

bear in mind the warning given in the 'American Ecclesiastical Review' for March. Addressing those who expect the Commission to act as the Deus ex machina in a Greek tragedy and solve every difficult Biblical situation, the writer says: 'We might as well ask the Holy Office to edit an official course of theological textbooks as expect that the new commission should have a ready-made answer to every doubt concerning Biblical topics. Private research is not to cease; but, in order to lighten its burden and responsibility, it has been considered prudent to erect a permanent Court, which must decide whether our recent methods and conclusions in the field of Bible study lie within the limits allowed by the teaching of Holy Mother Church. Catholic scholars, therefore, have now a permanent information bureau where they may find out whether they have swerved from the path of truth in their views as to the identity of the Bible, or its authority, or again its exegesis.' This apparently is to be the function of the Pontifical Commission, of which, by the way, no authoritative list of members has yet been issued. Until some official pronouncement has been made, it will be wise to form no definite conclusions.

The Difference.

Ex-Congressman Knott, of Louisiana, used to relate the following story:—

"There had been a celebration in honor of St. Francis Xavier, which I attended. A host of negroes in the neighborhood were Catholics. On my way home I met a darky boy and asked him how he liked the Catholic services, remarking that I did not understand it, adding, 'there is one point about it I never liked.'

"What is that?" said the boy. "The priest does all his praying in Latin," I replied.

"At this the boy threw himself down in the road and rolled over."

"Why, what's the matter with you?" said I.

"The darkey answered, 'Fo' God, massa, don't you think the Lord can understand Latin as well as English? In the Catholic churches, de priest he prays to de Lord and not to de congregation.'

Life In The Fourteenth Century.

Down to the year 1400 such things as glass windows, writing-paper and printed books were little known in London. Chimneys were often made of wood. Glass was very dear, and only to be had in small pieces, so that few completely glazed windows were to be seen except in churches. In the houses of some of the wealthy nobility, sets of glass windows were made to be removed, and were taken from place to place as the owner changed his residence. Crockery was almost unknown, except as a great rarity from Italy, and a glass or majolica basin or drinking-cup was worth more than its weight in gold. In the fine mansions the visitor would have found a strange mixture of luxury and barbarism. He would have seen the great hall used as a sleeping-place by the servants of the family—the bare floor being their bed, and for a pillow a sheaf of rushes or straw; while in the chambers of the master and his equals he would have seen the most elaborate and sumptuous couches, ornamented with heraldic devices of the richest kind, hung with velvet or silk and constructed of the softest down. No looking-glass, unless, perhaps, a small hand mirror of metal, combs, but no hair-

brushes, no pins, and for fire perhaps a brazier with charcoal.

Dinner in London in the fourteenth century was the middle meal. The Duchess of York dined at 11 a.m. and supped at 5. These early hours were general. The judges at Westminster sat only from 8 till 11 in the morning. Pretty much all labor was done by daylight. Candle-light was bad and candles were dear. The only other artificial light that was available was the light of the fire, which burned in the middle of the hall, the smoke sometimes escaping and sometimes not, through a hole in the roof. This interesting sort of fire was used to warm the hall of Westminster School until the year 1850, if not later, and it may still be seen in occasional use at Penshurst Place in Kent.

There was no wheeled traffic in London in the fourteenth century. Many burdens were laid upon the backs of men and horses carried packs and panniers. The roadways were roughly paved, and winter mud and summer dust were proverbial. In the absence of smoke the dresses of all ranks of people were much gayer than they are now. Knights rode about in plate armor on horses weighted down under iron trappings pages running by their sides, squires carrying their helmets before, and trains of ferocious-looking soldiers tagging on behind. Monks in white robes and black hoods went about their errands, the Lord Mayor passed in gorgeous attire, attended by mace-bearers and sword-bearers whose office was no sinecure among the turbulent populace; gorgeous banners floated everywhere, and the chimneys and signs were of such an ingenuity and splendor as nowadays we never see.

Household Hints,

New boots should be rubbed with a slice of raw potato, they will polish then as easily as will old ones.

New tins should be set over the fire with boiling water in them for several hours before food is put into them.

Admit plenty of air to your store-room on a clear, dry day, for air is necessary to all sweet preserves. Those kept in an air-tight room or cupboard are apt to ferment.

To wash a glass which has held milk, plunge it first into cold water before putting into warm. The same rule holds good for egg cups or spoons from which eggs have been eaten.

Fingers stained with fresh fruit, walnuts, etc., should be dipped in strong tea, rubbed with a nail brush and then washed in warm water. Under this treatment the stains will soon disappear.

Whenever vegetables put up in tin cans are opened and only partly used, do not allow the remainder to stand in the tins, but turn them out into an earthen bowl and put in a cool place.

A strip of flannel or a soft napkin, folded lengthwise and dipped in hot water and wrung out, and then applied around the neck of a child that has the croup will usually bring relief in a few minutes.

The French have a way of making even an inferior quality of table linen look well without the aid of starch. When the napkins are washed and dried and ready to be ironed they are dipped into boiling water and partially wrung out between two cloths. They are then rapidly ironed with as hot a flat-iron as possible without burning them. Treated in this manner, they become beautifully glossy and stiff.

Lost a severe attack of rheumatism by the application of WITCHES' magic.***

In the death of Mrs. Mary E. Pulsifer Ames, at her home in San Jose, on March 20, there was lost to the world, except that her works will live after her, a distinguished woman—one whose fame as a botanist was world-wide, and especially honored in the Royal Botanical Directory of Austria. So quietly and unassumingly did she live, that it can be truthfully said that she was better known in the world of science and of letters than in her home city. The greatest part of her education was received in the Academy of Notre Dame, Lowell, and at the College of Notre Dame in San Jose. To the good, well-beloved Sisters of Notre Dame she said she owed every success she achieved in life, and to her 'alma mater,' the College of Notre Dame, to which she was ever loyal and devoted, she bequeathed her exquisite and extensive collection of valuable plants, books, and stones, in grateful memory, as she often said, of the home where she had learned 'the beautiful sciences' to which she devoted her pure, serene, and lofty life. Her last days and almost hours were spent in classifying her plants, a large and choice collection, from many European countries as well as the United States. About two years before her death, almost immediately after her valuable gift of her collections to Notre Dame College, she was received into the Catholic Church by Rev. Father J. D. Walshe, S.J., of St. Joseph's Church, San Jose.

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