

# The Family Circle

IN IONA.

ST. COLUMBA TO A SEA-BIRD FLYING  
TOWARDS IRELAND.

PRAYER.

In the war against sin, in the fight for the  
faith,  
May thy children, O Saint, resist unto death.

Swift through the sunset's glew,  
O wild sea bird, thou like an arrow fliest,  
To Erin, where the singing waters flow,  
On pinions broad thou hiest:  
Among her cliffs that spurn the billows' foam  
Thou wilt find thy friends again and build a  
pleasant home.

Away, speed fast away!  
I watch thy snowwhite wings in sunlight  
glancing;  
Beneath thee, soaring thus o'er ocean spray,  
The merry waves are dancing:  
That I could with thee sweep to Erin's shore,  
In life or peaceful death to leave her never-  
more!

Oh, bear mine heart with thee!  
My native land is bright, and sweet, and  
holy;  
There live the saints by bill, and lake, and  
sea,  
The saints, so meek and lowly;  
Her sons are kingly men, straight, strong  
and brave,  
Her daughters fair are pure as white crest  
of the wave.

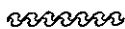
Oh, bear with thee mine heart!  
For thou hath never sinned, and so, re-  
joicing,  
Away to well-beloved Erin dart;  
While I, my sorrow voicing,  
Behold, ay me, but sterile wave and sand—  
I see not Derry's oaks, I tread not Arran  
strand.

O happy bird, adieu!  
As foam-flake melts into the boundless  
ocean,  
So in the heavens thou fadest from my view:  
A speck without a motion,  
Thou still art there:—but now . . . lo!  
thou art gone,  
And I who hailed thee stand upon this beach  
alone.

My native land, farewell!  
May gladness laugh o'er all thy plains and  
mountains,  
And aye be heard thy holy Convent bell  
Beside thy streams and fountains!  
True Faith abide in woods, vales, perfumed  
leas,  
Within thy silver ring of foaming, flashing  
seas.  
—M. J. WATSON, in *Pearls from Holy Scrip-  
ture for Our Little Ones*.

DEATH RATHER THAN MORTAL SIN.

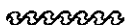
When Queen Blanche became the mother  
of St. Louis, she received him from God as  
a treasure to be guarded with the utmost  
care. From his earliest years she kept one  
great thought before his mind—to love above  
all things his Heavenly Father, and never  
to offend Him by sin. Often when the little  
boy was playing by her side or sitting on  
her knee, she would say to Him: "My dear  
child, God knows how much I love you, yet  
sooner would I see you lying dead at my  
feet than know that you had offended God  
by a mortal sin."



HOLY GHOST WITH HIS CHURCH  
MILITANT.

The descent of the Holy Ghost upon the  
Apostles was not a grace peculiar to them  
alone, but a benefit which Jesus Christ had  
merited for the whole Church, and conse-  
quently permanent and eternal, like the  
Church itself: "The Spirit of truth, that He  
may remain with you forever." Moreover,  
since the day when the Holy Ghost descended  
for the first time upon the Church, new-  
formed and enclosed within the Cenacle, He  
has never ceased to descend upon it during  
all succeeding ages, to enlighten, to animate,  
and to sanctify it, although in a different  
manner.

Upon the Apostles, He descended visibly  
in the form of tongues of fire; and on the  
faithful He descends invisibly every day, es-  
pecially through the medium of the Sacra-  
ments, in which, under different signs, He  
communicates Himself with His graces. But  
although insensible and invisible from with-  
out His descent is nevertheless the same, as  
to its operations, in well disposed souls.



DUTIES OF FAITH.

Your knowledge of the truth of the faith  
imposes on you the duty of being well in-  
formed on the teachings of that faith. If  
you truly believe that God has spoken, doubt-  
less you will be careful to learn what He  
has spoken, for nothing is so precious or so  
noble as the Word of God.

The truth and beauty of the faith are  
not yours as a selfish possession for your  
own mere personal good. They are a pre-  
cious charge which you must convey to others,  
and which you will have to answer for here-  
after.

Our Lord came on earth to kindle a fire,  
and it is you who must help carry the brands  
abroad.

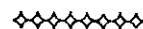
If you are ill-instructed in your faith you  
either do not believe that it is the Word of  
God, or you will not take the trouble to  
find out just what God has said. There is  
a third possibility, that you cannot get in-  
struction.

But that is negligible now, when the  
printed word is everywhere.

Christian Vocation.

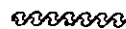
To be at the same time humble and brave,  
gentle and courageous, to know one's faith  
well, to live it out devotedly, and to give  
generously of the truth to other men, this  
is the vocation of every Christian. Do not  
compare yourself with the world about you.  
You are the salt of the earth, the light of  
the world, a city seated on a mountain, and  
you cannot be hid.

For shame or for glory, you have been  
given by God a priceless treasure which has  
not been given to most other men. You must  
account for it; you must use it well. Not  
to use it at all is to abuse it most dread-  
fully. Your gratefulness for the gift must  
shine out in your use of it.



POOR SPELLERS.

Will somebody please explain (asks an ex-  
change) why when children in school get  
A's hundreds, stars and all manner of daz-  
zling marks for spelling so many men and  
women of to-day cannot spell well enough  
to write an ordinary letter? If they are  
business men they have to depend on steno-  
graphers, and unless the stenographer is  
the exception the letters go out misspelled  
and punctuated by the sprinkling method.  
As for the ladies, some leading club women  
are such wretched spellers that when their  
communications to the newspapers arrive  
they must be examined rigidly for errors.  
That some of these estimable ladies are col-  
lege and university alumnae does not mat-  
ter. They can't spell. This is the experience  
of newspaper people in many cities. We do  
not know the remedy. We do know this:  
that those who went to school  
in the 'eighties and 'nineties learn-  
ed to spell and everybody who  
was not feeble-minded knew how. Can it  
be that the method of teaching was superior?  
If so, why not return to it. The person who  
can spell is becoming the exception.



BE KIND.

Be kind—for oh! a kind word spoken  
To those whose hearts are well-nigh broken,  
Shall never pass away;  
That kind word is a secret treasure,  
Whose recompense, beyond all measure,  
Waits the great judgment day.

Be kind! Unto thy grieving brother  
The love that cheers thee from another  
Do thou in turn impart;  
The kind deed wrought shall pass?  
Oh, never!  
Its blessed fruit remains forever,  
Deep in the Sacred Heart.

Thy kindly word again shall greet thee,  
When Jesus shall come forth to meet thee,  
And thou His face shalt see;  
The Heart of Jesus has remembered;  
"The kindness," He will say, "once rendered,  
You rendered unto Me."

**Boyes' Di-Jestol**

The Magic Digestive Powder. Re-vitalises the digestive system, and cures  
Indigestion, Gastritis, Flatulency, etc. PRICE 3/- (postage paid) CHEMIST

**F. EDWARDS  
HAMILTON**