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MIRACLES AND SUPERSTITION!

A Few Declarations of Dupes That Read Like Patent Medicine Testimonials--Have Been Cured of Everything From Fits to Tremens and Restored to Everything From a Lost Memory and Money to Runaway Husbands

The gross ignorance and superstition of papal dupes is nowhere more apparent than in Mariolatry, the worship of the Virgin Mary. Crowned in poetry and pictures as the Queen of Heaven, the fiction as handed down from above is not so repulsive; but, to get the full force of Mariolatry in its effects on the human mind, one must read what the laity say, think, and do as a result of what they are taught.

At Lackawanna, N. Y., is published a Roman Catholic magazine "devoted to the honor of the blessed mother of God." This publication is called "The Annals of the Association of Our Blessed Lady of Victory." It is published monthly and enjoys the privilege of transmission through the mails at the reduced rate given second-class matter.

To those who are unable to distinguish between priestcraft and religion The Annals seems to be an ardent and zealous propagator of pious thoughts; to others it reveals itself as an advertiser of priestly devices for catching pennies and larger coin. Without going into the numerous methods used by the publishers of The Annals for getting the mazzina, it is our purpose to print a few of the letters published therein from admiring dupes who imagine they have received all kinds of favor from the Queen of Heaven; favors secured through purchase and payments made to the said queen's fiscal representatives on earth.

From the October, 1914, number all the following communications are clipped. A devoted mother is quoted as writing them the following:

Mary Cures Fits

"Some time ago a great favor was granted me," announces a mother. "Our little boy was suddenly seized with fits which we could not account for. They continued, one the first day, three the second and two the third day. Our doctor pronounced it a case of epileptic fits. You can well imagine our feelings at seeing our bright little boy of eight years afflicted with such a disease. I placed Our Lady's medal on him and started a novena, and there hasn't been the slightest sign of one of those spells since."

In other words, Mary cures fits. If that little boy had been troubled with a bad piece of tail or work the good lady would no doubt have cured the misfit with the same facility. By use of the miraculous medal, a little pewter idol, and nine days supplication to the dead woman of ancient Galilee, the unfortunate lad was restored to health.

It reminds one of Dr. Pepper's pink pills for piles of pale people who are restored to a ruddy complexion by chewing the printed directions and rubbing themselves with the box. Like Dr. Beecham's bunc in the ailments that flesh is heir to. But you must come to us, the only representatives of Doctor Mary to get the real medicine.

The Mariolatry habit and the patent medicine habit are about on a par, and each appeals to about the same grade of human intelligence. And for people who are satisfied with that sort of thing it will no doubt continue to prove wholly satisfactory.

Restores Reason and Helps Make Money

"A neighbor lady whose mind was affected from the shock of repeated family troubles was given up by the doctors when we appealed to Our Blessed Lady of Victory in her behalf, and soon she was on the road to recovery," writes a grateful friend. "A second favor is the winning of a victory in a business way of my uncle whose opponents were endowed with great wealth and influence. A taper was kept burning and we joined in the Novena for him."

If your head is not on straight, or there is a crossing of wires between the cerebrum and cerebellum, consult the renowned specialists, terrestrial representatives of Dr. Mary, who are to be seen at their laboratories in Lackawanna. Consultation free, everything else charged for according to the ability of the patient to pay. If you are not seen on the road to recovery, two other roads will be found open; one leading to the bughouse and the other to the cemetery.

If you, or your uncles, or your cousins, or your aunts know of a scheme by which you might separate some person of wealth and influence from those desirable possessions, get in touch with the financial representatives of Mary who will see that the deal goes through on the receipt of a modest fee. This is a business opportunity that should not be overlooked by all who wish to get rich quick.

Do not overlook the beneficent aid to be derived from a judicious use of wax and tallow candles; but be sure to get the right brand, duly blessed, from Mary's properly authorized agents at Lackawanna or elsewhere. See that the Latin cross is blown on every bottle or stamped on every package of these wonder-working specifics, all of which have been holy-boned and sprinkled.

Mary Spiked Gun of a Son

A lady states: "Some time ago I picked up my little son's air gun. As I did so it 'went off,' the shot entering my finger at the joint causing a very painful wound, and knowing the danger of lock jaw from such wounds, I at once placed the medal of Our Lady of Victory on the wound. It was perfectly well in a short time having given me very little trouble. I am very grateful to Our Lady of Victory and will always value her medal."

If those soldiers in Europe, who are dying daily by thousands from gun-shot wounds, were only in possession of the information quoted, how the horrors of war would fade away! And who knows how much good the little pewter trinket might do the half-shot? Dr. Mary's mundane managers have these medals to sell at a very moderate price; and who can longer afford to be without at least one? Wouldn't it be a great stroke to wear a suit of armor covered with such blessed bits of metal set close enough together so nothing could get through!

Only one disease more horrible than lockjaw ever reaches the attention of Dr. Mary's specialists: that is a locked purse. To get results be sure to consult them with an open mind and an open pocket book. Even those extraordinary guns "which are not loaded" might respond to such powerful influence and protection. It is a sure thing that the air in an air gun loses all its terrors before the hot air of the holy leaders.

Landlords Take Notice

A gentleman writes: "My house was vacant nearly two years, but after joining in the Novena to Our Lady, Help of Christians, I obtained a very good tenant. Am greatly pleased and thankful to Our Blessed Lady of Victory."

If the bed beetles and leaky roof run your tenants away, and a perverse public demands treatment of the premises by carpenters and fumigators, don't waste money on shingles and sulphur; or scatter shoeleather searching for another renter. Get into wireless communication with Mary. With the Queen of Heaven the supply is always equal to the demand, no matter what its nature or size. She might even squeeze in two tenants where there was only one before, thereby doubling your income at the small outlay of fees and candles.

In fact, her agents guarantee that much and more. They will not only fill vacant houses, but will fill vacant imaginations with fantasies and frenzies too numerous to mention. They will put bats in your garret and creepers in the cellar, bring a begging nun to the door every day before breakfast, and permeate the premises with an odor of sanctity to scare the cats and make the welkin weep.

If you own any uninhabitable shafts don't give your money to lumber sharks and wood butchers, but lug your lucre to Lackawanna where the candle is unquenched and willing waiters tarry to seize the shekels and deliver the goods. They may even take their ten out of the tenant and leave you all the rest.

Fugitive Father Brought Back

We quote: "Dear Father: I am sending the enclosed offering in thanks giving. I asked that my husband would return and that there would be peace in the family, and on the next day all was happiness, owing to our Blessed Mother's help."

Who can doubt that if the great medicine brings father back to a rejoicing family, it would be equally efficacious in removing and keeping him away if that should be preferred. With such a string on the old man he could be fired during the busy season and brought in at will to help eat up the surplus and entertain company. There is something elastic about such an arrangement that appeals to thrift and convenience. The monotony of a pater familias always around and ever in the way here finds its relief, as well as the inconvenience of having no one to consume the tobacco and home brew.

Peace in the family seems to require one of these conditions at one time, and the other at another. Nothing is said in the testimonial as to its working both ways; but it is a reasonable in-

ference that the remedy is reversible and gets father both coming and going. "And on the next day all was happiness." What more could anybody ask? You had better hurry and get the great home remedy today before the supply is exhausted. Do it now.

Beats an Insurance Policy

"A year ago I joined in a novena for a relative who was dangerously ill, and he recovered. Recently our home was spared from the flames which consumed other buildings near by, and I also obtained my request, that the life of a valuable animal might be spared," states a grateful solicitor.

The first experience above mentioned is pretty fair evidence that if you want to kill a relative you must use something else than a novena. Here is an instance which goes to prove that novenas are comparatively harmless; an eminently desirable quality in any medicine. At any rate this relative recovered from the novena, whether seriously afflicted with it or not.

It is too bad that the specific charm which prevented the burning of that house is not mentioned. We are left to wonder whether a miraculous medal was hanging on the hat rack, or whether all the fire lapping about that fortunate house was drawn away to some taper burning somewhere on some pagan altar. We have known of houses being saved from fire by the use of water. Possibly that was the case in this instance.

If we could only know what kind of an animal that was whose valuable life was spared! You know that cats have eight lives to spare besides the one they need to keep. In a case like that the aid of Mary seems superfluous. But if it was a noodle dog, possibly a prize winner at the convocation of canines, then the importance of protection from this source cannot be overestimated. Then there is Dobbins to say nothing of the moo-moo which gives us sweet milk to drink, and the ranny goat which functions similarly as a valuable animal. If the novena saves all these, we might not worry about its effects on a relative.

He Was Good Ever After

"About eight years ago," states a solicitor, "I made a novena in honor of our Lady of Victory, and prayed for the return of my husband who had been some five years, having left me for the company of another. He had made about three novenas when he came back, and he has been a good husband ever since."

This is the second instance of a husband returned by Mary to the bosom of his grief-stricken family. But that is not all; she made a good man of him. Here is where we are bound to sit up and take notice. Medicine that makes something good out of a mere man is more than ordinary. So many husbands come back to the additional grief of the household that one returned in good order and actually improved is a fit and worthy subject for careful investigation.

If we only had his address we might discover what Mary said or did to make him love his happy home. Lack of data makes it impossible to follow this investigation to its proper conclusion. However, we must know that Mary has the dope, and that her authorized agents on this planet are the only means of getting it. Women venturing on matrimony are earnestly urged to lay in a supply of this love philter with which to lure back the delinquent before distressed with long delay. There is no use weeping for five years or even five minutes if you have the ready remedy in the house.

Pleased Patient Pays

"I am sending \$5.00, being the amount I promised Our Lady of Victory should I succeed in selling my store," writes a grateful friend. "Please publish this that others in difficulty may be encouraged to seek help through her powerful intercession."

Here was a man in "difficulty" because he had a store to sell. We know of several people in difficulty because they have no store or anything else to sell. This man got out of trouble on tick which anybody seems to be able to do since Mary sells stores and removes troubles on time or in installments.

The thing that beats us, however, is how Mary is going to get that five dollar bill. From the letter it seems that the money was promised direct to her, but was sent to her financial agents at Lackawanna. Lackawanna is a nice town, but nevertheless, a

long ways from the throne of Queen Mary. We understand that there is a wireless connection between the two places, but do they send money nowadays by wireless?

Mary Got Her a Job

A lady writes: "Dear Father: I wrote asking you to remember me during the novena in honor of Our Lady, Help of Christians, and I obtained my request before the novena closed. My desire was to find good employment, and I have been successful. I hope you will publish this that it may encourage others who have great difficulty in earning their living."

This is rather puzzling. If I were wise to such a certain means of getting everything to be desired, I wouldn't want a job. Why not wire Mary to send a million, and proceed to spend it? There must be some mistake about this. It would certainly be no more trouble for Mary to write a check on her Lackawanna bank than to hunt around for a job or even call up an employment bureau.

If the money that has been pouring into Lackawanna is otherwise appropriated by those in charge of the York State institution, there are other funds to draw upon and always available to one with such a plentitude of power. Just think of a person troubling the Queen of Heaven for a job when she might as well have had the earth or as much of it as needed.

If this story is true it is a horrible example of what a person may lose by being over modest and afraid to ask for the universe. When I get around to it I'm going to ask for the earth less the United States and the Vatican. She wouldn't give them because they belong to Benedict.

Supernatural Counsel for Ten Dollar Fee

From a grateful friend: "Enclosed find offering of \$10.00. From the 10th to the 15th my novena was made that my lawsuit might be settled out of court, and the 13th the settlement was made. I am very thankful to our Blessed Lady through whose intercession I have gained many favors."

What a happy thing to happen on the thirteenth. The thirteenth of September was on Sunday. It may be that Mary attended to it Saturday afternoon at the same time she comes this way to empty purgatory. It shows the folly of wasting big fees on attorneys who would not travel half that far for ten times the money.

To get down to brass-tacks, where is there anyone who will give you so much for your money? If you have money to spend; send it to Mary—that is, to Mary's local representatives. If you haven't any money, open an account; it's all the same. A miraculous medal, costing five cents, is the greatest bargain on the five-cent counter; and keeping out of court for ten dollars is an investment unequalled.

This case is another evidence that a novena need not necessarily cause one to lose. If it was harmful the harm came to the other fellow who never counts. The regrettable thing about these lawsuits is that for every winner there must be a loser; a condition that even a novena can't overcome.

Mary Raised His Salary

"Rev. Father: Enclosed find my offering of thanks to Our Blessed Lady of Victory, as promised, if my petitions were answered during the May Novena. One of these was for an increase in salary, and was granted on the seventh day of the novena, and I feel that it was brought about entirely through Her. Wishing your good work the success it deserves, I remain a grateful member."

It is too bad that these novenas last no longer than nine days. This fellow got a raise on the seventh, and if it had gone on to the eleventh he would certainly have got another. This work of raising salaries is certainly commendable from the standpoint of the fellow who draws the salary; but we wonder what the fellow who pays the salary may say about it if brought to his attention?

To tell the truth, it is hardly the square thing for Mary, with her pile of coin at Lackawanna, to saddle additional wages upon the employer of this person. She might have made this grateful member and his boss both happy by scattering some of her own coin around the neighborhood; but then, it is not for mortal man to question the infallible acts of the Queen of Heaven any more than to question the infallible acts of the pope of earth.

Let the good work go on till that boss learns how to increase his profits by appeals to the same source, when nobody will have anything to grumble at or kick about. Mary is certainly a good girl.

All Kinds of Things

A solicitor announces the following favors granted during the May Novena: "A lady's memory was restored and she obtained money to pay her debts, a girl was cured of a bad tem-

per, and a man was cured of very sore eyes; a young lady obtained a position and a sick child was made well and strong; a man stopped drinking and a girl was cured of heart and lung disease."

What a wonderful blessing it is for a person to get money, and then get a memory so she can remember whom she owes. That is a duplex blessing that sometimes reaches a whole community. In fact, all these things mentioned are extra good and worth going after by such as have sore eyes, sore heads, or sore imaginations.

It is to be hoped, however, that the man who stopped drinking did not stop eating at the same time, since so thorough a reform might, in most cases, prove fatal. The end of several former acquaintances who stopped drinking just prior to their respective funerals suggests that observation.

This mariolatry is a fearful and wonderful thing—more wonderful perhaps in the form of these testimonials than either the doctrine upon which they are based or the facts upon which they are alleged to depend. There are more witnesses; but consideration for our readers bids us pause.

THE POLITICIANS

To hear the papists bawl about "injecting religion into politics" you would think that the Roman Catholic organization is religious. Gee whal!

If the politician is a Catholic, it is a crime to inject the religious issue into politics from the other side of the fence. Romanists themselves are the only people who have the right to use religion in politics.

The fellow who doesn't like to have the religious issue "injected into politics" doesn't have any religion—he's usually a Romanist. If politics was a little more religious, maybe it wouldn't be so infernal rotten.

Governor Glynn, defeated, of New York, "deeply deploring" the fact that the religious issue was injected into the recent campaign. Of course he does. All papist candidates "regret" it, for the reason that it means defeat.

The New York World gives The Merit credit for "injecting the religious issue into politics" in New York and defeating Martin H. Glynn, the pope's candidate for governor. We enter a plea of guilty without blushing.

A friend from Dayton, Ohio, writes: "It is rumored in Dayton that our present governor is taking instruction in the Catholic faith in order to marry a Catholic in Columbus." Why a man should have special instructions to enable him to deal with a Catholic woman does not appear.

The New York Journal of Oct. 31 said: "President Wilson disapproves of the efforts to use religious influence as a campaign issue against Governor Glynn." Of course. Wilson is a democrat first and an American citizen afterwards—he can sympathize with his friends.

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When you go to renew your subscription to The Menace, why not renew for five years? You can get on the list five years for only one dollar, thereby saving twenty-five cents in the transaction and avoiding the trouble and annoyance of being entered on the list anew every year. Not only that, but when you get on the list for five years you will never have to worry about missing an issue of the paper. Send a dollar bill and join the "don't worry" club for five years.

Sore Teeth Diseased Gums

My Book Sent Free Tells All About It

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Showing how the gums recede and the teeth finally drop out. Look in the mirror and see if your teeth are now in this condition. If so, you will welcome the opportunity I offer you to save your teeth. Write for my book, "Sore Teeth and Diseased Gums," free to you, and you will see how simple and painless the treatment is.

Step Despairing. Don't Give Up Hope of Saving Your Teeth.

Write me today and learn more about this new and easy method that you can use at home as there will be no further need for you to undergo the long, painful or expensive dental treatment. Bridges, crowns and false teeth are unhealthily and rarely satisfactory, and through this treatment of the causes of bad and sensitive teeth, gum disease and foul breath, they should be unnecessary.

Why wait until your teeth are so diseased that you are unable to eat? Why wait until you are suffering with "Sore Teeth and Diseased Gums," elongated or loose teeth, gum disease, or spotty gums, if you brush your teeth with my tooth paste while eating? If you are subject to bad tastes—then, for your own sake, send for my book and learn how easy this method is—how painless and speedy—how it will quicken and permanently give you sound, healthy teeth.

Don't wait. There is no pain connected with it. I have received scores of letters from people writing they would have given hundreds of dollars had they known of my simple method in time.

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