

seeds, the mark of our divine origin; but those aspirations, precious seeds, and instincts are stifled, unless we are careful, by the rank growth of bad passions, which are the consequences of original sin. To keep fraternity alive in us we need to come near to Jesus in Communion, there to get the strength to conquer our bad passions, crush out selfishness, and love even our enemies. To keep fraternity alive, we must be docile to the voice of the Church reminding us of the words of Christ: 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us.' 'If thy brother hath offended thee, forgive not once only, but seventy times seven times.'

MAKING 'CONVERTS'

INTERESTING PARTICULARS

Mr. Samuel Young, M.P., for East Cavan, though not a Catholic, by his zeal for truth and honesty does from time to time considerable service in the Catholic cause (writes a Dublin correspondent). His latest exposure has to do with a Tunbridge Wells gentleman, and for that reason, as well as for other evident reasons, you may judge it well to reproduce the following letter which Mr. Young has just published in the 'Freeman' of Dublin. Mr. Young writes:—

Among the many trashy anonymous letters and leaflets sent me by post, there came a pamphlet entitled 'The Adventures of a Bible,' by Rev. I. H. Townsend, D.D., Vicar of St. Mark's, Tunbridge Wells, which gives an account of a Mrs. Blake, Dublin, who had been in low spirits, and was recommended by her confessor to visit a place of amusement. Somehow, on her way, Mrs. Blake got into a Mission Hall by mistake, where she got a Bible, which she had never seen before. This book rendered her very uncomfortable for a time, but ultimately converted her. Whereupon the priest called and took the Bible from her in anger. Mrs. Blake soon wanted her Bible returned, and called upon the priest, where she saw a nun who refused her admission, but conveyed a curse from the young priest, who had been ill. However, Mrs. Blake, after some time, called again for her Bible; and was told by the nun that on her last visit she (the nun) had told her a lie; that the young priest had since died, and that before his death, he, by reading his Bible, had found forgiveness, and blessed her for the book, and that she herself had left the convent and found peace by the reading of this same Bible. Before throwing this silly story into the waste basket, I addressed the following letter to the author of the pamphlet:—

'July 29, 1906.—Rev. I. H. Townsend, D.D., Vicar of St. Mark's, Tunbridge Wells. Dear sir,—Someone unknown has sent me a pamphlet, of which you are the author, entitled "The Adventures of a Bible." I feel interested in these documents. Will you give me particulars? First, where did Mrs. Blake live in Dublin? Second, what is the name of the young priest who took the Bible from Mrs. Blake, which Bible had the effect of enabling him to find forgiveness before his death? Third, what is the name of the nun who told the lie to Mrs. Blake, and afterwards made confession and escaped from the convent? The pathetic story would have great force if I could but know the particulars.—Yours, Samuel Young.'

To this letter I received the following answer, dated August 11:—'Dear sir,—Absence from home has delayed my reply to yours of July 29. I am glad that you are interested in "The Adventures of a Bible." Anything which illustrates the power of the Bible without human teaching is helpful to us. Many wish to know the particulars of this case; some, like you, from sympathetic interest, others from a different reason. On this account, to save some from relentless persecution, I am obliged to keep in strict secrecy the particulars which have been confided to me. This is a bitter disappointment to foes; you, as a friend and a Protestant, residing in Ireland, will both understand and appreciate the need of silence.—Believe me, yours faithfully, I. H. Townsend.'

On receipt of this answer I again sent the following letter:—

'Derryvolgie, August 14, 1906.—Rev. I. H. Townsend, D.D. Dear sir,—In reply to yours of August 11, I fear the plea of secrecy will hardly cover the incredibility of your conversion story. You say "many wish to know the particulars of this case." It is little wonder. It is curious that this magical Bible of your story should have converted Mrs. Blake, the priest, and the nun, when the Bibles, large and small,

which are to be found in every Catholic family, and are sold by all Catholic booksellers, and read, too, under the care of the Church, fail to produce a similar effect. It is really very curious how these three, two of them notable persons, could be converted, and the whole matter kept secret. It is difficult to conceive of any danger to a convert in Ireland. All such are eagerly taken up and provided for, notably two or three well-known converts to Protestantism have made, and are making, a good thing of it. Could there be any danger to your converts if I give a guarantee in the shape of a deposit in money, which amount you can mention, to secure safety, or you can send particulars in a letter marked "confidential," which should be treated as such if the story be true. May I point out, there being an appetite for this sort of thing, that large sums of money are raised from silly people on the faith of the truth of these secret stories, hence your responsibility. Your refusal to give any explanation leads one to suspect a swindle somewhere. There was in the commercial world a long firm which had bogus houses in England, Scotland, and Ireland, which drew bills on each other. No one would accuse you of aiding in a pious fraud. However, it is better to clear out in time, for I intend, when Parliament meets in October, to bring these proselytising frauds before the House, unless, in the meantime, I can get more light on the subject.' To which letter I received no answer. The headquarters of this firm seems to be in rich England at a distance from the supposed scene of the stories and the sphere of detection. The branch houses are in Belfast, Dublin, Tunbridge Wells, and London.

Visit of Bishop Lenihan to Gisborne

Considerable interest (says the Gisborne 'Times,' October 1) was taken in the opening of the new Catholic Church at Te Karaka. Arrangements were made for a special train from Gisborne, and between three and four hundred from town availed themselves of the opportunity to attend the ceremony. This number was augmented by residents of Te Karaka and surrounding districts. As it was the church accommodation was altogether inadequate, and only half of those present were able to gain admission to the building. The church at Te Karaka was originally the Ormond convent school, to which considerable additions have been made. The main building is about 45ft. by 25ft. and the vestry 16ft. by 14ft. It is now one of the most spacious country churches in the district. The inscription on the neat marble tablet is as follows:—'The Church of the Assumption was blessed and opened by his Lordship Bishop Lenihan on Sunday, September 30th, 1906, the Rev. Thomas Lane, rector.' A strong choir, from St. Mary's Church, Gisborne, sang the appropriate music, Mr. G. Palairret conducting. The blessing of the church was followed by an address from his Lordship Bishop Lenihan, Mass being celebrated by the Rev. Father Dignan. In the course of his remarks, Bishop Lenihan expressed great surprise at the rapid growth of Te Karaka and Gisborne districts. It was hard to conceive the great progress that had been made during the past three years, and he was particularly pleased to see that the church was keeping up with it. The sum of £54 was collected. The Rev. Father Lane expressed his appreciation of the kindness of the Te Karaka people, and also in regard to the number of visitors who attended the ceremony.

On Sunday evening there was a crowded congregation at St. Mary's Church, Gisborne, when his Lordship the Bishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to upwards of ninety candidates. A sermon appropriate to the occasion was preached by his Lordship. In the course of his remarks, the Bishop made feeling reference to the death of the Rev. Father Mulvihill, which had occurred since his last visit. He was glad to find that the people of Gisborne were showing their appreciation of the late priest's services by erecting a memorial to him, and it was a matter of pleasure to know that subscriptions came not alone from the Catholic, but from all denominations.

Later in the evening a pleasing ceremony took place at St. Mary's presbytery, when Mr. Gwaite Palairret was presented by the members of the choir with a very handsome chair in appreciation of the many services which he had rendered to the church as organist and choirmaster. The presentation was made by his Lordship Bishop Lenihan, who spoke in terms of the highest praise of the gratuitous assistance rendered by the recipient. The work undertaken by Mr. Palairret, was, he said, a labor of love, and the example which he had set in the regular and conscientious discharging of the duties was deserving of the utmost esteem, respect, and veneration, and a noble ex-

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