

dents throughout Europe, the Conservatives, led by Senor Maura, held the portfolios of Government; but in a moment of weakness the Conservative Cabinet, to allay popular commotion in Spain, which, moreover, was fanned by an unfavorable feeling to the African war, resigned last October. Moret, the Radical leader, undertook the government of the country. He did so only on sufferance, since the Conservatives have a majority in the Cortes. Now Moret has made his position untenable by two acts that have raised the opposition of two powerful parties in the Parliament. He alienated the Conservatives by issuing a decree signed by the King, permitting the reopening of the 'lay' schools, and then raised the opposition of the Liberal Right and the Radical Liberals under Count de Romanones and Canalejos, by favoring the extreme Republicans. He had been dismissed from office to give place to Canalejos, who has formed a Cabinet to carry on the government of the country until arrangements are made for a general election. Senor Maura is again in evidence rallying his party, who expect to win at the polls, and put Spain under a Conservative Government.

#### UNITED STATES—Church Progress

According to the Official Catholic Directory, published by the M. H. Wiltzius Company, of New York, there are 14,347,027 Catholics in the continental United States, showing a gain of 111,576 over the figures of a year ago. Adding to the number of Catholics in the United States proper those of the Philippines, Porto Rico, and the Hawaiian Islands, the total number of Catholics under the United States flag is 22,587,079. The Catholic population under the British flag, according to the same directory, is 12,053,418, and under the German flag 20,327,913. The hierarchy of the United States consists of one Apostolic Delegate, one Cardinal, thirteen Archbishops, and eighty-eight Bishops.

#### GENERAL

##### A New Vicariate Apostolic

On account of the increase of the number of Latin Catholics in Egypt, the Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda has found imperative the erection of a second Vicariate Apostolic in Egypt. Up to the present the country possessed only one Vicar Apostolic, whose episcopal residence is situated in Alexandria, with jurisdiction over the vast territory. According to the latest arrangements, a new Vicariate is formed in Cairo, taking its title from the Delta of the Nile, and having for its first Apostolic Vicar the Right Rev. Mgr. Duret, who made his ecclesiastical studies in the Seminary for the African Missions of Lyons, France, to which country he is now travelling for the purpose of receiving episcopal consecration.

#### Sunday in Olden Times

The learned Abbot Gasquet, in his charming *Parish Life in Medieval England*, gives a good deal of interesting information as to how the English in pre-Reformation days spent their Sundays (says the *Ave Maria*). It was customary in those old times for a very great number of the people to assist at daily Mass on the week days, and in various old records it is noted that the priests of the parishes said Mass at an early hour. This early morning Mass is often referred to as 'Morrow Mass,' or 'Jesus Mass'; and it would seem that the women attending generally carried long rosaries, while those who could read recited the Office of Our Lady. On Sundays, however, everyone, excepting those prevented by age or infirmity, attended the parochial Mass, and not only Mass but Matins.

Matins were recited at a very early hour by the priests; or, in cases where only one priest was available, by the priest and clerk. This was done so that the people might have an opportunity of returning to their homes to breakfast in the interval between Matins and Mass. Sir Thomas More writes: 'Some of us laymen think it a pain once in a week to rise so soon from sleep and tarry fasting. . . to hear our Matins.'

When the congregation again assembled for the parochial Mass, the holy water was solemnly blessed. For this ceremony the priest, accompanied by deacon and subdeacon, if such were available, came to the entrance of the chancel, where the water was blessed; then the altar was sprinkled, afterward the assistants of the priest, and lastly the people. Often there was a procession, which passed, singing the proper anthems, to the graveyard where the dead took their last long rest. Prayers were offered up at the graves and the mounds sprinkled with holy water. The procession returned to the church and Mass began. It is noteworthy that the altar and any shrine or image was brilliantly lighted up, while the great 'candle wheel,' or 'rowell,' was laden with candles. The sermon, or homely discourse, followed the Gospel; and afterward the head-roll was read, and prayers offered up for the Pope, Bishops, and priests; also for the reigning sovereign and royal family, for all benefactors of the Church, for workers and tillers of the earth, and for all in debt or in deadly sin. These orisons were followed by prayers for the dead.

Between two or three in the afternoon of the Sundays Evensong or Vespers were sung, and then the people were free to devote the remainder of the day to rest or reasonable recreation. Not so the priests: Sunday was the day particularly set apart for visiting the aged and the sick.

## Domestic

By MAUREEN

#### Need Sun and Air.

A bedroom should be aired at least two hours before the bed is made. Bedclothes and pillows should be placed where the sun and air will reach them. Closet doors should be opened at the same time, as it is just as necessary for closets to be aired daily as for the beds. If each person attended to this in the morning before leaving his or her room the labor of housekeeping would be greatly lessened.

#### Little Economies Important.

Little economies practised in the household are the secret of success of every good housekeeper. No matter how perfect the system may appear to be, if her results were attained by overtaxing either her purse or strength her methods prove themselves too faulty to be continued. Economy in labor may be begun by regulating the work of each day. Each household can best arrange its own work. What might apply to one would not suit another, but everyone should have a definite plan of work. Then remember it is labor saved to wash the pots and pans as soon as you are through using them, and not let them stand until dish-washing time; and that instead of piling your dishes up promiscuously after a meal it saves time to place saucer on saucer and plate on plate, and put them so arranged into the pan. Your china will not be nearly so apt to be broken, and the washing and the draining of it will be reduced to a minimum. Have strips of carpet across the kitchen where they are most needed. This helps to keep your boards white or your linoleum bright without frequent scrubbing. Learn these and many other economies of time, labor, and expense, and your housekeeping will resolve itself into a pleasant day's work instead of a life of drudgery to be looked forward to with dread from one day to the next.

#### As to the Children.

Here is a description of one woman's ways with her children:—I desire to have all of my children's meals served at the family table, so that I may give attention to the kind and quantity of food which they eat and also to their manners at table. As we have so many guests, I particularly wish my children to appear well bred, and for the same reason I do not wish to be obliged to be continually talking to them at the table. My children coax for pennies like other children, and I teach them the value of a penny while they are very young in this way: When we go into the dining-room I place in front of my plate a penny for each child. At the close of the meal the child who has not been corrected in any way is given a penny. They are encouraged to talk, but not to interrupt. They are taught to eat properly, to ask properly for anything they may wish. Any misdemeanor which they understand to be such results in the loss of the penny. Sometimes they are fined a penny besides for any particularly unpleasant act. For any disrespectful word to the servant they are at once sent from the table. It may not be the best way, but one thing is certain: the meal hour is the pleasantest in the day to children, guests, and myself.

#### To Dry Wet Boots.

When we have reached the office or home, after having trudged through the mud or the pelting rain, one of the first things we do is to change our boots, if that be possible. Following this comes the drying of the footwear. If you get your boots soaked while journeying to the office, this process of drying is an important matter, because we wish to put the boots on again to go out to lunch or to go home. At home this is not so serious, because we can have a change and leave the sodden leather to get dry in a more leisurely fashion. The most natural action is to place the soaked leather near the fire; not too near, but sufficiently close to cause the steam to rise promptly. We watch this steaming with satisfaction, which shows itself in our faces. That is the most expeditious way to dry leather, but it is certainly not the best. Although the boots are not scorching, they are to some extent burning, and the heat which produces rapid evaporation is also damaging the leather. All the 'life' is being taken out of the material; it loses its pliability proportionately to the degree of heat, and the boots have their period of service correspondingly shortened. The best plan would be to bury the boots in some substance that will absorb the wet, such as sawdust. As that process of drying offers disadvantages by reason of the possibility of the sawdust not being entirely removed, we should let the leather dry slowly and naturally. A warm atmosphere will do, but the heat of the fire is detrimental.

*Maureen*

'Catholic Marriages.' The book of the hour. Single copies, 1s posted. Apply Manager, *Tablet*, Dunedin.