

CHRISTIAN UNITY

In the course of a sermon delivered on Sunday, December 4, in the Cathedral, Baltimore, Cardinal Gibbons said:—

A single illustration will suffice to exhibit in a strong light the widespread dominion of the Catholic Church, together with her organic unity. Take the Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, opened in 1869, and presided over by Pope Pius IX. Of the thousand Bishops and upwards now comprising the hierarchy of the Catholic Church, nearly eight hundred attended the opening session, the rest being unavoidably absent. All parts of the habitable globe were represented at the Council.

The Bishops assembled from Great Britain, Ireland, France, Germany, Switzerland, and from almost every nation and principality in Europe. They met from Canada, the United States, Mexico, and South America, and from the islands of the Atlantic and the Pacific. They were gathered together from different parts of Africa and Oceania. They went from the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates, the cradle of the human race, and from the banks of the Jordan, the cradle of Christianity. They travelled to Rome from Mossul, built near ancient Nineveh, and from Bagdad, founded on the ruins of Babylon. They flocked from Damascus and Mount Libanus and from the Holy Land, sanctified by the footprints of Our Blessed Redeemer.

Those Bishops belonged to every form of government, from the republic to the most absolute monarchy. Their faces were marked by almost every shade and color that distinguish the human family. They spoke every civilised language under the sun. Kneeling together in the same great council hall, truly could those prelates exclaim, in the language of the Apocalypse: 'Thou hast redeemed us, O Lord; to God in Thy blood out of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation' (Apoc. v., 9).

The Eucharistic Congress.

At the recent Eucharistic Congress of Montreal a great multitude of worshippers were assembled from various parts of Europe and America. Even Australia and Africa were represented. Let us suppose that a pilgrim from Germany or Switzerland, ignorant of the language of the country, is walking the streets, when he hears the sound of the Cathedral bell. What hallowed associations it arouses in his memory! He accepts its voice as an invitation to prayer. He sees the cross-crowned spire, and the cross speaks to his heart. And entering the Cathedral, while the tears run down his sun-burned cheeks, he exclaims: 'How lovely are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! My soul longeth and fainteth for the courts of the Lord. For the sparrow hath found herself a nest, and the turtle dove a home. Thy altars are my home, my King and my God.' Looking around him, he observes the paintings of the saints, and of the Lord of saints, whom he was accustomed to venerate at home. He sees the baptismal font, which reminds him of the days of his baptismal innocence, and the words of the psalmist rush spontaneously to his mind: 'I will go to the altar of God, to God who rejoiceth my youth.' He sees the confessionals, which recall to his mind the place where he was accustomed to kneel at the feet of the Lord's anointed and hear those saving words: 'Thy sins are forgiven thee.' He sees the altar rail where he was accustomed to partake of the Holy of Holies. He beholds the altar ablaze with lights. He sees the Pontiff and priests clothed in their sacred robes, those quaint old garments so strange to him who is not of the household of the faith, but as familiar to the exile as his mother's face. He hears the sound of the organ and the chant of the choir singing the joyful 'Gloria in Excelsis' and the immortal Creed. He listens to the words of the Preface, that masterpiece of musical creation, so simple yet so sublime, so familiar, yet so soul-stirring. He sees a multitude of kneeling worshippers like himself, and he feels in his heart of hearts that he is in the presence of brothers and sisters who have with him 'one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in us all.'

One, Catholic, and Apostolic.

I believe in the one holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. Oh, my brethren, what a charm there is in these words! They are honey to my lips, music to my ears, and sweet jubilation to my heart. They send an indescribable thrill through my inmost soul. I believe in the one, holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. This profession of faith is a sacred bond of union between us. It binds us to our brethren in ages past, adown the centuries to Apostolic times. It unites us to them in ages yet to come, till time shall be no more. It associates us with the saints in Heaven above and on earth beneath.

Wherever I wander as a pilgrim and a stranger over the face of the earth I need no other passport in order to find a warm welcome and to be received into the hearts and homes of my brethren in the Lord.

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Domestic

By MAUREEN

To Bleach Yellow Lace.

First expose the lace to the sunlight in soapsuds, and afterwards dry it on a cloth, pinning the points or scallops in their proper places. Then rub both sides of the lace carefully with a sponge, dipped in suds made of glycerine soap, and rinse free from soap with clear water, in which a little alum is dissolved. Next pass a small quantity of rice-water over the wrong side of the lace with a sponge, iron with care, and lastly pick out the flowers with a small ivory stick.

To Wash Chamois Skins.

In washing chamois skins (or any garment made of that material), make warm suds of mild soap, or simply put a little ammonia in the water. They must not be wrung out like other clothes; but pin them on a piece of cloth and hang them before the fire, rubbing the articles every few minutes with the hands to prevent stiffening. Rub them as much in shape as possible.

Hot Fomentations.

There is nothing that will relieve pain more quickly than hot wet cloths, but it is hard on the hands to wring them out of hot water. We have found it an excellent plan to lay the cloths in a steamer over a kettle of boiling water. They are piping hot and just moist enough. There should be two cloths to make the changes, as they are worse than nothing unless changed often. If the pain does not lessen at once, pour a few drops of vinegar over the cloths while on the steamer. A thick, dry cloth should be spread over the wet one so that the clothing will not become damp. Do not let anyone suffer pain if it can be so easily relieved. A hot-water bottle is a very comfortable, convenient thing to have in case of sickness, but does not relieve acute pain like the hot fomentations.

Hygienic Diet.

In these days when the attention is so frequently called to health foods, to maintaining the proper proportion of the health-giving elements, the phosphates, the carbonates, and the nitrates, the question often arises, 'How may I know what foods are meant, without a study of the chemical analysis of each article used?' The question may be simply and efficiently answered by saying that all natural foods are healthful. The grains, milk, eggs, fruit, vegetables, oysters, and meats, all contain the elements needed for the development of the human system, and such a diet is easily followed and will prove beneficial. It is the 'made dishes,' the salads, pastry, and highly-seasoned relishes that prove injurious to the digestive organs and consequently to the general health. Of course it is essential that these natural foods be prepared in a proper manner, for the best of foods may have their health-giving properties quite destroyed by the manner in which they are cooked, or otherwise treated. But follow nature in the selection of foods, and you cannot go far amiss.

Old Screens.

A simple and inexpensive method of renovating an old screen is to cover it with heavy wall paper, either a plain paper of damask or satin-like surface, or one showing a large floral design. A certain amount of care should be taken in the covering process if the screen is to work well. The first proceeding is to measure a fold of the screen with great accuracy, and then with very sharp scissors to cut the paper to fit exactly inside the surrounding frame which encloses the cloth of the previous covering. Have in readiness some thin glue, and with this quickly brush the edge of your paper. An inch or two is sufficient. If too much glue is applied it will cause the paper to cockle. Apply the strip deftly to the screen, and with a soft clean cloth press it firmly into contact. Proceed in like manner with each fold, laying the screen flat upon a large table for greater ease in working. Sometimes the edges do not require any kind of finish. But when this seems desirable, a narrow border of gold Japanese leather paper, or round brass-headed nails serve the purpose admirably. It is quite easy to obtain a richer effect by employing one of the beautiful Japanese leather papers, which are now to be had in all sorts of different designs and at almost any price. These can be applied to the screen in exactly the same manner. A screen of plain paper may in several different ways be rendered more ornamental. One method is to mount a good-sized photograph, in bromide or platinum-type, on each flap near the top. Or, if desired, more than one print may be employed, these being arranged symmetrically against a paper of suitable tone. Another pretty way of rendering a plain screen more attractive is to hang upon it any small miniatures, pictures, bas reliefs, bits of silver, medals, coins, and so on. Not only do these serve to make the screen into a feature in itself, but it is an ideal way of displaying little collections of this kind.

Maureen

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