

## Friends at Court

### GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

March 30, Sunday.—Low Sunday.

„ 31, Monday.—Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (March 25).

April 1, Tuesday.—St. Patrick, Bishop and Confessor, and Patron of Ireland (March 17).

„ 2, Wednesday.—St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (March 19).

„ 3, Thursday.—Of the Feria.

„ 4, Friday.—St. Isidore, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor.

„ 5, Saturday.—St. Vincent Ferrer, Confessor.

#### Low Sunday.

This Sunday is styled in liturgical language Dominica in Albis, or Sunday in White, because in olden times the neophytes, whom it was customary to baptise on Holy Saturday, wore their white robes for the last time to-day.

The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

'The Angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, and the virgin's name was Mary. . . . And the angel said to her: "Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found grace with God. Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and shalt bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus"' (Gospel of St Luke.)

### GRAINS OF GOLD

#### AVE MARIA.

Hail, virgin mother of a King  
Whose throne thou art;  
Chaste daughter of thy Son divine  
Whose Sacred Heart  
Its precious life blood drew from thee,  
Hail, full of grace!

Hail, mother of the Lord,  
Who is with thee,  
Plant courage in this heart of mine,  
O pray for me;  
God's angel's word I bring to thee,  
Hail, full of grace!  
Rev. Henry B. Tierney.

A conscience without God is a tribunal without a judge.

Carry on every enterprise as if all depended on the success of it.

Learning by study must be won; 'twas ne'er entailed from son to son.

Let us make haste to live, since every day to a wise man is a new life.

Nothing was ever so unfamiliar and startling to a man as his own thoughts.

If you act ungratefully you are doing an injury to all who are in need.

There are no blockheads in Nature. For them, we are indebted to society.

The certain way to be cheated is to fancy oneself more cunning than others.

Patience is the student's great virtue; it is the mark of the best quality of mind.

The act we may perform does not sanctify us so much as the spirit in which we perform it.

If you boast a lot about your distinguished forbears you cannot be living up to their standard.

Perhaps no man ever practised all he preached, but this is not a final argument against preaching.

## 'STAND FAST IN THE FAITH'

(A Weekly Instruction specially written for the N.Z. Tablet by 'GHIMEL'.)

### EASTER SUNDAY.

The days of Lent are over, 'the winter is come and gone,' and our Risen Saviour brings us the joys of Easter. At 2 a.m. on Easter day, in the full moonlight, our Lord raised from the tomb the sinless body that He took, some three and thirty years before, of an immaculate, mortal Mother, so that as man He might be able to die for his fellowmen. Death has no more dominion over It, for now It is gifted with immortality; suffering and sorrow shall visit It no more, for It is now impassible, 'the former things have passed away.'

We have followed Him with loving eyes and sorrowing hearts through the dark days of the Passion, remembering all the while that 'He loved me and delivered Himself for me.' Now 'He is risen, He is not here,' and our Holy Mother the Church is insistent in bidding us rejoice. 'Easter-tide belongs to the Illuminative Life; nay, it is the most important part of that Life, for it not only manifests, as the last four seasons of the liturgical year have done, the humiliations and sufferings of the Man-God; it shows Him to us in all His glory; it give us to see Him expressing in His own Sacred Humanity the highest degree of the creature's transfiguration into his God.' And so 'of all the seasons in the liturgical year Easter-tide is by far the richest in mystery. We might even say that Easter is the summit of the mystery of the sacred Liturgy. The Christian, who is happy enough to enter with his whole mind and heart into the knowledge and love of the Paschal mystery, has reached the very centre of the supernatural life. Hence it is that the Church uses every effort in order to effect this; what she has hitherto done was all intended as a preparation for Easter. The holy longings of Advent, the sweet joys of Christmas, the severe truths of Septuagesima, the contrition and penance of Lent, the heart-rending sight of the Passion—all were given us as preliminaries, as paths, to the sublime and glorious Pasch, which is now ours.' (Dom Gueranger.)

'Christ our Pasch is sacrificed'—so we read in the Epistle of the day. The Pasch is 'the Phase or Passage of the Lord.' It was in its institution a day of vengeance on the enemies of God and of His chosen people: 'I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and will kill every first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments' (Exodus, xii., 12). But at the same time it was a day of deliverance and the signal of redemption for the Jews. Hence they were commanded to take a lamb without blemish and to sprinkle the doorposts with its blood, that the destroying Angel in his passage might leave them unmolested. The ceremony was repeated each year, and was known amongst the Jews as the Pasch. Every sacrifice of the Paschal Lamb was a type of Christ, the true Lamb of God, shedding His Blood for men and giving His Flesh to be eaten 'for the life of the world.' And on Easter Sunday, when the Sacrifice of this Lamb is all over, we welcome Him with peace and joy, for the Lamb that was slain is worthy to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honor, and glory and benediction.

The Sequence in the Mass—so called because it is a continuation of the Alleluia after the Epistle—expresses the welcome we so readily extend to our risen Redeemer and Deliverer:

Forth to the Paschal Victim, Christians, bring  
Your sacrifice of praise:  
The Lamb redeems the sheep;  
And Christ, the Sinless One,  
Hath to the Father Sinners reconciled.  
Together Death and Life  
In a strange conflict strove;  
The Prince of Life, Who died,  
Now lives and reigns.