

The priest made the Sign of the Cross above them; and then, raising them from the ground with his own hands, he cried out in a faltering tone:

'Father, mother! Don't you know me? And why are you so far from home, so feeble, so poorly clad? Tell me what has happened.'

Together they sat upon the pile of stones; and on the ruins of the poor home which once had sheltered the priest, and from which the good forester had led him by the hand to the comfort of his own home, now ruined also, they told their pitiful story.

'Thank God, that is all over now!' said the priest, when it was finished. 'My health could no longer stand the Chinese climate; the Bishop obliged me to return, and I have been given a very good parish in C., on the other side of the forest. There is also a school there, in which I shall help teach. My stipend is very good indeed. I was coming to tell you about it, little thinking that you had been so unfortunate. I stopped a few moments to look at the place from which you took me, a poor orphan; and it seems to me providential that we should meet here on this very spot. Come back now with me to the village inn, and tomorrow we will all set out again for my new home, and yours as well, dear father and mother—the home where you shall end your lives in peace and comfort.'

Weeping tears of joy, the old couple leaned upon the arms of their adopted son as they retraced their steps through the forest; happy in the thought that for the little time left them on earth they would not be forced to eat the bread of charity, but would be fed with that of gratitude returned to them 'after many days.'—'Ave Maria.'

The Catholic World

ENGLAND—Monsignor John Vaughan

Mgr. John Vaughan has been obliged, owing to considerations of health, to abandon his hope of becoming permanently attached to the Carthusian community at Lucca. Most Catholics will (says a contemporary) rejoice in knowing that if the Monsignor is lost to the Carthusians he is saved to Catholic literature. Monsignor Vaughan was received in private audience by the Holy Father recently.

Degeneration, and the Remedy

The 'spiritual and medical doctors' (says the 'Catholic Times') are agreeing in the unpleasant conclusion that morally and physically the people of this country are losing ground. The Rev. Dr. Barry has been telling the readers of the 'Daily Chronicle,' in language as direct as it is vigorous, that there never was a generation so frivolous in this island as is now growing up, so little ready to deny itself anything that tickles its fancy, so heedless, or so incapable of long-continued tasks, mental or bodily. Speakers at the Medical Congress have been giving utterance to pretty much the same view. There can, we think, be little doubt that the decay of home life is due to the decay of faith. Men seem to think little of a future estate, and to take 'Eat, Drink, and be Merry' as their motto. Even when they feverishly apply themselves to money-making it is not from an earnest desire to benefit the community, but rather to gratify luxurious tastes. We need a reformation which will induce people to believe in the importance of self-restraint and the necessity of plain-living. But the idea of mortification in the Christian sense of the word has become so obsolete that it is questionable whether a St. Francis multiplied many times would make any impression here nowadays.

FRANCE—To aid the Lepers

Father Gabriel Martin, with three other missionaries and two lay brothers of the famous Order known as Picpucians, just expelled from France, are on their way to the lepers on the island of Molokai, where they will spend the remainder of their lives.

The King of Spain at Lourdes

The King of Spain on July 27 paid a visit to Lourdes. After having been in the Grotto, he was present at Mass in the Church of the Holy Rosary. Subsequently he inspected the Basilica, and was shown a chalice given by his father, Alfonso XII., whilst he was Prince of the Asturias. The King had an enthusiastic reception from the pilgrims and the local Catholics.

Vanished Millions

When M. Waldeck-Rousseau first directed the attention of the French public to the religious Orders (says the 'Catholic Times') he gave out that the profits arising from confiscating their goods would suffice to establish old age pensions. Anti-clericals estimated the plunder at a thousand million of francs. Well, the Orders have been suppressed and their property confiscated, but where are the profits? The 'Revue Maconique' makes the sorrowful confession that not one penny so far has come into the coffers of the State, nor is there any likelihood of one coming. Indeed, the State, that is the taxpayers, has had to advance money to the liquidators and lawyers who are engaged in valuing and selling the property of the religious Congregations. 'Already a million and a half have gone in this way. And what has become of the property? What becomes of the carcass of an ox when the vultures gather upon it? The French anti-clericals had a great feast of plunder, and there are no remnants left for the State. If France obtains old age pensions, it will not be the monks and nuns who will find the capital; it will be the taxpayers.'

ROME—The Irish College

The Liverpool 'Catholic Times' learns on reliable authority that the Rectorship of the Irish College, Rome, vacant by the death of Monsignor Murphy, will be taken over by the Vincentian Fathers, who already have charge of the Irish College, Paris, All Hallows' College, Dublin, the Training College, Hammersmith, and other colleges, and who have been eminently successful as educationists and administrators.

SOUTH AFRICA—Reception and Profession

Recently at St. Dominic's Convent, Newcastle, South Africa, twenty postulants received the white habit of St. Dominic and three novices made their profession. Two were from Germany and 21 from Ireland. The young ladies who received the habit were:—Miss Abina Ford, Miss Helena Dill, Miss Lucy Coffey, and Miss Annie Cremin, from St. Finbar's City on the Lee; Miss Katie Roche and Miss Joan Hurst, from Waterford; Miss Kathleen Murphy, from Kerry; Miss Mary O'Sullivan, Miss Emily Lipper, and Miss Margaret Lynch, from Limerick; Miss Rose O'Brien, from Clare; Miss Margaret M'Nichols, Miss Lizzie Rogers, Miss Margaret Laven, and Miss Katie Reilly, from Mayo; Miss Margaret Walsh, from Sligo; Miss Anna Barnett, Miss Mary Toker, and Miss Elizabeth Hyland, from Dublin; and Fraulein Catherine Lehner, from Germany. The novices professed were: Sister M. Benedict M'Gaum and Sister M. Lucy Lipper, from Limerick; and Sister M. Teresa Peckler, from Germany.

The Hon. W. Moore, Chief Secretary of Tasmania, is probably the oldest Cabinet Minister in the world. He celebrated his 82nd birthday the other day. Hobart is the home of old men, for Archbishop Murphy is 90, and so is Sir Aylie Douglas.

Saturday last was the 75th anniversary of the birth of his Eminence Cardinal Moran. His Eminence was born at Leighlinbridge, County Carlow, and is a nephew of the late illustrious Cardinal Cullen, Archbishop of Dublin. Dr. Moran was Bishop of Ossory from 1872 to 1884, in which latter year he was translated to Sydney. He was elevated to the Cardinalate in 1885.

CARRARA PAINT.

In white and colors, mixed ready for inside and outside use. Why use old style paints when past experience proves that in a few months' time you wonder if your home has ever been painted. Carrara costs no more than old style paints and retains its color and lustre for at least five years. A beautifully illustrated booklet entitled 'How to Paint a house cheap,' will be forwarded free on application.—K. RAMSAY & CO., 19 Vogel street, Dunedin....

GREGG SHORTHAND—A NEW ZEALAND RECORD.

AT an Examination held by the Gregg Shorthand Association of N.Z. C Hammond, 15 years of age, secured a certificate for 180 words a Minute. This is a New Zealand Record for one so young.

Gregg Shorthand is used in more schools in America than any other Three systems combined, and is recognised by the N.Z. Government in all examinations. Being based on longhand, with few rules and NO EXCEPTIONS, it can be acquired in One-quarter of the time required by other systems, and is especially adapted for INSTRUCTION by POST in 18 lessons. Write for particulars.

J. W. IRWIN, N.Z. Representative,
220 Kilmore Street, Christchurch.

Hancock's Imperial ALE and STOUT.

GOLD MEDAL ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION.
Bottled in Auckland.