

and action of these devastating storms. In this I am sure I do but voice the opinion of all the shipping community, for we place the most implicit faith in the forecasts of the worthy Fathers, and swear by them; these 'experts' here we usually swear at." The remarkable manner in which the local (Manila) observatory has warned the shipping interests of approaching storms has saved millions of dollars during recent years, and with the extension of the wireless telegraph system no part of the islands can be affected without prompt warning. The wonderful service rendered is only appreciated here when an opportunity is offered to compare it with that of other ports. The recent disaster at Hong Kong, that destroyed millions of dollars' worth of shipping and thousands of lives, without a note of warning being sounded of its approach, gives us reason for gratification in the knowledge that we have an institution that is up-to-date, even aggressive, in its operations, and we owe a huge debt to the modest members of the Jesuit Society, who have so faithfully preserved us from sudden and fearful disaster.

## 'Little Christmas'

January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany and the end of the holidays, is called 'Little Christmas,' 'Old Christmas,' or 'Twelfth Day.' In the Greek Church the festival is coincident with the celebration of Christmas, and is called 'The Day of Lights.'

In 'Merrie England' of olden times the Catholic sovereigns on this day offered in the Chapel Royal an oblation of gold, frankincense, and myrrh in commemoration of the gift-giving of the Three Wise Men to the Babe of Bethlehem.

The story of the Magi is one of the most enchanting narratives in Holy Scripture. The tender, helpless, little Babe, the lovely girl-mother, the venerable foster-father, the shepherds from the Judean hills, and the cattle in the stalls—all about the Mother and Child are poor and simple until 'from the East,' in Oriental splendor three kings come to the stable of Bethlehem to worship the King of Kings.

These three kings, Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, descended from Ham, Shem, and Japheth, represented the three families of mankind, African, Asiatic, and European, and typified the world-dominion of Christianity.

When the Lord of Misrule held sway in the secular celebration of Christmas tide during the Middle Ages, Twelfth Night was by no means 'the last of the holidays,' which for Misrule and his often unruly followers extended from Hallowe'en until Candlemas Day—three full months. Certainly they had time to waste in play long ago. In these busy times Merry Christmas has come to mean only one day, although in our churches the Christmas Crib remains on view during the entire holiday season.

## ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT SCHOOL, TEMUKA

The annual distribution of prizes at St. Joseph's Convent School, Temuka, was held in the schoolroom on December 18. The prizes were given to the successful scholars by the Rev. Father Goggan, who addressed a few suitable words to each one. The following is the prize list:—

Standard VII.—Good conduct, Adelaide Behrens (gold medal).

Standard VI.—For highest number of marks at recent musical examination, Zoe Gillespie (silver medal); regular attendance, Kate Greelish; Christian doctrine, Irene Wareing, Ellen Brosnan; Christian doctrine, Leo Twomey.

Standard IV.—Regular attendance, James Horgan; Christian doctrine, Joseph Spillane and Eva Wareing.

Standard III.—Regular attendance, Michael Daley; Christian doctrine, Ellen Brosnan.

Standard II.—Regular attendance, Mary Daley; Christian doctrine, Arthur Perry.

Standard I.—Regular attendance, Walter Tangney; Christian doctrine, Albert Keefe.

Preparatory I.—Regular attendance, Kate McAuliffe, Mabel Vincent, and Denis Croxford.

Preparatory II.—Regular attendance, Denis Sughrue.

Preparatory III.—Regular attendance, Margaret Brosnan and Mary Keefe.

Prizes for special subjects, John Keefe; spelling, A. Clinch and Julia Lynch.

## Domestic

By 'Maureen'

### Removing Fat from Soup.

To remove fat from hot soup, pour through a cloth that has been saturated with cold water. The fat will remain in the cloth.

### Shining Mirrors.

The really best method of cleaning mirrors and windows is to rub them with a paste of whiting and water. When this dries polish with dry chamois and remove the powder. A little alcohol in cold water also gives a brilliant polish. Soapsuds should never be used.

### White Furniture.

White furniture and woodwork can be beautifully cleaned with whiting. Wring a flannel cloth from hot water, dip it in the dry whiting, and rub well to remove all stains. Then wash off the whiting with clean warm water, and dry with a soft cloth. The rubbing strokes should always be in the direction of the grain of the wood.

### No More Tough Meat.

If meat is tough, or if you have any doubt as to its tenderness, put a tablespoonful of vinegar over it when putting it on to cook; you will find it very tender when done. Try steaming fowls instead of boiling; you will find that the meat is always tender, and the full benefit of the fowl is kept, besides a very delicate flavor.

### Kitchen Stoves as Bright as Mirrors.

If your kitchen range or stove has got spotted with grease while cooking, and you cannot get it to polish, a good way to remove it is as follows. Take a little hand brush, preferably the one used for brushing the pans before putting them away, smear it well with soot from the flue, and rub it well over the greasy parts. Afterwards, blacklead as usual, and you will find the grease has disappeared, and a brilliant polish will be the result.

### Soap the Boiler Well.

One often hears complaints that the wash-house boiler rusts and ironmoulds the clothes. This may be easily prevented by rubbing the boiler directly it is emptied and while still warm with any good household soap. Give it a good coating of soap, for the soap will not only prevent rust, but will help to make the suds when the boiler is filled for the next washing day. When damping clothes use hot water. It damps the clothes more evenly than cold.

### How to Clean Water Bottles.

Cut a potato into small dice and cover it with vinegar. Put some of this mixture into each bottle and shake till clean. Then rinse in clear water and drain dry. The potato is quite as efficacious as the shot which is sometimes used by servants, and is perfectly safe, whereas when shot is used there is always a certain amount of danger of lead-poisoning from the particles of lead which may accidentally be left at the bottom of the bottle.

### How Sea-Bathing is Sometimes Injurious.

Many seaside visitors regard a dip before breakfast as part of the gospel of health. The assumption is warranted neither by experience nor theory. Very few people are benefited by a bath in the open while fasting. Always the water is colder than the body surface, and frequently in the early hours of the morning the air is chilly. Bathing should be made stimulating to the circulation and the consciousness. If a bather leaves the water just when he is most thoroughly enjoying his dip, and dresses quickly, after a brisk rub down, he will act wisely. Many persons stay in until they begin to feel chilly. This is certain to lower the spirits and to injure the system. One should be quite warm on entering the water, for which reason a brisk walk and rapid undressing should always enter into the programme. It is a mistake to bathe immediately after a meal. Midway between breakfast and luncheon is the best time.

*Maureen*

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