

Friends at Court

CLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- May 24, Sunday.—Sunday within the Octave. Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary Help of Christians.
- „ 25, Monday.—St. Gregory VII., Pope and Confessor.
- „ 26, Tuesday.—St. Philip Neri, Confessor.
- „ 27, Wednesday.—St. John I., Pope and Martyr.
- „ 28, Thursday.—Octave of the Ascension.
- „ 29, Friday.—St. Mary Magdalen de Pazzi, Virgin.
- „ 30, Saturday.—Vigil of Pentecost. Fast day. No abstinence.

St. Gregory VII., Pope and Confessor.

St. Gregory, or Hildebrand, as he was called before his elevation to the Papacy, was a native of Italy. Of the great men who have sat in the chair of Peter, he was one of the greatest. He was a strenuous reformer of abuses, and a fearless upholder of the rights of the Church against the encroachments of the civil power. Imprisoned by a rebellious noble whose crimes he had censured, besieged in the castle of St. Angelo by Henry IV., of Germany, rescued by the Norman Duke of Calabria, he died in exile at Salerno, A.D. 1085, after a pontificate of nearly twelve years.

St. Philip Neri, Confessor.

St. Philip was born in Florence, of parents who belonged to the wealthiest families of Tuscany. Feeling himself called by God to a more perfect life, he renounced all his worldly prospects, and went to Rome, where he engaged in ecclesiastical studies. Through humility, he long hesitated to become a priest. Ordained in 1551, he labored so zealously and so successfully to revive the fervor of the inhabitants of the Eternal City that he received the name of 'Apostle of Rome.' He died in 1595, at the age of ninety-two.

GRAINS OF GOLD.

SALVE REGINA.

Hail, Heavenly Queen! Mother of pity, hail!
Hail, thou, our life, our hope, our solace,—hail!

Children of Eve, exiles from heaven,
To thee, in languishment, we cry;
To thee, with groanings and with tears,
From out this land of tears we sigh.

Therefore, O Advocate our own,
Thine eyes of mercy on us bend,
And show us Him, thy womb's blest Fruit,
When exile's night shall have an end.

O merciful and kind and sweet
Virgin Mary, thee we greet!

—*Ave Maria.*

Do you think that God, Who made everything in the heavens, and Who made all the earth, does not know where to place you and what is the best for you?

It is a world we need be careful how we libel. Heaven forgive us, for it is a world of sacred mysteries, and its Creator only knows what lies beneath the surface of His lightest image.

Don't rush your prayers. Don't shorten or omit them on the pretext that duty calls you to some other task. The highest of all duties commands you to make ample provision for this daily communion with God.

'STAND FAST IN THE FAITH'

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

THE PROPHECIES ABOUT OUR LORD (II)

To appreciate the full force of the argument drawn from prophecy in favor of our Lord's divinity it is necessary to take the predictions in detail.

From the beginning God held out to fallen man the hope of restoration and redemption; sin was to be blotted out and the power of man's seducer broken by human agency. 'I will put enmities between thee (the serpent as the representative of the devil) and the woman, and thy seed and her seed; she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel' (Genesis iii., 15). This promise was renewed, and in a more definite shape, when in the days of Abraham God chose the Hebrew race as His own people. From amongst them the Redeemer was to come, a Ruler Who would fashion them into a great nation, powerful enough to subdue all their pagan enemies. He was to be a descendant of Abraham, and a member of the tribe of Juda. 'I will bless them that bless thee (Abraham, as the representative of the Jewish people), and curse them that curse thee, and in thee shall all the kindred of the earth be blessed' (Genesis xii., 3). This Redeemer would be a King, of David's royal house, a King of power and wisdom, a Prince of Peace; God's Messias or Anointed One. 'I am appointed King by Him over Sion, His holy mountain, preaching His commandment' (Psalm ii., 6).

The supernatural character of this Son of David is brought out almost as clearly as if the prophets were evangelists. David himself announces that the Messias is eternal and consequently divine; that He sits as the Lord, at the right hand of the Father; that He is a priest not by descent, as the Jewish priests were, but by eternal choice, even as Melchizedek is pictured in Scripture. 'The Lord hath said to Me: Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee. Ask of Me, and I will give Thee the Gentiles for Thy inheritance, and the utmost parts of the earth for Thy possession' (Psalm ii., 7-8). 'The Lord said to My Lord: Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thy enemies My footstool.' The Lord hath sworn and He will not repent: Thou art a priest for ever according to the order of Melchizedek (Psalm 109). Later prophets complete the picture. 'And there shall come forth a rod out of the root of Jesse, and a flower shall rise up out of his root; and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him: the spirit of wisdom, and of understanding, the spirit of counsel, and of fortitude, the spirit of knowledge, and of godliness. . . . He shall judge the poor with justice, and shall reprove with equity for the meek of the earth, and He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.' (Isaias xi., 1-4). 'Behold the days shall come, saith the Lord, and I will raise up to David a just branch, and a King shall reign, and shall be wise, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In those days shall Juda be saved, and Israel shall dwell confidently; and this is the name that they shall call Him: The Lord our just one' (Jeremias xxiii., 5-6). 'And I will set up One Shepherd over them, and He shall feed them, even My servant David: He shall feed them, and shall be their Shepherd' (Ezechiel xxxiv., 23). 'And I will have mercy on the house of Juda, and I will save them by the Lord their God' (Osee i., 7).

One prophet predicts the place of His birth, another, the very time; all, Isaias and Jeremias especially, the spiritual character of His kingdom. 'The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; to them that dwelt in the region of the shadow of

IN COLD WEATHER

no beverage is so acceptable as SYMINGTON'S COFFEE ESSENCE. In two minutes you can have a delicious warm drink. If you haven't tried it you should do so at once.