

ceived an appointment at Airdrie, not in those days the Airdrie that it is to-day. In 1858 he was transferred to Maryhill, and there he has remained.

### UNITED STATES—A Popular Preacher

Monsignor Capel, who at one time filled so large a place in London Catholic life, and who received the late Marquis of Bute into the Church, is now very active in the diocese of Sacramento, U.S.A. He preached the Lenten course of sermons in the Cathedral on Sundays, and on several week-days delivered lectures at clubs and other associations.

## St. Peter's and the Vatican

The Basilica of St. Peter's and the Vatican Palace (writes Mr. Marion Crawford) together form by far the greatest continuous mass of buildings in the world.

The Colosseum is 295 yards long by 156 broad, including the thickness of the walls. St. Peter's Church alone is 205 yards long and 156 broad, so that the whole Colosseum would almost stand upon the ground plan of the church, while the Vatican Palace is more than half as long again.

The central Cathedral of Christendom is so far beyond any familiar proportion that at first sight all details are lost upon its broad front. The mind and judgment are dazed and staggered. The earth should not be able to bear such weight upon its crust without cracking and bending like an overloaded table. On each side the colonnades run curving out like giant arms, almost open to receive the nations that go up there to worship. The dome broods over all, like a giant's head, motionless in meditation.

The vastness of the structure takes hold of a man as he issues from the street by which he came from St. Angelo. In the open space, in the square, and in the ellipse between the colonnades, and on the steps 200,000 men could be drawn up in rank and file, horse and foot and guns. Excepting it be on some special occasion, there are rarely more than 200 or 300 persons in sight. The paved emptiness makes one draw a breath of surprise, and human eyes seem too small to take in all the flatness below, all the breadth before, and all the height above.

Taken together, the picture is too big for convenient sight. The impression itself moves unwieldily in the cramped brain. A building almost 500 feet high produces a monstrous effect upon the mind. Set down in words, a description of it conveys no clear conception; seen for the first time the impression produced by it cannot be put into language. It is something like a shock to the intelligence, perhaps, and not altogether a pleasant one. Carried beyond the limits of a mere mistake, exaggeration becomes caricature. But when it is magnified beyond humanity's common measures it may acquire an element approaching to terror. The awe-striking giants of mythology were but magnified men. The first sight of St. Peter's affects one as though in the everyday streets, walking among one's fellows, one should meet with a man 40 feet high.

It is all very big. The longest ship that crosses the ocean could lie in the nave between the door and the apse, and her masts, from deck to truck, would scarcely top the canopy of the high altar, which looks so small under the super-possible vastness of the immense dome.

To feel one's smallness and realise it, one need only go and stand beside the holy marble cherubs that support the pillar. They look small, if not graceful; but they are of heroic size, and the bowls are as big as baths. Everything in the place is vast; all the statues are colossal, all the pictures enormous; the smallest details of the ornamentation would dwarf any other building in the world, and anywhere else even the chapels would be churches. The eye strains at everything, and at first the mind is shocked out of its power of comparison.

But the strangest, most extravagant, most disturbing sight of all is to be seen from the upper gallery in the cupola looking down to the church below. Hanging in mid-air, with nothing under one's feet, one sees the church projected on perspective within a huge circle. It is as though one saw it upside down and inside out. Few men could bear to stand there without that bit of iron railing between them and the hideous fall; and the inevitable slight dizziness which the strongest head feels may make one doubt for a moment whether what is really the floor below may not in reality be a ceiling above, and whether one's sense of gravitation be not inverted in an extraordinary dream. At that distance human beings look no bigger than flies and the canopy of the high altar might be an ordinary table.

## Domestic

By MAUREEN

### To Mend an Umbrella.

It is very annoying to catch a new umbrella on a nail and tear a hole in it. But it is good to know of a simple and efficacious way to mend it. Take a small piece of black sticking plaster, and soak it until quite soft. Place this carefully under the hole inside, and let it dry. This is much better than darning, as it closes the hole neatly without stitches.

### Care of the Piano.

It is not generally understood that a valuable instrument often suffers from neglect of simple precautions. Always close down the piano at night and in damp weather; open it on bright days, and, if possible, let the sun shine on the keys, as the light prevents the ivory from turning yellow. It should also be kept in a dry room, and never placed in a draught.

### Cleaning Serge Material.

Serge garments are among the most serviceable in daily use, and in cases where the first freshness has been lost, a new lease of life may be given in the following simple way:—Take about a dozen ivy leaves; put into a basin, and cover with one point of boiling water. Let it stand for twelve hours. Clean the material with a brush or cloth, and iron on the wrong side and you will be surprised at the result.

### Exercise.

In these days of exercises unlimited it is well to know that it is very unwise to indulge in the practice injudiciously. Exercise should not be undertaken just after a heavy meal, as the digestive organs make a large demand on the blood supply, so that there is very little available for the exercise of the muscles. Again after a long fast, exercise does harm rather than good.

### Milk.

Those who partake of milk in quantities must not suppose that boiling it previously is all that is necessary to think about; they must also bear in mind that milk is a food and not a drink. It should not, therefore, be swallowed quickly in large gulps, otherwise curds are formed which cause symptoms of indigestion. If it is found difficult to digest pure milk, dilute it with half its quantity of water, soda water, or lime water.

### Waxed Floors.

If a waxed floor is to remain a joy for ever, water must never touch it. Wet a woollen cloth with turpentine, and rub the soiled places with it. When the floor is all cleaned go over with a woollen cloth slightly moistened with soft wax. Let it rest a few hours, then polish with a weighted brush. The prepared wax may be purchased at a paint shop, or it may be prepared at home by melting one pound of beeswax and then beating one pint of turpentine into the heated wax.

### Don't Cough.

A physician, who is connected with an institution in which there are many children who are suffering from the usual winter colds and coughs, says there is nothing more irritable to a cough than coughing. He therefore determined, for one minute at least, to lessen the number of coughs heard in a certain ward, and says, by the promise of rewards and punishments, he succeeded in inducing the patients simply to hold their breath when tempted to cough, and, in a little while, was surprised to see how some of the children entirely recovered from the disease. Constant coughing is entirely like scratching a wound on the outside of the body; so long as it is done it will not heal. The doctor advises people when tempted to cough, to draw a long breath, and hold it until it warms and soothes every air cell, and some benefit will soon be received, owing to the fact that the nitrogen thus confined acts as an anodyne on the mucous membrane, allaying the desire to cough, and giving the throat and lungs a chance to heal.

*Maureen*

For rheumatism, bac'ache, faceache, earache, neuralgia, and other muscular pains, nothing can equal WITCH'S OIL (registered).

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