

## Friends at Court.

GLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR.

(Written for the N.Z. TABLET.)

- June 17, Sunday.—Second Sunday after Pentecost.
- „ 18, Monday.—St. Isidore Agricola, Confessor.
- „ 19, Tuesday.—St. Juliana Virgin.
- „ 20, Wednesday.—St. Silverius, Pope and Martyr
- „ 21, Thursday.—The Octave of Corpus Christi Feast of St. Aloysius Gonzaga.
- „ 22, Friday.—St. Alban, First Martyr of England.
- „ 23, Saturday.—St. Ferdinand, King and Confessor.

### ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA.

Aloysius or Louis Gonzaga was the son of Ferdinand, Marquis of Castiglione, and was born at his father's castle in the diocese of Brescia, A.D. 1568. His virtuous mother instilled into his heart from his earliest infancy an ardent love of Jesus and Mary and a tender compassion for the wants and miseries of the poor.

His father, who wished to inspire Aloysius with the love of a military life, had a complete suit of armour made for him when he was quite a child and took him to the camp, where his courtesy and courageous spirit made him the idol and pride of the soldiers. By conversing with them he picked up insensibly certain expressions which he afterwards found to be displeasing to God.

When he had reached the age of eight the Marquis placed him and his younger brother Ralph under the care of a tutor at the court of the Duke of Tuscany, where they were instructed in the knowledge and accomplishments which befitted their noble birth. During his residence at Florence his devotion to the Blessed Virgin was much inflamed by the perusal of a little book on the Mysteries of the Rosary. Pondering one day, when at prayer in the Church of the Annunciation, what he could do to please his heavenly Mother he chanced to raise his eyes to a picture of that Mystery, which was suspended over the altar. Immediately the thought came into his mind to make a solemn promise of perpetual chastity in honor of the Immaculate Virgin.

After spending about two years at Florence, the two brothers were sent by their father to the court of the Duke of Mantua, his near relation. There they continued the course of their studies. About this time Aloysius formed the design of resigning his title to the Marquisate in favor of his brother, and devoting himself to the service of God in the religious state. During the summer months which he passed at Castiglione he spent most of his time in prayer, pious contemplation, and the reading of the lives of the saints. He began also to instruct the poor children of the neighborhood in their catechism and duty to God, in which employment he displayed great ability and took much delight. Hearing that St. Charles Borromeo, the Cardinal-Archbishop of Milan, had arrived at Brescia, Aloysius went thither to ask his blessing. St. Charles received him with paternal kindness, which encouraged Aloysius to lay before him the secrets of his soul. The holy Cardinal was much edified on discovering the angelic innocence and eminent sanctity of his penitent. Finding that he had not yet made his First Communion, though he was 12 years of age, he prepared him for it and administered to him the Bread of Angels with his own hands. Soon afterwards the Marquis, passing into Spain, placed his two sons at the court of Madrid, where they served as pages of honor to the young Prince James.

Upon the death of the Prince two years later Aloysius and his brother returned to Italy. Already had our Saint, who had now attained his 16th year, solicited from his father permission to enter the Society of Jesus, but had met with a peremptory refusal. Upon his return home every means was employed to divert him from his resolution, but though greatly grieved at being the cause of displeasure and disappointment to a beloved parent, he continued firm in his purpose, being convinced that he was following the call of God. More than once did the Marquis give his consent and afterwards withdraw it, but at the end of three years, after a severe struggle with himself, he surrendered to the earnest entreaties of his son, who, after making a formal renunciation of his rights in favor of his brother, was received into the Jesuit novitiate. Great was the joy of Aloysius and his gratitude to God at being able at length to carry out the cherished desire of his heart. Upon entering the chamber which he was to occupy at the novitiate of St. Andrew at Rome, he cried out in a transport of exultation: 'This is my rest for ever; here will I dwell, for I have chosen it.' From that moment his life, uneventful in the eyes of men, was hidden with Almighty God and spent in the most perfect exercise of obedience to the will of his superiors.

A malignant fever broke out in Rome and Aloysius got permission to serve the sick in the hospitals. He catechised and exhorted the poor patients, and at the same time rendered them the most laborious and meanest services. After many of his companions had fallen victims to the disease, Aloysius fell sick and received the last rites of the Church. His holy death took place on the octave of Corpus Christi, in the 24th year of his age and sixth of his religious profession. St. Aloysius is regarded as the perfect model of Christian youth and has been designated by the Holy See as their patron.

Tom Linton has been successful in both of the important events in which he has engaged during the Easter holidays. At Wood Green (England) he beat Platt-Betts and A. A. Chase in an hour's race, and at Sydenham on Easter Monday won the Century Cup heat of thirty-three and one-third miles, again defeating Platt-Betts. On each occasion a machine fitted with Dunlop tyres carried him to victory.—\*\*

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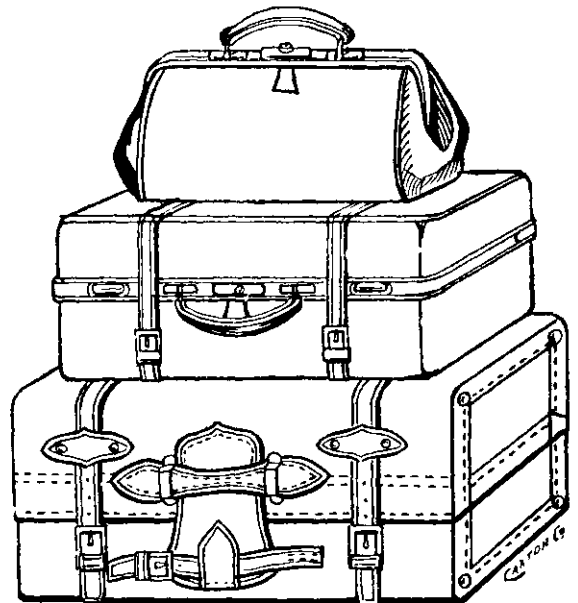
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