

Why the Church Uses LATIN.

Why does the Church use the Latin language? For these reasons, says a writer in an American exchange—Because a universal community requires a universal language. The Church of Christ is universal.

Because it does not change. If, for example, the Church should use French in one of her formulas alone, that of Baptism she would have been obliged to change it over 60 times. In the so-called Anglo-Saxon of 1000 years ago she could not be understood now except by experts.

Because nothing can equal the dignity of the Latin language, its clearness or its beauty. It is the language of science and civilisation and deserves to be the language of an unchangeable religion.

Because it lifts the liturgy of the Church above that of everyday usage of words, which alters their senses and debases it by licentiousness. This misfortune has actually befallen the English liturgy of the Anglo-American Episcopalians.

Finally, a universal language speaks of a universal brotherhood and makes a Catholic at home in all the Roman Catholic Churches of the world. Besides, he understands the language, though unlearned, by the ceremonies of the Church or from his prayer book, which contains its entire meaning in his own tongue.

What is a Mile.

English-speaking countries (says an exchange) have four different miles—the ordinary mile of 5280 feet, and the geographical or nautical mile of 6080 feet, making a difference of about one-seventh between the two, the Scotch mile of 5929 feet, and the Irish mile of 6720 feet, four various miles, every one of which is said to be still in use.

The German mile is 21,318 feet in length, more than four and a half times as long as our mile. The Dutch have a mile of 19,295 feet, the Danes one of 21,875 feet, and the Prussians one of 21,856 feet, and the Swiss get more exercise in walking one of their miles than we get in walking five of ours, for theirs is 27,459 feet long, and ours is but 5280 feet.

The Italian mile is only a few feet longer than ours, the Roman mile is shorter, and the Tuscan and the Turkish miles are 450 feet longer. The Swedish mile is 22,023 feet long, and the Vienna post mile is 25,037 feet in length.

Besides this list of twelve different miles there are other measures of distance, not counting the French kilometre, which is rather less than two-thirds of a mile. The Brazilians have a milha that is one and one-fourth times as long as our mile; the Neapolitan miglia is about the same length; the Japanese ri is about two and one-half times as long as our mile; the Russian verst, five-eighths as long. The Persian standard is a farsakh, about four miles long, which is not far from the supposed length of the parasang, so familiar to every schoolboy who has read Xenophon's 'Anabasis.' The distance indicated by the league also varies in different countries.

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In an article on 'The Fun of Reporting Parliament,' the 'Daily Mail' tells some rather good stories about 'The Gallery.' Dr. Magee, the late Protestant Archbishop of York, was made to declare in the House of Lords that 'drunkenness is jolly,' what he really said being that 'drunkenness is folly.' There is a story about O'Connell which seems new—He once complained in the House of a report in a London paper which, he said, put into his mouth opinions he had never expressed, and he declared that if the editor did not apologise he would move that he be brought before the Bar of the House for a breach of privilege. Next day the reporter of the speech waited upon O'Connell and gave a most remarkable explanation. He stated that during his walk from the House to his office in Fleet street the rain streamed into his pockets and obliterated the notes of the speech. 'I accept the explanation,' said O'Connell, good-humoredly; 'but let me say that it must have been a very extraordinary shower of rain, for it not only washed out of your note-book the speech I delivered, but washed in another of an entirely different character.'

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