

NOTES

Book-Keeping

There is a branch of instruction known to teachers and pupils as Bookkeeping, but with this we have nothing to do. The Book-keeping we are dealing with was that referred to by an old Irish priest when he said: "Father Gilhooly is a great book-keeper, God forgive him his sins." We all know great book-keepers of this kind, and we all have our devices for protection against them. Some are simply absent-minded people who forget to remember the clear moral distinction between the words "mine" and "thine"; others are kleptomaniacs *tout court*, to whom a book is at all times a proximate occasion; and others, the worst offenders, are simply careless concerning the property or the needs of their neighbor. For the benefit of readers who understand Latin we quote the following little book verse, designed as a reminder to book-borrowers who are not ignorant of the same language:

*Librum meum—recole—
Manibus tuis tenes.
Quamprimum restituis
Si vis ut sint lenes.
Qui tormentant fures
Infernorum poenis.
Nomen mihi N.N. est
Nostri ubi dego.
Memento quod etiam
Aliquando lego.*

A free translation, for the benefit of those who resent Latin, is:

Remember, my book
You hold in your hands.
Return it soon
Or you'll suffer some day
In the hands of Old Nick
In the hot spot below.
My name is N.N.
And you know where I dwell.
And I want to read it
As well as yourself.

The Martyrdom of St. Lucy

Here is an Italian folk-song in honor of Santa Lucia. If you sing it when you go to Naples you will receive the freedom of the city if your voice is respectable. If not don't try:

*Santa Lucia—l'andava in su la via
Sola, soletta—e senza compagna.
Et primo incontro—che lee l'ha fatto
Si l'è stato—el Re de Francia.
El Re de Francia—l'ha visto Santa Lucia:
Ghe domanda se la voreva—maridarse.
Santa Lucia—g'ha dij al Re de Francia
Che la voreva morire—verginella.
El Re de Francia—l'è tornato a casa
El s'è dichiarato—ammalato:
E per guarire—l'ha dij che ghe voreva
I suoi begli occhio—de Santa Lucia.
Santa Lucia—la s'è cavaa gl'occhi
E li ha mandati—su la basila.*

In equally artless if less poetical language we may render the song as follows:

Santa Lucia, alone, all alone.

Without a companion was walking one day,
And the first one she met, now who should he be
But the great King of France who was coming the way.

When he looked at Lucia and saw her so fair
He told her he wanted to make her his wife.
But Santa Lucia then said to the King,
"A virgin I'll be all the days of my life."

The poor King of France went home and fell ill,
And his doctors were puzzled although they were wise.

Said the King, "You can't cure me, and I'll never be well

Unless Santa Lucia will give me her eyes.
Santa Lucia then pitied his fate
And sent him her beautiful eyes on a plate.

When you translate it word for word as we have done (almost) it seems too simple for sophisticated people of the twentieth century. But all the old folk-songs are like that. And perhaps the peasants and fishermen who sing them get more enjoyment from them than most of us could get from the most polished lyrics of our poets. One poet alone was able to match the artless simplicity of folk-songs with faultless words, and it is dreadful for patriotic people to think that he was a German—just like the great and good Queen Victoria's husband! Not Beranger, not Burns, not Moore can rival Heine as a singer of songs that have in them all the sweetness and tenderness of a thrush's strain as well as melody and perfection of versification. For instance:

*Ein Fichtenbaum steht einsam
In Norden auf kahler hoech'.
Ihm schlaefert; mit weisser Decke
Umhuelten ihn Eis und Schnee.*

*Es tracumt von einer Palme,
Die fern im Morgenland
Einsam und schweigend trauert
Auf brennender Felsenwand.*

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

At St. Joseph's Cathedral on Tuesday (Feast of All Saints) Masses were celebrated at 6.30, 7, 8, and 11 o'clock, and attended by large congregations. Masses were also celebrated in all the suburban churches of the parish. In the evening the devotions consisted of the Holy Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Yesterday (All Souls' Day) Requiem Masses were offered at 6.30, 7, and 8 o'clock. The 7 o'clock Mass was a Solemn Requiem, Father Kaveney being celebrant; Father Marlow, deacon; Rev. J. Butler, subdeacon; and Very Rev. Father Coffey, master of ceremonies. Prior to the 7 o'clock Mass, Father Coffey exhorted the congregation to pray for the repose of the souls of a lengthy list of names (which he read) of deceased relations and friends of the parishioners. At the conclusion of Mass prayers were offered for the dead and absolution was given at the catafalque.

At the 8.30 o'clock Mass on Tuesday, Feast of All Saints, 64 children from the schools of the Sisters of Mercy, South Dunedin, received their First Holy Communion at St. Patrick's Basilica. During Holy Mass several beautiful hymns were sung and the preparatory acts recited aloud by the little ones. After their thanksgiving, the First Communicants adjourned to the dining hall of St. Vincent's Orphanage, where a bountiful spread awaited them, the good things having been generously provided by their kind parents and the South Dunedin Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Rev. Fathers Delany, Graham, and Rooney were present, and after breakfast souvenirs of the memorable day were distributed to the happy children by Father Delany.

A "gift afternoon" will be held on Saturday week (November 12), at St. Vincent de Paul's Orphanage, South Dunedin. The object of the function is to help in some measure, the Sisters of Mercy in their unceasing struggle to provide for the large number of little ones under their charge. Town and country friends are invited to assist this charitable effort by bringing or sending donations of food-stuffs or anything else suitable for the maintenance of the children. No gift will be too small nor can any be too large.

Two additional donations have been received by the Sisters of Mercy from "Grateful," the benefactor who recently requested that a Novena be made to St. Anthony for an urgent intention. Sincere thanks are tendered to "Grateful" on whose behalf the prayers of the nuns and orphans continue to be offered. May St. Anthony speedily reward his client's charity!

The Sisters of Mercy acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of a box of useful clothing for the orphans from the ladies of St. Joseph's Sewing Guild.