

the past Leo XIII. one day said to him: "France is the staff on which I lean in order to cross Europe, but France too needs me." Similar words were uttered to him recently by Cardinal Gasparri, and there is no doubt that they put the case in a nutshell. Mgr. Touchet witnesses what joy was caused in Catholic France by the Pope's recent manifestation of affection for the land of Joan of Arc, and he sees in this a promise that the heroine of his race will win yet another victory no less precious than that which cost her life in bygone years. In a recent number of the *Dublin Review* a writer relates that English soldiers marching past her statue into a French town saluted with the words, *Pardon, Jeanne*. If the story be true, this touching tribute from the ranks of her ancient foes was a splendid reparation for the crime of the past. No less was it a lesson for those Frenchmen of to-day who are the only enemies Jeanne has now in that by their hatred of her religion and by their activity in the cause of evil they are ruining the dear land for which she died.

We know well how the memory of Jeanne inspired the heroes of the recent war, and how her spiritual presence was felt among the soldiers whose bravery and chivalry once more saved France. We know how near to ruin and desolation the Masons and the Jews had brought France in the early days of the war; how they put incapable men in positions of trust; how they kept in the background the best and bravest officers because of their faith; and how at last only a sense of imminent danger compelled them to rely on Pétain and on Foch, who led the armies of the Entente Powers to final victory. The Generalissimo who came at the eleventh hour to save France was a man after Jeanne's heart. Self-reliance, courage, patriotism had failed when he came on the scene. Until he appeared there was talk enough and to spare about these qualities, but never a public word about prayer and trust in God. The Man of the Hour made no mistake. He was a man of prayer, a devout Catholic who drew his strength from communion with God. History will write that Foch saved the world by his military genius and his strategy; but Foch himself gave the honor where it was due. Before the final trial he said: "Prayer has saved the Allies before in this deadly struggle, and it will save them again." Not to the "bull-dog tenacity of the English," not to the prodigal bravery of the French, but to the prayer of the humble people of France did he attribute the miraculous turning back of the great armies that threatened Paris in the early days, and now that he was in supreme command he made no secret of his dependence on prayer for victory. He did not hesitate to ask for prayer—above all for the innocent prayers of the little children—and when the tide turned at last his humble word was: *Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tuo da gloriam*—"Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Thy Name be the glory." God who chose Jeanne in other years now chose Foch to save France and to teach her a salutary lesson. Surely France will learn the lesson and be again as in the glorious past, The Eldest Daughter of the Church.

A CORRECTION

Owing to an oversight, the following note appended to the article on "The Catholic Church and Democracy" was omitted from its proper place:—

"N.B.—This article, barring a few alterations and adaptations, is well-nigh the reproduction of an article in the *Catholic Bulletin*, of St. Paul's, Minn., U.S.A. It is, however, so good and appropriate to the time that I think it will be welcome and illuminating to your readers.—* F.R."

The one pearl without price is the true faith and the state of grace. Guard this treasure carefully. Sacrifice everything to preserve your faith and the grace and love of God.

NOTES

Spiritual Books

A correspondent asks us to suggest a few useful spiritual books for a busy man to have at hand for reading in leisure hours. We do so gladly, and we hope that not only busy people, but idle people, too, will take our advice. The importance of spiritual reading is not as well understood by the generality of Catholics as it ought to be. It is a subject that does not often crop up in the routine of Sunday sermons, nor is it often suggested to preachers by the words of the Gospel. The preachers, however (with all respect be it said), could do worse than insist a couple of times in the year on the utility, if not on the necessity, of having spiritual books in every home, and of reading them. We say our prayers, no doubt, every morning and every night; we hear Mass and a sermon on Sundays; and all the rest of the week is filled up with concerns that distract our attention from the main fact that our end on earth is to merit Heaven. Spiritual books that we may take up when we have a few minutes to spare, or when we try to read ourselves to sleep at night, will help us as few things else could. They bring back the right atmosphere at once; they banish worldly thoughts and fill our minds with the things of God and His Saints. Besides, they convey to us in a clear and pleasant manner the instruction concerning the truths of our religion which so many of us badly need.

What Books to Get

First of all, get the *New Testament*. It contains the words of Our Lord Himself, and its every line was inspired by the Holy Ghost—nay, its every word—for without going into the vexed problems concerning the extent of inspiration we hold that inspiration rightly understood extends to every word in the Bible. The language of the *New Testament* is so simple that a child can understand it, and at the same time so sublime that even a genius like St. Thomas could never fathom its depths of wisdom. It differs from all other books in giving us the words Our Lord spoke; it differs from all other records in that it is the record of His Life and Death; and than the Gospel story of that Death and the Passion that preceded it there is under the heavens nothing more powerful, more moving, more piercing. The Gospels will tell you all that first-hand witnesses could tell about Our Lord: they were written by the men whom Jesus loved on earth or by their immediate disciples. After them you will do well to get a little book in which a chosen servant of His will tell you how to follow Him. Get the *Imitation of Christ*, and you will have a book of wisdom and consolation and beauty, a book for every hour, a book for every mood, a book that contains the whole true philosophy of life here and hereafter. Get it, and then be sure you read it.

Other Books

Let us suppose that you have the *New Testament* and the *Imitation*, and that you want more spiritual books. In the first place we would recommend a study of the Life of Christ. If you read French you will like Pere Didon's; there are many excellent Lives in English too. Fouard's is translated and can be bought for a shilling. It is a little library in itself. Then you might get some Lives of Saints. There will be Saints that appeal to you: the Saints were human and one will have affinities for you that another will not. After Our Lady and St. Joseph our inclination would lead us to recommend St. Philip Neri, St. Francis of Assisi, and St. Francis de Sales. But there are enough to satisfy every taste. Books that expound in a popular manner the truths of our religion are important. And among them we can recommend none better than Dr. Hay's works. As a general rule the books written by the Saints are to be given preference. And there are many to select from. There is no end