

## Morning Star and Catholic Messenger.

NEW ORLEANS, SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 1875.

## JUVENILE COLUMN.

## WITHOUT A BLEMISH.

(Cleveland, Ohio, Catholic Universe.)  
"Marian, do you suppose any one lives who has not an imperfection; and is not that imperfection a blemish?"  
"No one is absolutely perfect, Alfred; and even if we were so happy as to have but one imperfection, if this imperfection is not well taken care of, it becomes an actual blemish. But why do you ask such a serious question?"

"I took the Life of King Alfred, from the library this week, thinking I should like to know something about all the great Alfreds in the world. The first thing I came across in the preface, was, that 'Alfred' character was without a blemish."

"And you, Alfred, perverse fellow that you are, immediately concluded that Alfred had a blemish!"

"Yes, sister, just like every other mortal; unless sanctified, like St. John the Baptist, before his birth."

"It is one thing to have an imperfection or even a blemish, and another to keep that imperfection. If I have read history aright; (and one who reads Lingard's history is pretty sure to do so), Alfred had not only one imperfection, but several. Like many sons of good mothers, Alfred was a good boy and a good youth; and when he first took his seat on the throne of England he was as good a king as one so young knows how to be. But after a while, the holy lessons of his mother, Osburga, were forgotten by Alfred in the excitement of a court life. I suppose he was flattered like all kings, like all persons in high places, and he became selfish. He was selfish in loving his own pleasure better than virtuous asceticism. He was selfish in desiring riches for himself rather than prosperity for his people. He was selfish in turning away his ear from the cry of the needy and the oppressed, and listening to the flattery of his courtiers."

"This is not a very pleasing picture of my Alfred the Great, Marian. I was willing to have you tell me of some small imperfection, but I do not care about having all the romance stripped from my hero."

"Ah, this is the way the world talks, Alfred! But let us see what happened. Alfred was sitting quite at ease on his throne of Wessex. What had he to fear? He would have laughed if any one had warned him of coming danger. He did laugh, no doubt when his holy kinsman, St. Neot, reproved him for his selfishness, so unworthy of a Christian king. But, for all that, the storm came. Gothrun, one of the Danish chiefs who had been driven from Alfred's dominions, kept a keen watch upon the young king. On the very first day of the year 878, Gothrun sent to all his veterans to meet him, on horseback, at a certain place. On the 6th of January, the Feast of the Epiphany, the pagan Gothrun was in possession of Chippenham, the villa of the Christian king Alfred, on the left bank of the river Avon. It is supposed that Alfred was actually at Chippenham when the alarm was given, but managed to escape without falling into the hands of the enemy. But wherever he was hidden, he saw himself surrounded by heathen barbarians and almost without attendants."

"Not a very pleasant position for my Alfred the Great."

"Not very pleasant, but exactly the one to give our selfish young king a chance to think about the life he had been leading. This is one of the blessings of a good Christian training in one's youth. He had forgotten the precepts of his pious mother, Queen Osburga, while sitting securely on his throne. But when he found himself a wanderer, hiding from a pagan enemy, he remembered, with shame, the selfishness of his prosperity, and acknowledged, as any Christian would, that he had brought all these woes upon himself. Instead of doing rash things, as he was inclined to do at first, he listened humbly to his old thanes or lords. Finally, he dismissed them altogether from attending upon him; and, alone and on foot, found an island in the midst of a morass in Somersetshire. It was to this island afterwards called Ebelingey, or Prince's Island, that all who remained faithful to Alfred at last found their way. During this retreat, alone and on foot, in a miserable island in the midst of a swamp, our young king was obliged to pass himself off for one of those poor people whom he had despised. One day, towards evening, he came to the cottage, or hut, of a swine herd. Hungry and weary, he asked for food and a night's lodging of the mistress of the hut. He was allowed to come in; and perhaps something in the voice or look, or manner, of the hungry stranger, touched her womanly heart. But, then, everybody must be useful; and as he sat by the blazing logs in the chimney corner, she bade him watch the cakes she was baking for supper in the ashes. The good peasant woman bustled about, and spread her table, and made a place for the stranger; but when she came to her cakes on the hearth they were burned! 'And this is the way, you worthless vagabond, that you watch the cakes for your own supper as well as mine!' screamed the woman. Do you think our young king dared to fly into a grand passion and tell her who she was scolding? No indeed; but picking up the cakes from the hot ashes as fast as he could, he set them on the table with such a good will to repair his mischief, that the woman forgave him. 'Never mind, my good youth, they might be worse; and perhaps you have not been used to minding hearthcakes. Sit down and satisfy your hunger.' You see, our young king was growing wise. By the time he had lived on his island long enough to be well punished for all his wrong doing, his thanes were ready to join him. Odu, one of his bravest lords, won a great victory; actually captured the mysterious standard of the Raven or Red-jan?"

"But why was it called mysterious?"

"The Danes said that it was woven, in one nocturnal, by the three daughters of Ragnar. They always watched the bird or raven on the standard, when they went to battle. It seemed to flap its wings, they expected victory, but if it hung motionless in the air they were sure of defeat."

"And Odu captured their Raven?"

"Yes, and from this time the Anglo-Saxons took heart. Gothrun himself fell into the hands of Alfred. A few weeks after his baptism, kept his word with Alfred, as a Christian should."

"And Alfred kept his word with Gothrun, I hope, Marian."

"Oh yes; and not only with Gothrun,

but with all his own people and with God himself. From that time, we may indeed say that the character of Alfred was without a blemish."

"I like the ending of the story—"  
"The History, if you please, Alfred!"  
"I like the ending of the history, then, Marian. I am half inclined to think it is better to tell things just as they are, than to try to gloss them over, and call our heroes perfect when they are not. I should have been very much pleased to have heard that Alfred was always great, though not quite perfect; but there is one good thing about our Church, Marian, now, as well as in king Alfred's time, repentance is counted a virtue."

"Yes, Alfred the next best to innocence."

Splendid mixed tea, one dollar per pound, at the Tea Depot, 5 Camp street.

Anonymous, but good: All honor to the Tennessee Legislature for passing the dog law. It is an important step in the direction of progress and civilization. Looking over into dog-cursed Georgia we find the wool interest prostrate from the same causes which operate here; but the Legislature have not got up to the point of passing the dog law. They will work up to it after a while, meantime buying their wool and woolsen goods in other sections, and complaining daily that there is "no money in the country." No, there is no money in the country, but plenty of dogs. In twenty one counties of Georgia, as shown by the late census, the negroes own and feed 4211 dogs, and but 265 sheep, or about fifteen dogs to one sheep. Healthy condition of things! Vigorous community! Great inducements to emigration!

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## MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

T. FITZWILLIAM &amp; CO.

Stationers, Printers, Lithographers,

AND

BLANK BOOK MANUFACTURERS.

CAMP STREET.

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The particular attention of the Mercantile Community is called to our large and well-assorted stock of

BLANK BOOKS, PAPER, INK, PENS,

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OFFICE STATIONERY GENERALLY,

and to our complete facilities for the execution of

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in all its branches, in the NEATEST STYLE and at

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FARMERS FOR SALE.

Our citizens will now see that the close of the extra session of the Legislature unfortunately brings no immediate improvement to our depressed city commerce, hence capital and labor are left to look forward to a long, dull summer. However, there is consolation for all at the Agricultural Bureau, which is prepared to offer abundant proof that the industrious farmer is always enjoying all the prosperity he did in the most prosperous times. Farming is neither difficult nor very laborious in these latitudes, and we feel assured that thousands of good and intelligent people never stop to think what a prosperous, independent and happy life can be had in the country with a mere fraction of the capital that any city business requires. For instance, we offer Farms for sale, under lease, with crops, mules, mules, cows, hogs, fowls, etc., with good, comfortable dwellings, outbuildings, etc., in healthy localities, close to the city, at from One Thousand to Four Thousand Dollars, and others still higher in price, on liberal terms, and also in exchange for city property. In addition to the above, we offer this week several small places on the Gentilly Road and a few large plantations below the city and on the Teche, at ruinous prices; also some very desirable Lake and Sea Shore residences. Apply to AGRICULTURAL BUREAU, my33 1m No. 68 Canal Street.

TUG "BELLE DARLINGTON,"

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Harbor and Coast Job Boat,

is prepared to do all kinds of TOWING on most reasonable terms. Special attention paid to dropping and delivering COAL BOATS to Planters.

For further information apply or write to

JAS. SWEENEY, Owner,

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SELLING OUT.

500 French CORSETS, cost \$1.25, at 65c.

400 Hand-made " " 4.00, at \$2.50

350 Wood " " 2.00, at 1.00

250 " " 5.00, at 3.00

175 Real Robert Worthy CORSETS, cost 5.00, at 3.50

150 " " 3.00, at 2.00

500 Miesse's best long double-bone CORSETS, cost 1.50, at 90c.

Also, 1500 CORSETS, slightly soiled, which will be sold at half of original value.

M. REIMAN,

550 Magazine st., next to corner of St. Mary, formerly Bank of Lafayette.

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DEALERS IN HARDWARE,

Iron, Steel, Copper, Brass, Lead, Galvanized Spikes,

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Brass and Composition, Ship Hardware, Builders' Hardware and Fire Grates.

Locksmiths and Bell Hangers' Materials.

Together with the greatest variety of every description of Mechanics' Tools and Hardware to be found in the South, at reasonable prices.

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For sale by all Dealers and Country Merchants throughout the Cotton States, at

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## EDUCATIONAL.

MOUNT ST. MARY'S COLLEGE,

EMMITSBURG, MD.

To meet the convenience of His Eminence, CARDINAL McCLOSKEY, Archbishop of New York, who has consented to present the Commencement at Mount St. Mary's College, Emmitsburg, Md., will be held this year on Wednesday, the 23d inst. of Wednesday, the 23d of June.

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COLLEGE

OF THE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION,

Corner of Common and Baronne streets,

NEW ORLEANS.

This Literary Institution, incorporated by the State of Louisiana, and empowered to confer degrees, is conducted by the Sisters of the Society of Jesus. The buildings are well adapted for educational purposes. A country, centrally out of the street, is reserved for recreation; so that, from the arrival of the pupils, at 3:30 A. M., till their departure at 4 P. M., they are constantly occupied and supervised.