

Morning Star and Catholic Messenger. NEW ORLEANS, SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 1876.

JUVENILE COLUMN.

"GIL." A ragged, sad-eyed boy, aged nine or ten, stopped me on the street the other day and said:

"I haven't had anything to eat this whole day. Won't you please give me ten cents?" I gave it to him. I'd have given him the money if it had been necessary to pawn my hat.

"Do you let impostors swindle you in that manner?" inquired an acquaintance. A journalist who has knocked around a daily paper for a dozen years has seen every phase of human life. Men, women, and children have swindled him or sought to; people have lied to him; his money has been given to whining, lying vagrants who told direful tales of distress, and he ought to be able to correctly read human nature.

"I'll bet that boy is a professional beggar," continued my friend chuckling at the idea of my being swindled. None of us care for the loss of a ship's crew on the street while every one feels vexed and annoyed at the idea of being swindled out of a single penny. I could not say that the boy was not a swindler, and yet I would have divided my last shilling with him.

"Why?"

"I told my friend why, and I will tell you. One day last year when the wild wind blew the snow over the house roofs and around the corners in blinding clouds, and when the frosty air cut one's face like a knife, a boy of ten came up to me as I waited for the car. He was thinly clad, his face betrayed hunger and suffering, and in a mournful voice he pleaded:—

"I'm hungry and cold."

"Why don't you go home?" I asked.

"I haven't any."

"Haven't you any relatives?"

"Not one."

"How long have you been here?"

"Three weeks."

The boy spoke in that drawl which professional beggars assume. I believed, too, that I had seen his face on the streets time and again. I hardened my heart and said:—"Boy, I know you, and if I catch you asking any one for money again I'll have you arrested."

He moved away quickly. I argued that this proved his guilt, forgetting that a homeless, friendless waif might evince fear when entirely innocent.

Five hours later, when night had come and the wind had grown to a fierce gale, the boy halted me again as I plunged through the snowdrifts. I did not see him until he called out:—

"Misther, I'm almost starved, and I'll freeze to death if I can't get some place to sleep."

The same thin, ragged clothes, hardly comfortable enough for June weather—the same whine in his voice. I felt like giving him money, but the fear that he had been sent out by his parents to beg restrained and angered me. Catching him by the arm, I yelled out:—

"See here, boy! If you don't own up that you are lying to me I'll take you to the station."

Through the blinding storm I saw his white face grow paler, and he cried back:—"Don't take me—don't. Yes, I was lying."

I released him and he hurried away, while I walked on, flattering myself that I had played a sharp game and done the generous public a good turn.

An hour later, when the night had grown still wilder and colder, some one knocked at my door. It was a timid knock, and I wondered who could send a child abroad on such a night. When I opened the door that same boy was on the step, his face blue with cold, his whole form shivering and a look of desperation in his eyes.

"Please misther," he began, but stopped when he recognized me.

I was puzzled to know why he should have followed me home—why he had selected me for a victim and trailed me so persistently. I might have argued that the storm had driven people off the street, and that the freezing, starving boy had, in his desperation, called at the house, but I didn't. Had it been any other boy or any other person asking charity I would have given promptly and freely. But I was angry at his trailing me—angered that he thought he could swindle me, and I grabbed at him and inquired:—"Boy, what is your name?"

"He heaped back, and standing where the furious storm almost overtook him from sight, he answered:—"Gil."

"I know you, sir," I shouted, and he moved away without another word.

May the Lord forgive me for that night's work; but you might have acted the same. When morning came, after a night so bitter that policemen were frozen on their beats, I opened the front door to find that boy on the steps, frozen to death. I knew, as the dead, white face looked up at me through the snow, that I had wronged him with my suspicions, but it was too late then—the angels had opened to him a gate leading to a place where the human heart and its noblest thoughts can never enter. Poor Gil! A warm meal or a shilling would have saved his life, and I drove him out to his death.

This is why I give when I am asked now. I know that I sometimes give to the unworthy, but it would be better to give all I possess to an impostor than to have another homeless waif creep back to die on the spot where I had unjustly accused him.

THE VALUE OF EDUCATION. Jack was heard calling across the fence to his neighbor's son, a colored youth who goes to school at the Atlanta Colored University:—"Look hyar, boy, you goes ter school, don't yer?"

"Yes, sir," replied the boy. "Gettin' eddykashun, aint yer?"

"Yes, sir."

"Larin' 'rithmetick and figgerin' on a slate, eh?"

"Yes, sir."

"Well, it don't take two whole days to make a hour, do it?"

"Why no?" exclaimed the boy. "You was gwine ter to bring that hatchet back in a hour, warn't yer?"

"Yes, sir."

"An' 's' bin two days sence yer borrowed it. Now, what good's eddykashun gwine ter do you thick a-kashin' niggers, when yer go to school a whole year an' den can't tell how long it takes to lend back a hatchet?"

The boy hesitated for a moment, and then he said:—"Misther, I has a hatchet."

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over the fence and half way through an ash barrel. *oral*—Keep your word, and keep your temper.

MALARIA CAUSED BY INTERMIXTURE OF FRESH AND SALT WATER.

Localities subject to the intermixture of salt and fresh water are particularly prone to malaria. The Maremmas of Italy afford examples of this on a large scale. The Maremma of Lucca consists of three basins formerly dotted over with ponds and pools. It had been for centuries frequently overflowed by the sea tides which intermingled with its fresh ponds. Malarial fevers ravaged it and rendered it almost uninhabitable. To the wayfarer who was so imprudent as to spend a night of August or September within its desolate bounds, the penalty was almost certain death. A remedy for this deplorable condition of things was long sought. A proposition had been made in 1714 by the engineer Rondelli to attempt the exclusion of the sea. Renewed in 1730 by Manfredi, and six years later by Zondrini a mathematician of Bologna, the idea was finally carried into execution in 1740. The initial attempt was made upon the principal and most unhealthy basin. A sluice was constructed at the entrance of Burlamacca through which the water of the sea penetrated into the basin to its central pool. The flood-gate was so arranged as to act like a valve, shutting by the pressure of the rising tide and opening when it fell. The success of this enterprise was so complete that in the following year the miasmatic diseases which had never failed to show themselves annually did not reappear, and the whole district was rendered salubrious. It was at this period that the village of Viarregio, previously abandoned and composed only of a few fishers' huts grouped at the foot of an old tower where galley-slaves were confined, became a fashionable resort during the summer for the aristocracy of Lucca. This fact of a region's being rendered healthy by the exclusion of sea water is curious, but made more decisive still by its counterproof. In 1762-63 fevers suddenly sprang up again as bad as ever in the same territory. Upon the cause being investigated, it was found that the sluice had become deranged and the mixture of waters had been re-established. Upon the flood-gate being repaired, the malaria was again extinguished. The same occurrence happened in 1784-85. The sluice having been neglected, there took place in 1784, out of a population of 1900, the enormous number of 1,200 cases of malarial fever and 92 deaths. In the following year there occurred 103 deaths. The trouble was remedied in the same manner as before. The other portions of the Maremma were rendered healthy later, by sluices successively established at different points. Such a remarkable result necessarily attracted public attention. Leopold II., Grand-Duke of Tuscany, was particularly impressed by it, and he received the great idea of improving the whole Tuscan Maremma in the same manner. It was an immense undertaking which he contemplated—an actual transformation of a large part of his dominions—and it redounds to his glory that he succeeded, in the face of almost insurmountable obstacles, by the means described, and a properly-directed system of canalization and field-culture, in regenerating a very considerable portion of his territory.

It is not difficult to account for the generation of malaria under such circumstances as those just mentioned. The minute form of vegetable life with which both fresh and salt water teem require their own special element for continued existence. The intermixture of salt with fresh water introduces a new element with which the life maintained in each separately is incompatible. The surface of the soil consequently after every invasion and retirement of the tide exposes to the action of the heat a mass of defect vegetable material spread out over an extensive area, and in most favorable condition for speedy decomposition.

SNAKES FROM GEORGIA.—A box forwarded from Georgia to Mr. George Yonge, New York, contains a snake seven feet nine inches long, ten to twelve inches in girth, and with thirty-two rattles and a button. It was met near its breeding place, St. Simon's Island, by a young physician who shot a deal of coonoo every year in preserving specimens. He wished to take this fine specimen alive. He tied a bucket skin thing in a loop to the end of a long pole. Holding it out to the rattlesnake, he soon got the long fangs entangled in the loop, and then hauled the snake home. There is also in the box a fine specimen of the king snake, a rare species. It is as long as the big rattlesnake, but lighter in color, less than one-third the girth, and with a head not more than one-sixth as large. Georgians say that the king snake will wind himself around a rattlesnake and crush it to death. A six-foot rattlesnake is shown upon which the doctor experimented as to how long it could live without food. At the end of nine months and nine days the snake died. A Georgian, in the Georgia Central, shows a scar on his foot where he was bitten by a rattlesnake when he was a small boy. He didn't go home "till it began to hurt." He says that a physician gave him whiskey, and drew out the poison by putting live coals in a tinner ladle, and holding it close to the bite. The bottom of the ladle turned green, as did the inner large vein on his leg, and his left thigh.

How great a fire a little match can kindle! Only a few years ago Mr. Robert Lowe, the sarcastic and eloquent Chancellor of the British Exchequer, was humbled and brought to grief by a rash boast on his part. The monopolists of the fiscal agents of the French match monopoly are undergoing a series of judicial snuffings in consequence of the extravagant zeal displayed by them in prosecuting people suspected of buying matches not duly taxed and ticketed as the productions of the sole company legally authorized to manufacture and vend these useful little inventions. In one case these agents broke into and ransacked the house of a village priest. In another they seized a package of two hundred matches in the house of a respectable lady, which they had no right to enter on such an errand. The tribunal in this latter case condemned the company to pay all the costs of the case, acquitted the lady, and declared that the agents, "inspired by an occult, unavowed and unknown influence, were justly liable to the suspicion of having a personal interest in the seizure, in the form of a reward for their activity from the company." The "moisty" business evidently does not flourish in France.

"And you think, darling, you could be content to share my humble lot, and live in a quiet way with love and me?" queried the blissful lover as he looked fondly into her transient blue eyes. "Why, yes, precious; you have no idea how economical I am. Pa gave me a hundred dollars last week to buy a new silk, and I saved enough out of it to purchase four pairs of six-buttoned kids."

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MARSHAL MACMAHON HIS MINISTERS, AND THE CHAMBER.

The rows in the French Chamber of Deputies are becoming too numerous to be worth recording with any minuteness. M. Gambetta has been talking of "Imperial rottenness," and a Bonapartist deputy has asked whether he might not therefore mention the "Republican dunghill," while another declared that it was quite unnecessary for his party to take in hand the discrediting of the Republic. If this kind of thing goes on it will be quite superfluous for anybody in France to take in hand the discrediting of Parliamentary institutions. But there is now a fresh political complication. The Ministry have not yet been able to come to an agreement with the Left about the Municipal Bill, and the Marshal President took them to task about it on Saturday, telling them that it was clear they had not got a majority. A Bill had been submitted to him which he had approved; then a provisional agreement about it, which he also approved; but if this had failed it was a proof that there was no knowing how far it was necessary to go to the Left in order to get a majority. He would not go any further. "You, M. de Marcere," he is reported to have said, "are my extreme limit. If you cannot command a majority, I will seek one elsewhere—not further to the Left; nor will I change the Ministers of War and Foreign Affairs, whose services are appreciated by the country and by Europe." If people want a Disolution, they shall have it, and "this time it shall not be as under the late Cabinet, no one shall be allowed to cover himself with my name." The authority for these alleged utterances is the correspondent of the Times, who says that the words attributed to the Marshal "if not verbatim are at least authentic," and they are taken to mean that if the Government have not a working majority, the President will name a Fourton Cabinet, which on being beaten in the Chamber—as of course it would be—will, with the help of the Senate, dissolve it. What would follow it is perfectly vain to predict. All that seems certain is that the Marshal would honestly remain where he is till the expiration of his term, and the country would go on through one agitation after another to the weariness and reaction which seem inevitably to follow all Republican experiments in France.—London Tablet, July 8.

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This Institution is located in the above named healthful village, situated at the junction of the Mississippi river and the Bayou Lafourche. It is accessible at all seasons of the year, both by railway and water. Parents will find for their daughters, in this Institution, all the facilities for a Christian and refined education; the course of instruction being the same as that pursued at St. Joseph's Academy, Emmetsburg, Maryland, of which it is a branch. The buildings and grounds are spacious and commodious.

Notre Dame of Maryland. COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE FOR YOUNG LADIES. Near Gowanus, Baltimore Co., Md. Conducted by the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

This Institution is most desirably located three miles north of Baltimore, and is provided with every necessary for health and comfort. The system of education pursued is designed to develop the mental, moral and physical power of the pupils, to make them refined, accomplished and useful members of society.

ST. VINCENT'S HOME FOR BOYS, No. 371 Bienville Street.

The Rev. Fathers of Holy Cross, in charge of the Home, having completed an extension of the building a few boys, having parents or guardians able to pay small sum for their board and education, will be received. Those under twelve years of age will be taken at school at the Home, and those over twelve years will be sent to Holy Cross Model Farm, where they will be employed half the day on the farm and the other half at school.

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ST. VINCENT'S BOARDING SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES, AT DONALDSONVILLE, LA. CONDUCTED BY THE SISTERS OF CHARITY.

NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND. COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE FOR YOUNG LADIES. Near Gowanus, Baltimore Co., Md. Conducted by the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

ST. VINCENT'S HOME FOR BOYS, No. 371 Bienville Street.

PLAIN BOARDING SCHOOLS. The Catholic Orphan Asylum at Natchez, Mississippi, will receive boys and girls as boarders, for the charge of \$10 per month, always paid in advance.