

exertions of Washington and his generals to stay their flight, and night came down over the field of Brandy-

wine and found it occupied by the enemy. The key to Philadelphia was won by Howe.

[CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT.]

## CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE.

God and evil have one quality in common, viz.: they infect their surroundings. Have you never observed the good influence of an angel mother on the entire household? Or, do you not remember how a few perverse individuals at school led astray unguarded innocents—perhaps yourself among the number—and spoiled many a wholesome lesson from your teacher?

The drift of our times is away from God toward the world. Mankind's oldest and holiest traditions are fast becoming obsolete; even the most positive teachings of Christianity are questioned, and that by Christians themselves. Such is the result of Godless surroundings.

Holy writ tells us that God made man, and then gave him a help-mate like unto himself. The Creator united them and blessed their union. Almighty God was the priest, Eden's vernal garden, the temple, and Heaven's angels the witnesses at the first solemn marriage ceremony on earth.

Soon the world went wrong. In the fullness of time, God sent his only begotten Son to reform the corruption of the world and its society. Jesus began this reformation at the very root of all social order, namely marriage. The first action of our Saviour's public life was, to assist with His disciples, and with Mary His Mother, at the wedding of Cana in Galilee. As Jesus sanctified the waters of the Jordan, and approved the baptism of St. John by submitting Himself to the ceremony; so did He likewise sanctify and give His approval to wedlock as a holy insti-

tution, by deigning to be present, and there work His first miracle.

Is it not strange that such a holy institution should be so lightly thought of, and that by Christians, yea, even by Catholics?

If matrimony were nothing more than an every day contract or agreement, we could not blame Christians for bestowing so little thought upon it, ignoring the wishes of the Church who insists that the only person having the right to solemnize marriage is her duly appointed minister. "Marriage is a great Sacrament, but I speak in Christ and in the Church."

When Jesus, our Saviour, was about to return to His heavenly Father, He left His Church to continue His work amongst us. His Church is the custodian of His treasures and the dispenser of His graces; her means of communicating them to us are the Sacraments. Our Lord left us a Sacrament to strengthen us at every new phase of life. When born into this valley of tears, we are in the power of satan; but the bonds of sin are broken, and the child is saved from woe "through the regenerating waters of Baptism—the Sacrament which opens to us the gates of God's earthly kingdom, His Church.

As the years of spotless childhood fleet unconsciously by, and reason begins to dawn upon our minds, then commences also the battle for our salvation. In that critical time, our holy Mother Church does not desert us, but gathers us as the fowl her young under her protecting wing, she offers us the forgiveness of our youthful follies