

ST. VIATEUR'S COLLEGE JOURNAL.

LECTIO CERTA PRODEST, VARIA DELECTAT. Seneca.

VOL. II

BOURBONNAIS GROVE, ILL. SATURDAY, JAN. 31 1885.

No. 18

A. H. PIKE

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P. LESAGE.	"	'86.
A. GRANGER.	"	'87.

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HOW OFTEN AT EVE.

How often at eve when twilight is falling
 When soft gentle zephyrs are seeking their rest
 When parent her fledgling is tenderly calling
 To come to its wind-beaten, airy-swept nest—
 Thoughts of the dear ones, the friends of our childhood
 Come o'er us like music enchanting long fled,
 Their faces, like flowerets that bloom in the wildwood,
 Smile out once again from the fields of the dead.

How often when shadows of night are fast creeping
 Over the valleys where sunlight did play,
 When dews on the grasses so softly are sleeping
 Glist'ning and shining 'neath moonlight's clear ray—
 The mind fondly grasps from Lethe's dark waters
 Many bright forms long buried and cold,
 Which Absence and Time,—Oblivion's own daughters—
 Have hidden away in some regions untold.

When night sable Goddess with majesty sweeping
 Dashes along in her Erebus hue,
 Nor thunder resounding, nor lightning outleaping
 To disturb the stillness— to distract the view—

The form of a sister so graceful and charming,
 The voice of a brother affectionate kind,
 The smile of a mother both loving and warming—
 All linger once more in the light of the mind.

Gladness and gaiety may battle 'gainst sorrow,
 Sweet scented flowers may perfume the halls,
 Yet in the silence, repose of the morrow
 Our hearts turn back to the old pleasant walls—
 Where groups of the young, the free, and the sprightly
 Assembled together their tales to tell o'er,
 With words ringing out both gaily and brightly
 Sparkling and sweet as the waves on the shore.

Where are they now? let us ask of the river
 Seeking broad ocean, contentment to find,
 Let us ask of the trees that nakedly shiver,
 Stirred by the chilly and pitiless wind—
 Ask of the meteor swiftly careering
 Athwart the bright canopy hazy with dew,
 Ask of the cloud so fast disappearing
 Losing its form in vastness of blue.

Nor answer—nor word—from them we can learn.
 Comrades' delay was the rest of an hour—
 They've passed, like the rainbow, compelled to return
 At the call of their Maker, of His infinite power!
 As pure as the snow that falls in the morning,
 Bright in its brightness, beautiful, fair,
 Melting 'fore sunbeams each valley adorning
 They've wandered away from this world of care.

J. P. M.

THE CRUSADES.

Among the extraordinary events, that live in the pages of history, the Crusades hold a prominent place. In fact it is doubtful, if in the whole range of history, there be anything similar to them. In most of the world's battles, we have but one or two nations at war with one or two other powers. But when we come to deal with the Crusades, we find one continent opposed to another; one civilization arrayed against another;

one religion in arms to conquer the other; Europe against Asia; the civilization of the West against that of the East; the cross of Christ against the crescent of Mohammed.

Again if we consider the space of time, taken up by these wars—two hundred years—and the devotion, bravery and intrepidity of the Christian hosts, we must undoubtedly conclude that the Crusades were the offspring of a divine faith. It is not claimed, however, that all the Europeans were animated by exalted motives. Many indeed engaged in these wars, urged on by worldly motives, but the majority took the cross, impelled by their faith in that holy Church, which had civilized them and was still guiding them on the path of progress. Enlivened by that glorious faith they could ill brook that those cherished spots, made sacred by the sufferings of their Redeemer, should be desecrated by the impious hordes of Mohammed and that they should be debarred from visiting these places and pouring out their love and sorrow on the spot, which was sanctified by the footsteps of a God.

Noble, in purpose; grand, in conception and generous in devotion such were the Crusades and had they been successful we would find very few, who would have thought of censuring them. And truly had such been the case, Asia and a part of Africa would present a different scene to-day. Their civilization would at least be equal to that of Europe. But as these wars were unsuccessful in their object, some historians have made very sweeping assertions, condemning them as vain unprofitable and foolish—yes even designating them, "the folly of the Cross." Yet if they read history aright they ought to perceive that this very "folly of the Cross" had of old confounded the pagan intellect and had conquered the world by bringing all to the foot of the Cross.

It is not the intention in this paper to enter into a history of the Crusades, but merely to gather together in a brief manner some of results of these wars. That they had beneficial and far reaching consequences, none, who have pondered on the history of Europe will deny. Europe was at this time—1095—in a very precarious condition; feuds, discords and petty wars among the people; nearly all Spain in the hands of the Mohammedans besides their immense force threatening Constantinople. Without some special intervention of Divine Providence it seemed that Europe was destined to fall under the sway of the Crescent; its young and vigorous civilization to be nipped in the bud; its religion, institutions and laws to be swept away under the blighting influence of the Koran. But the Pope the guardian of nations and people came forward in the hour of need and urged Europe on a path which would lead from darkness into light. At the council of Clermont, A. D.

1095, thousands took the cross at the appeal of Pope Urban. The seat of war was immediately transferred to the enemies' country and the temporary successes of the Crusades put a check to the inroads of the Mohammedans and hence they saved Europe.

With an external foe in the Saracens, Europe had an internal foe, which soon later would have proved as terrible. In fact the Crusades saved Europe from itself. A careful survey of these ages will confirm this statement. Warfare was considered as the only honorable trade and hence the profession of arms was followed by the majority. Quarrels, bloodshed and internecine wars for the most trifling causes were of daily occurrence. This state of affairs became so alarming that the Church interposed and by an enactment, known in history as "the Truce of God", lessened this great abuse, by forbidding warfare on certain days. The Crusades, however did away with this entirely by giving them foes worthy of their steel and a cause, holier than which, man never fought for on earth.

Moreover the Crusades gave a death blow to Feudalism. This system was in vogue for centuries and considering the state of society it was the best possible scheme, narrowed and selfish as it appeared. But its days of usefulness were past and under the influence of the Crusader feudalism widened and developed until it embraced a community of interests and gave rise to a spirit of political freedom, which gradually enfranchised the nations of Europe. This was accomplished however without doing injury to the existing bonds of society.

A part from these political and social advantages the Crusades gave a new impetus to the material progress of Europe and brought about many beneficial changes. The different nations being obliged to act in concert came to know one another better; to feel mutual sympathies and to entertain more liberal ideas. In these wars the Crusaders came in immediate contact with the more advanced and more cultivated civilization of the Greek and Saracen and this produced many improvements especially in architecture. Their various journeys by sea made them familiar with the science of navigation, and this, with the knowledge of many products and processes tending to promote arts and manufactures, obtained in the East, first developed modern commerce.

These are a few of the principal results of the Crusades and it is evident that if they were unsuccessful as regards the main object, yet they gave to Europe many advantages, which speeded its political and material progress which otherwise might have been retarded by the chain of circumstances, that surrounded European nations at that time. Aside from this the Crusades will ever stand in history as monuments of generosity, bravery and devotion, the outcome of a childlike and heavenly faith.

coast from charts, or of buildings from view, ground-plans and elevations. These remarks, few as they are, may be sufficient to show the importance of books to the character of society, and their value to individuals in their connection with society; and we have before spoken of their uses in filling up our solitary hours, and increasing domestic happiness. To man by himself, and to man in his family and social relations, they constitute an inestimable treasure, from which may be drawn continual supplies to meet the demands of our nature, and the calls and exigencies of life.

CATHOLIC NOTES.

Ash Wednesday falls on Feb. 18.

The cathedral of Mexico is the largest on this continent, and costs \$2,000,000.

Sir Philip Rose, formerly solicitor to Lord Beaconsfield, with his whole family, six in number, were recently received into the Catholic church, Father Sebastian Bowden, who received him, said:—"This is a great episode in the drama of England's conversion."

A dispatch from Rome asserts that Archbishop Gibbons of Baltimore will be created a cardinal the coming May

A memorial chapel is to be erected where the Jesuit Father Jogue and others met with martyrdom two hundred years ago near Buriensville, N. Y.

Mr. J. C. Flood of San Francisco made Christmas donations to the amount of \$600 to various institutions in that city, among others the asylums managed by the Sisters of Mercy and Charity.

The Roman Catholic apostolic delegate at Constantinople has paid an official visit of congratulations to Joachim IV; the newly-elected Greek patriarch, and the visit has been returned. This is an event unprecedented in recent times.

The decisions of the Baltimore Council are most warmly approved at the Vatican, and it is believed, will receive the full and hearty approval of the Holy Father.

Archbishop Gibbons conferred the habit of the Carmelite order on Miss McMaster, daughter of Editor James A. McMaster of the New York Freeman's Journal. Miss Edgar, aged 19, step daughter of Jerome Bonaparte, entered the Convent of the visitation, in the same city on the same day.

In Steinway Hall, N. Y., Jan. 13th., Monseigneur Capel lectured to a very large audience his subject being "Father Thomas Burke and the Irish in America." He spoke most eloquently of the great Dominican who was, in years gone by, a bosom friend of his. He said that his greatness rested on virtue and honor, and pointing out to them their great mission on the conti-

ment. The work of the Irish of to-day shows how well he succeeded.

Lady Georgiana Fullerton is dead. She was a novelist of considerable note and her many literary productions have entertained hundreds of thousands of French and English speaking people the world over. She was the daughter of the first class Earl of Granville and sister of the present earl. She had reached the advanced age of 70 years. We should remember that Brownson in his days often expressed his high appreciation of Lady Fullerton as a Catholic novelist. Of her many novels he praises "Constance Sherwood" the most.

The highest price ever paid for a work of art was \$123,000, which was given in 1752 for a picture of the Blessed Virgin from the land of the great Spanish artist, Murillo.

EXCHANGES.

The Students Journal from Wesleyan University at Bloomington is about the same as usual. "Dante" in January copy is a well written essay though the author, endeavoring to elevate the son, attempts to vilify the Church his mother—whose religious aspirations he had imbibed from his tenderest years and treasured while life did last. Our friend of the Journal should consider before he bears false witness against his neighbors that after all Catholicity, unlike Protestantism and its hydraheaded progeny, did not spring from man nor the lust of man.

University magazine from Oxford Georgia is as fresh and newsy as ever. Class-Free poem is more than common, we congratulate the author upon his success.

The Christmas number of the Boston College Stylus was the most artistic visitor of the season. Neither money nor pains were evidently spared to make that issue a bright and happy *souvenir*. The Supplement possessing an account of the celebration of the Tercentenary Jubilee of the B. V. Sodality contained some of the choicest poetical contributions. We congratulate our Jesuit friends upon their literary efforts.

The last number of the Carsonian was not worth much. If some of its contributors can not find a more literary subject to discuss than "Flirting," we think their Journalistic career should immediately come to a close.

The last number of King's College Record was up to the standard. "Canada to England" was a neat, poetical effusion while "The Common" was a very pithy, pun-gent and humorous article. We always admire the classical English to be found in the columns of the Record.

The Philosophian Review—is a living example of *what's in a name*.

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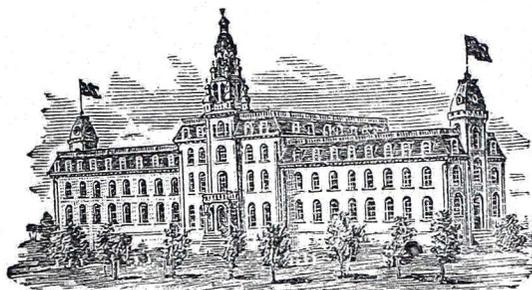
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