

Good which contains in itself pre-eminently and transcendently all possible objects of human desire, lies the solution of the unrest and yearning of humanity. Union with God and the tasting of the sweetness of the Lord is the one thing that makes Heaven the source of happiness such as eye seeth not nor ear heareth and the heart conceiveth not. And so, once more, the child who knows his penny catechism can solve easily the riddle that baffles the blind philosophers.

Ennui

Mr. Dooley's greatest obstacle when he came to make New Year resolutions was that if he gave up quarrelling with Hogan he might die of "ongwee." Readers of Heine will remember his mordant description of the Englishman driven by ennui all over the Continent, through art galleries that he cannot appreciate, into churches which his dull soul cannot admire, among grand mountains and by broad rivers whose scenery is all lost on him, and finally back again to the greater ennui of his own misty, grey land. It is a terrible disease, this boredom, this *tadium vite*, this emptiness of mind and spirit that lowers men until they are little higher than the brutes; and it is becoming more prevalent as time goes on, bringing in its lapse deeper materialism, more sordid satiety, less ground for hope and faith in a better and higher world. Aimless lives, souls driven hither and thither like the spirits seen by Dante in the *inferno* that swept them past like a whirl of dead leaves, are common nowadays, and the farther men recede from the healthy joyousness of Christian customs the faster the disease will spread. It is essentially a pagan disease, and nowhere was it better described than in the pages of the pagan poet Lucretius. What a picture of the man who is consumed by ennui we have in the following lines:

*Exit super fores manus arctatas ex illis,
Esse domum quere conclusam et, subitoque recessit,
Quippe foris nila melius quae sentiat esset.
Cecidit agens manus ad villam percipitante,
Auridium testis quasi ferre uidentibus instans:
Osculat exemplum, atq'igit eum limina villae,
Aut abit in somnum gravis, atque obliuia quaerit:
Aut etiam properans urbem petit, atque revisit.*

The English of which is:-

"He goes out of his magnificent palace, tired to death of being in the house, and he comes back again quickly, for he feels that he is no better out. He rushes away, driving his steeds headlong to his villa as if he were going to put out a house on fire. Once across its threshold he either falls asleep, seeking oblivion, or else hurries back to town again."

Idleness, says the old proverb, is the mother of mischief; and it is also the parent of ennui. The man whose hands are hard from honest toil knows no ennui; and to him repose comes as a blessed solace after labor. The student who loves his books never finds life tiresome or its days too long, and it is with difficulty you will drag him away from his library. The spiritual man who knows that each moment has an eternal value has no sense of ennui, because he has no time to waste. For those who are not engaged in constant hard work, or who are not earnest students, or who do not know the meaning of eternity and what a value time has in the light of that meaning, it is often recommended that they should have some hobby to engage their attention, lest worse things happen them. As ennui is a disorder, its remedy lies in order; and as a life of order is the only life fit for a human being, the prescription for the disease is in three words: Be a Man!

Act, act in the living present,
Heart within and God o'erhead.

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DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph's Cathedral from the 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday. In the evening, after Compline and sermon, there was the usual monthly procession, followed by Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

In continuation of the missions now being conducted by the Marist Missionary Fathers throughout the diocese, Rev. Father Ainsworth will commence a mission at Mosgiel on Sunday, and Rev. Father O'Leary one at Omakau, each to extend over a fortnight.

All holders of art union books in connection with the recent carnival in aid of the Christian Brothers' new residence building fund are urgently requested to send in all blocks and returns without delay.

In observance of the Month's Mind of the late Sister M. Dymuna, O.S.D., Solemn Requiem Mass was offered in St. Joseph's Cathedral on Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock. Rev. Father Kaveney was celebrant; Rev. Father Delany, deacon; Rev. Father Ardagh, subdeacon; and Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., master of ceremonies. The impressive incidental music was sung by the Dominican Nuns' Choir. There was a numerous congregation.

The Dunedin honorary secretary of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and the Royal College of Music, London, has been advised that the gold medal has been awarded for the local centre in the advanced grade examinations, which were held in Dunedin in November last, to Miss Roberta Simpson (advanced grade, piano), daughter of Mr. J. B. Simpson, of York Place, and pupil of St. Dominic's Priory. This young lady was also successful in securing the highest marks in the recent Trinity College harmony examination, senior grade.

The national concert in celebration of St. Patrick's Day will be given on Wednesday evening next, March 17, in the Grand Picture Theatre, Princes Street. The proceeds are intended to supplement the building fund of the new residence for the Christian Brothers. An exceptionally fine programme has been arranged, which includes items by some of our leading vocalists and instrumentalists, and it is a foregone conclusion that a bumper house will reward the efforts of the promoters.

Members of St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's branches of the H.A.C.B. Society, in regalia, will assemble at St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, on Sunday next, and approach the Holy Table in a body at the 9 o'clock Mass, in honor of the approaching Feast of St. Patrick. It is earnestly hoped that every member of both branches, who is able, will attend on the occasion. On Wednesday, March 17, the Feast day of the Apostle of Ireland will be observed with due solemnity at St. Patrick's Basilica, when High Mass will be celebrated at 9 o'clock, and a panegyric of St. Patrick preached by Rev. Father Ainsworth, S.M.

THE EDITOR OF THE TABLET.

All our Australian exchanges have made complimentary reference to the Rev. Dr. Kelly, Editor of the *N.Z. Tablet*, in noticing the recent tribute paid to him after the retreat at Holy Cross College, Mosgiel. In the course of a reference made to the subject the other day by the *Melbourne Tribune* the term "this splendid Australasian Catholic journal" was used when stating that the presentation was from supporters of the *Tablet*.

The American Catholic Historical Association came into existence a short time ago. From Maine to California and from Canada to the Gulf, scholars, priests, nuns, and laymen gathered and formed an organisation, the sacred impulse of which is to amalgamate national Catholic effort toward a better understanding of the long and heroic past of the Church. The session opened with prayer by Right Rev. Mgr. T. C. O'Reilly, D.D., Vicar-General of the Cleveland diocese, who also presided. Rev. Peter Guilday, Ph.D., Professor of Church History of the Catholic University of America, Washington, who has taken a very active part in the formation of the new association, read a paper on "Method of Organisation," and after some discussion a constitution was framed and adopted.

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