glory of God" was a phrase not unfamiliar to their ears, but they understood its meaning in a carnal sense; so also the other part of the angel's message, "peace to men." They looked to see the world at peace very much in the same fashion as it was then, but under the rule of Christ reigning in Jerusalem instead of Augustus reigning in Rome. And from this rule of Christ the King, a greater temporal sovereign than had ever been before, they believed God would receive the glory which was His.

This sad mistake arose from a wrong idea of peace. Only those deeply religious and thoughtful men whom God raised up from time to time in order that He might not be without a witness among the nations, understood that underneath such peace as Roman arms had given to the world there was a strife which no human power could subdue. The murderous deed of Cain was not the beginning of strife. It began with the eating of the forbidden fruit. At once our first parents began to worry over a question which is often treated as a jest, but our Saviour knew it was no laughing matter when he referred to it in his Sermon on the Mount. They asked each other "wherewith shall we be clothed." And the attempt to answer that question has ruined a countless number of souls. It is altogether probable that the desire for fine clothes has destroyed more female virtue than any other one cause.

The promise of more knowledge was the temptation offered to Adam and Eve, but instead of knowing more they found themselves knowing less and knowing nothing with certainty. Their descendants continued in the same path, and even to this day men perit their souls' salvation to acquire knowledge. They do not make a formal pact with the devil, as medieval legends tell us has been done, but they ignore God's revelation and say that they prefer to find out things for themselves, and this comes practically to the same thing. Men who will not take the Church's word for it that they have immortal souls, are convinced by communication with spirits who have certainly not brought a message from heaven.

The Gloria in Excelsis, sung on the first Christmas night, was a message from heaven, but as St. Bernard remarks, the world was not contented with it. "Glory to God and peace to men," it said, but men wanted glory also, and to purchase it they were willing to give up the peace which God had promised them. One of the Messianic prophecies, with which the Jews were most familiar, contained the warning words: "I the Lord, this is my name; I will not give my glory to another." Yet they steadily

looked for a Messias who should not only give glory to God, but also to them, by making them the premier nation of the earth, and they put the meek and humble Jesus to death because He interfered with their scheme. They were willing that God should have glory, but they insisted that He should share it with them.

Very similar is the case of the great thinker who says that it will be equally glorious to God if he finds things out for himself instead of receiving them through God's revelation. Such a man is running a double risk, the risk that he may not be able to find out for himself the things which it is necessary for his soul's salvation that he should know, and also the risk that he is seeking his own glory in the eyes of men as the discoverer of these great truths, instead of giving all the glory to God.

In the early days of Christianity, when men of learning began to enter the Church, it was in order that they might find peace of mind after a long and weary period of fruitless questionings. Today we are told that the glory of the human intellect is to keep up an incessant search for truth even though it never finds it. And when a man like Newman becomes a Catholic other men deplore his fate, saying that he grew tired of the conflict and accepted the dogmatic teachings of the Church of Rome just as a man takes an opiate to deaden the feeling of pain. In other words these men prefer their own glory, to be won by great discoveries or pretended discoveries in the realm of thought, to the peace of mind which God offered to the world in the moment when His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ was born, in the stable at Bethlehem.

The joy that His coming would give to the world, the miracles by which He would prove Himself to be the Son of God, the Church which He would establish to teach the truths of salvation to all men, the learned as well as the ignorant,—all these things were foretold in that beautiful thirty-fifth chapter of Isaiah which we read in the Breviary on the Fourth Sunday of Advent:

"The land that was desolate and impassable shall be glad, and the wilderness shall rejoice, and shall flourish like the lily.

"It shall bud forth and blossom, and shall rejoice with joy and praise; the glory of Libanus is given to it; the beauty of Carmel, and Saron, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the beauty of our God.

"Strengthen ye the feeble hands, and confirm the weak knees.

"Say to the faint hearted: "Take courage and fear not; behold your God will bring the revenge of recompense. God himself will come and will save you.

"Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

"Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall be free; for waters are broken out in the desert, and streams in the wilderness.

"And that which was dry land, shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water. In the dens where dragons dwell before, shall rise up the verdure of the reed and the bulrush.

"And a path and a way shall be there, and it shall be called the holy way; the unclean shall not pass over it, and this shall be unto you a straight way, so that fools shall not err therein.

"No lion shall be there, nor shall any mischievous beast go up by it, nor be found there; but they shall walk there that shall be delivered.

"And the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and shall come into Sion with praise, and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and mourning shall flee away."

May this joy and gladness be the portion of every reader of THE CASKET is our prayer when we wish them all
A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

BISHOP-ELECT MACDONALD IN BOSTON.

Communicated.

On Saturday evening, Dec. 5th, several friends and admirers in and about Boston, Mass., of the Rt. Rev. Dr. Alexander MacDonald, Bishop-elect of Victoria, B. C., tendered him a banquet and testimonial at the Parker House, Boston. His Lordship and his travelling companion, Rev. Colin Chisholm, arrived at the Parker House on Friday evening Dec. 4th, en route to Rome via New York. They remained in Boston till the following Monday and thus there was given to his Lordship's many friends in the Hub a much prized opportunity to see and congratulate him before his departure for the Eternal City.

Some twenty-five gentlemen, former classmates, students, and friends of the Bishop-elect sat at the banquet table at the Parker House on Saturday evening. After the wants of the inner man were well and liberally provided for, Dr. John E. Somers of Cambridge, who acted as toast-master for the occasion, initiated the post-prandial exercises. He spoke of the great pleasure and pride which the announcement of the promotion of the

Rt. Rev. guest of the evening to the Episcopacy had given to himself personally and to his Lordship's friends everywhere, but this pleasure was mingled with regret that his Lordship's great talents, profound learning and devotion to his sacred calling should no longer be at the service of his native Province and diocese. The toast-master spoke for several minutes in his own inimitable and graceful style, intermingling his remarks with wit, humour and sound sense so well that your correspondent would do him an injustice to attempt to report him. He then called upon several of the gentlemen present. Among those who responded, Dr. John Fraser, Weymouth, referred to the wisdom, great learning, piety and zeal of the Rt. Rev. Dr., all of which, in the opinion of the laymen at least, should single him out as well meriting and highly competent to fill the high and responsible office to which he had been called by the Holy See.

Dr. Henry C. Haché of Somerville, responded to the toast "Canada and Canadians." He briefly but eloquently sketched the great progress made there in recent years in everything tending to the upbuilding and welfare of the nation. He was glad to note the excellence of his country's most valuable products—her rugged, manly men and fair women—who distinguished themselves in every walk of life, not only in their own native land, but also wherever they wandered to become citizens of an adopted country. His devotion and love for his native land was such that he still was unable to forswear allegiance to her.

(Continued on page 5)

Seven Things, Regrettable, Deplorable and Unholy in the Town of Antigonish.

(With apologies to the Seven Plagues of Egypt and to "Scandalized Catholic" in last week's issue of THE CASKET.)

1st. That our Catholic organizations should have become theatre-owners. "Pity 'tis, 'tis true." You many pastors in Europe and the United States with parochial halls and theatres, beware!

2nd. That there is not a "practicable railroad to Hell" with dividends satisfactory to "Scandalized Catholic"—the same holy thought being due to "his knowledge of human nature" and to good old John Ruskin. You imps, pile on more coal.

3rd. That "money invested" destroys "unbiased judgment." You business men of Antigonish invest no more capital lest your better judgment be distorted. Contributors to educational, charitable and religious institutions, you, too, are judgment-killers.

4th. That Nell Gwynn was not put "on the boards" in a theatre owned and managed by a Catholic society. You members of said Catholic society acted cruelly in not putting this play on, thereby disappointing "Scandalized Catholic" and thwarting the growth of scandal, the child of his loving and withal scholarly bosom. And you creatures of earth in other pretentious christian towns in Eastern Nova Scotia who allowed Nell Gwynn in your theatres, had the effrontery to see the play, and still saw nothing to bring forth copious tears of repentance, sack-cloth and ashes be yours. "Scandalized Catholic" prays for sinners; he will pray for you.

5th. That "there has been more or less comment on the character of certain performances given in that theatre in the past." You respected citizens of Antigonish, clergy and laity, God-fearing fathers and mothers, zealous Catholics and Protestants, who frequent the theatre, but utter no word of protest against what you see there, Scandalized Catholic is shocked at your conduct. He doesn't know "if he is correctly informed," but that doesn't matter. Your actions, real or imaginary, scandalize him, and woe to him who scandalizes this little one.

6th. That even Scandalized Catholic thinks "it is hard, well-nigh impossible to know always what plays are decent and what are not." You owners of the theatre, base and despicable creatures as you must be, cheer up! Even "Scandalized Catholic," though possessing more piety, prudence and spiritual fervor than all of you, frankly and generously admits that your task is not an easy one. You, no doubt, know the difficulties which the situation presents; he knows them well, for does he not not expressly say so. Gentlemen, be comforted!

7th. That "Scandalized Catholic" in his goodness of heart does not tell the community who he is that the members of our Catholic organizations—and may I add Protestant organizations also, may have a safe "bureau of information"—a walking, living, profoundly religious bureau.
STRAWBERRY BLOSSOM.
Antigonish, Dec. 7th, 1908.

The Dominion Government has promulgated a new Order in Council in reference to foreign shipping engaged in the coastwise trade.

A report of the police department shows that 156 persons were murdered in Chicago in the year 1908. Of the murders 24 remain unsolved. In the year 1905, 193 murders were committed, which is the highest number recorded.

Over 48,000,000 bushels of wheat of the crop of 1908 passed Winnipeg before the last boats went out. Shipments for the last week of open water reached the enormous total of 5,103,007 bushels. This is ahead of other years entire movement of wheat.

The French Chamber of Deputies has sanctioned a Bill authorizing the Government to spend not exceeding \$70,000,000 for armaments. The Bill provides for the construction of two large battleships and authorizes a third if necessary.

DRUMMOND COAL

INTERCOLONIAL COAL MINING COMPANY, Limited
Westville, - Nova Scotia

For Sale at ANTIGONISH by JAMES KENNA and A. G. JOCELYN
HUGH D. MCKENZIE, Agent, ST. PAUL BUILDING HALIFAX.

Christmas Gifts

Furs for Children

Children's imitation bear skin coats, lined throughout with flannelette. Sizes from one to eight years.

Infant's eiderdown jackets, kimona styles, finished with fancy stitching, colors grey, blue, red and white.

Holiday Gloves

Our collection of gloves, destined for holiday gifts is this year more imposing than ever before and affords to buyers the widest possible choice and a good range of prices.

Ladies' Slippers

In mocha, wool lined and nicely trimmed with fur; would make a nice present for your sweetheart, wife or mother.

Furs for Ladies



We are the sole agents for the celebrated Moose Head brand furs. Ladies' fur lined coats with rat lining and sable collar. Ladies' persian lamb jackets with mink trimming. Also stoles in all kinds and styles of furs.

The Annex

What Shall I Give?

Some of the most satisfactory gifts to give and that will be appreciated by the men are smoking jackets, dressing gowns, coat sweaters, fancy vests and cardigan jackets. We have a large assortment of ties, knitted mufflers, silk and linen handkerchiefs, gloves in mocha and kid, shirts, braces, etc.

Don't put off your Christmas buying. Come early and select the best patterns.

A. KIRK & CO.
Antigonish, N. S.

General News.

Seven men of a French warship at St. Pierre, Miq., were drowned from a boat on 16th inst.

General Antoine Simon, the newly elected president of Hayti, took the oath of office on Sunday.

A race will take place between Shrub, the English runner, and Longboat, the Canadian Indian, on January 9th, at New York.

The Emperor of Germany has pledged himself to abstain from intoxicating liquor for the remainder of his life.

There were 1,024 vessel disasters in the United States in the last fiscal year, resulting in a property loss of \$1,863,790 and the loss of twenty-two lives.

The French barque Artere, bound from France for St. Pierre, Miq., has been lost with her crew of seventeen men.

The steel rail production of the States for the current year will be the smallest in years, past, being estimated at 1,800,000 tons, against 3,633,654 in 1907.

An unusually fine unused copy of the very rare six-pence scarlet vermilion postage stamp of Newfoundland issue of 1857, brought \$12 at the Collectors' club, New York.

The proportion of aged persons applying in the Western Highlands of Scotland for old age pensions is the greatest in the kingdom. In one township one-half the population have applied.

During the course of an exciting session of the Russian Duma, Nikolaia Khomyakoff, the President of the Duma, quitted the chamber and wrote his resignation.

Mr. Caillaux, French minister of finance, is shortly to place before the chamber a bill in which he proposes to replace the small old-time copper coins by aluminum ones.

The United States census bulletin recently issued shows that during the past twenty years there have been nearly one million divorces or, about one out of every twelve marriages!

Oberlin, the eight year old son of Captain Benjamin Hamm, of Mahone Bay, N. S., shot and killed his thirteen year old sister Ruby, Sunday, with a double barreled hammerless gun, supposed to be unloaded.

Among the wonderful surgical operations becoming so common nowadays as to be commonplace, was the removal of a woman's entire larynx in a Baltimore Hospital the other day. Though speechless, the operation saved her life.

Persistent rumors are current in Panama that a British flying squadron of thirty warships, their officers and crew, numberin 20,000 men, will arrive there about the middle of January and remain several days. The rumors are exciting considerable interest.

One of the stories afloat in regard to Indian affairs is that there will be an attempt to assassinate the Viceroy. The agitators are said to assume that killing the representative of the king and emperor would strongly affect public opinion among the Indian people.

The total estimates of Halifax civic taxation as prepared by the committee of public accounts call for assessment of \$5,29,710, which is \$29,910 more than last year, and means an addition of a fraction over eleven cents in the rate of taxation. The rate will be about \$2.2. Last year the rate was \$1.92.

Cardinal Victor Lucian Sulpice Lecot, Archbishop of Bordeaux, died at Bordeaux on Sunday from hemorrhage of the brain while returning from a visit to Rome. Cardinal Lecot was the leader of the movement among a group of French ecclesiastics to find a basis of settlement in the difference which has arisen between the government and the church.

A hostile reception awaited Carrie Nation in Glasgow, Scotland, where she arrived from Edinburgh. The authorities had not anticipated any trouble and the 3,000 people who assembled to welcome the American saloon smasher overran the platform and "booed" her. Considerable hustling also took place, in which Mrs. Nation lost her umbrella, which afterwards was found broken.

Three Canadian Rhodes scholars gained the following distinctions at Oxford during the year:—J. C. Archibald, Quebec, Fellowship of All Souls College; C. B. Martin, the Beit Prize, in Colonial history, fifty pounds, and the Brassey Studentship in Colonial History, 10 pounds; H. J. Rose, of Quebec, the Passmore Edwards Scholarship, thirty pounds for classical English literature.

The number of applicants for old age pensions in Great Britain and Ireland is up to the present 153,070 in excess of the estimate by the Prime Minister and the chancellor of the Exchequer. Their estimate was 500,000; the latest returns are 653,070, and the number is increasing daily. Of these 367,197 come from England, 193,138 from Ireland, 68,785 from Scotland and 23,950 from Wales.

The new regulation provides that in the coasting trade between Nova Scotia and Quebec, and vice-versa, ships of not less than fifteen hundred tons gross register of Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Austro-Hungary, Denmark, Belgium, Argentine Republic, and Japan may engage until December 31, 1911.

The Six Nation Indians have made the Prince of Wales their head

honorary chieftain of war. The ceremony took place on Friday amidst Indian splendor, when all the tribes were represented. Superintendent Smith acted as proxy. The Prince gave his assent and choose the clan of the Turtle, receiving the title, "O Non De Yoh," meaning "Lord and King." A silk sash and an address on buckskin will be forwarded to His Royal Highness.

The British Parliament was prorogued on Monday until February 16. Many minor laws were enacted during the year, but of the ten important measures forshadowed in the King's speech only five find a place on the statute books. These are the old age pension bill, the Irish universities bill, measures fixing eight hours as the time miners shall work underground; providing for the purchase for \$115,000,000 of the London docks, and placing them under a central authority and a bill for the better protection of the children.

A Lisbon newspaper published a story Friday to the effect that a detective implicated in the plot that resulted in the assassination last February of King Carlos of Portugal and his son, Crown Prince Luiz, has been arrested. The man tried to commit suicide, but was prevented. After he had been revived he confessed that on December 4 of last year he took up a position near the railroad station at which the King was to return from Oporto with the purpose of shooting His Majesty, but the confusion attending the departure of the King and the speed at which his carriage was driven away made the attempt impossible.

Among the Advertisers.

See Bonner's new adv.

The thrifty buyers all get their supplies at Bonner's.

Order your turkeys, geese and chickens at Bonner's.

Order your supplies at the thrifty buyer's store. Bonner's.

When you want a good sleigh drive, get your rig at Whidden's livery.

Wedding rings made to order at B. A. Pratt's Jeweller, West End. 3i.

A few sleighs, new and second hand, for sale by C. B. Whidden & Son.

Choice turkeys, geese and chickens, fresh beef, pork and sausages at C. B. Whidden & Son's.

A snap—Herring at \$3.00 half barrel, good quality, few left. Haley's Market.

I have a small quantity of those six-cent raisins still on hand. Haley's Market.

Lost, between Town and Pleasant Valley, an accordion. Finder please leave at Casket Office.

When you want a good dinner, buy your beef, pork, and sausages from C. B. Whidden & Son.

Another 25 barrel lot of those excellent 10 cent oranges just arrived. Great sellers; at Haley's Market.

My business is and always has been, strictly cash. No credit. Quick sales and small profits. Haley's Market.

Nobody killed in the crowd as yet. We protect you in this as we do in price and quality of goods at Haley's Market.

Nothing in the meat line tastes as good as D. & F. sausages. Two pounds for 25 cents at C. B. Whidden & Son's.

Will the person who took by mistake a box of groceries belonging to L. McIsaac return the same to T. J. Bonner.

Wine—Get a dozen rhubarb, currant or dandelion wine—20c per bottle in dozen and 1/2 dozen lots at Bonner's. Elegant home drink.

We thank our many customers for the bang-up trade we are doing this season and wish everybody a real merry Xmas.—Bonner's Grocery.

It might interest you to look over Haley's regular price list and compare with any prices on the market. Strictly cash. Haley's Market.

Oranges, apples, grapes, lemons, grape fruit, raisins, currants, figs, dates and prunes, and a very large stock of chocolates and other confectionary at C. B. Whidden & Son's.

Hides.—We want the hides of Antigonish Co. and always pay cash.—price now 8c., tallow 6c., skins 30 to 60c. each. Carter Tannery (Co. Agent, T. J. Bonner).

In every package of Union Blend Tea will be found a letter of the alphabet, and when you secure a whole alphabet you secure \$5.00. This tea is for sale by C. B. Whidden & Son.

The Best Xmas Store

Where you can get the very best quality in China Novelities, Old Greek Ware, Wedgewood, Leather Goods, and Novelties, Dolls and Toys, Books and Games, Christmas Decorations, Photo Frames and Albums, Writing Sets, Rich Cut Glass, Old Scotch Ware, Japanese China, Limoges China, Royal Doulton China, Hand Painted China for use and ornament. The ever popular and good Ebony Toilet Sets, Sterling Silver and Gold-Plated Toilet Articles. In fact a larger stock than ever of real Christmas Goods at

C. J. McDONALD'S BOOK AND FANCY GOODS STORE

Beautiful boxes of cigars 10c. each handsome cased pipes \$1.00 to \$3.50; boxed chocolates 25c. to \$2.00; moustache cups, shaving mugs and a thousand other things for Xmas presents at Bonner's. A.T.S.

We have to apologise to many customers for not getting promptly waited on this week. We did our best to handle the crowd, but they came so thick and fast that it was impossible to wait on all at once. Call this week for your New Year's supplies and be presented with a beautiful calendar.—Bonner's.

Beginning Jan. 5th, the dancing class will meet on Tuesday evenings. Private instruction from 2 p. m. to 4 and following morning. Juvenile class at 4. Instruction will be given the juvenile class in society and fancy dancing and in the desartian method of physical development. Rate for juvenile class will be fixed when probable number attending is ascertained. i i

DIED

At Port Hastings, on Nov. 29, after a short illness, JOHN D. McLELLAN, merch. dt, in his 35th year, leaving a widow and two children. R. I. P

At Phoenix, B. C. ANNIE MAY, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. WILLIAM MCGILLIVRAY, aged 8 years and six months. Deceased was a bright little girl and a favorite among her associates. The funeral was largely attended; the public school was closed and the pupils marched in a body.

At Rear East Bay C. B., on December 12, the beloved wife of JOHN McMULLIN, N. S., in the 76th year of her age. She leaves five sons, five daughters, thirty three grand children and a kind and affectionate husband to mourn her loss. Fortified by the last rites of the holy church she passed away to her eternal reward. May her soul rest in peace!

At Upper Pinevale, on December 18th, ANGUS GILLES, at the age of eighty seven years. He had been ailing for some time past but finally he quietly succumbed to the infirmities of old age. He was, however, quite prepared; he had just received the last rites of the Church, of which he was always a devout member. He was, moreover, an excellent citizen, sober and industrious, and will be long remembered. He was buried at South River. May he rest in peace.

NOVA-SCOTIA-FIRE Insurance Company LOWEST RATES Consistent With Safety AGENTS EVERYWHERE Head Office: 166 HOLLIS STREET, HALIFAX (ARTHUR C. GALLIE, Manager) STRONG - LIBERAL - PROMPT

THE Thrifty Buyer's Store We sincerely thank our very many customers for their valued trade this season. We never had the like. The sale is quickly told. Good goods, right prices and courteous treatment did it all. You will find it always the same with us, and when not so, kindly give us a chance to make it right. We will meet you half way every time. Our prices will continue to be lower than anybody else, and anything you have to sell you will get the top notch for.

To the Farmer We are your friend, we buy anything you have and will always use you right. At this festive season we extend to all, our thanks with the wish for A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year BONNER'S BIG GROCERY

Chisholm, Sweet & Co. Merry Xmas Its almost time for Santa's visit. Are you prepared to give the old gentleman a royal reception? If not there's a chance yet, but to make the best use of the few remaining shopping hours come direct to our Christmas counters. Large crowds of holiday buyers throng our store these busy days—all satisfied, happy and full of the Yuletide spirit of generosity. Timely Xmas Suggestions Fine Stationery, Ormolu Clocks, Chatelaines, purses, Belts, Collars, Ties, Gloves, Handkerchiefs, Mufflers, Slippers, Gaiters, Suspenders, Furs, Fine Shoes, Silverware, Cut Glass, Decorated and Hand-Painted China, Toilet Cases, Leather Goods, Etc. WEST END WAREHOUSE

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO ESTABLISHED 1867 B. E. WALKER, President Paid-up Capital, \$10,000,000 ALEX. LAIRD, General Manager Reserve Fund, - 5,000,000 Branches throughout Canada, and in the United States and England COUNTRY BUSINESS Every facility afforded to farmers and others for the transaction of their banking business. Sales notes will be cashed or taken for collection. BANKING BY MAIL Accounts may be opened by mail, and monies deposited or withdrawn in this way with equal facility. 115 ANTIGONISH BRANCH J. H. McQUAID, Manager.

O'Brien's Fall Sale is now on Our price list will be issued in a few days when it will be seen that our prices are as usual below all competitors. As an instance we offer Men's Overcoats at \$3.50; Men's Pants, 90c; Men's all-wool Suits, Tweed, single or double-breasted, regular price, \$9.00 for \$6.75. Men's all-wool fleece-lined Underwear, 38c. Men's all-wool Sweaters, 65 cents. Men's grey socks, regular price 25c., for 12c. Don't forget to get our price list as our Fall Sale includes all departments. GENTS' FURNISHINGS, DRY GOODS, CROCKERY, GROCERIES, ETC. J. S. O'BRIEN, Antigonish

Hides! Hides! 500 Hides Wanted C. B. Whidden & Son are paying cash as usual and pay as high as the highest. Also want 1000 Pelts C. B. Whidden & Son. F. H. RANDALL Buyer and direct shipper of Raw Furs and Skins of all Kinds. Highest Cash Prices Paid. Antigonish, Dec 24th, 1908

