

MIXED MARRIAGE IS ASSAILED BY PRIEST

Tells That Fashionable Grandmothers of Many Protestants took Beads To Bed With Them.

New York, Dec. 16.—"Mixed" marriages, women's fashions, the theatre and other present day customs and institutions were scathingly arraigned by the Rev. Father A. G. Brown, S. J., in his sermon in the Church of St. Ignatius on Sunday.

Quoting from an article by Dr. Austin O'Mally in the current issue of "America," a Jesuit publication, to drive his points home to the large and fashionable congregation, Rev. Father Brown said, in part:

"Despite the optimism of some of our writers, who like to hear the truth about the Presbyterians, but hate to hear it about themselves, the church is losing thousands of her people in America through mixed marriages, proselyting soupers, the rapid degeneracy of the public conscience, avarice, aping the Gentiles, Godless schools, lack of zeal for souls on both sides of the sanctuary rail, dearth of clergy for the new immigrants and many other related causes.

Colonies of Mixed-Married Families.

"Take up any evening paper and you can read of the marriage of Gladys Murphy to Mr. Francis Burke in the Second Baptist Church, by the Rev. Peter Doyle, and every one in the group, from parson to flower girl, had grandmothers that took their beads to

bed with them. In all our large cities there are actually colonies of mixed-marriage families.

"Should the family fortune be established by trade across footpaths, by political contracts, note-shaving or what not, the children are sent to Yale or Vassar as a preliminary boost in social climbing.

"They do not learn catechism at Yale nor do they get far up on the social tree trunk as a rule; but even if the child does mount to the upper branches and the balmy air, the reward appears to be that he, raimented from London, can go to the horse show and watch a society lady, booted and spurred, in voluminous breeches, fade over the water-jump like a scared cotton-tail. Enticing, doubtless, but what's the use? No man knows, the climber excepted.

"Our women strut about the streets wrapped in nothing much but powder, rouge and medieval faces. Even grandmothers waddle about, Corinthian columns reared on French heels, clad like an Irish Sergeant in a Highland regiment, slithering, mincing, ogling, until the devil's face is parboiled with the tears of his laughter.

"I shall be assured in the 'agony column,'" continued Father Brown, "that at least our Catholic ladies do not dress like the Queen of Sheba. Don't they?"

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Well they call themselves ladies.

Criticizes the School Girls.

"The other day I was passing a school just as a number of Catholic girls were coming out. There was a basement window near the gate which made an effectual mirror, and every blessed damsel that appeared took a powder puff from what they call her ammunition box, stuck her budding nose into it, and pattered down the street, looking like the white rabbit in a Christmas pantomime.

"Were these girls dressed modestly? That depends on what part of Africa you come from."

HARLAN'S CHRISTMAS EVE

By E.M. FEHRENBACHER



AOK HARLAN stood before his desk dressed for the street when a boyish voice broke the silence of the office with "What you got in all them bundles, Mr. Gridley?"

It was the office boy, Jim, talking to Gridley, Harlan's manager.

"These bundles? Why, here's a drum; and this is an electric railroad, and here's a game of parchesi. Did you ever play parchesi, Jim? It's a great game, all right. My boy Al gets so excited when he can put one over on me and win a game he can hardly keep from whooping!"

"They're all boys, ain't they?" inquired the office boy.

"Yes, and glad of it, too," answered Gridley. "Here, Jim, is something for your Christmas, and hope you'll have a nice day!"

"Oh, thanks. Good-by, Mr. Gridley. Merry Christmas!" called the boy as the door slammed after the overladen Gridley.

Harlan slid down the top of his desk with a bang and left the office. What a happy little hustling fellow Gridley was; a little shrimp of a man, and yet he always seemed to radiate pleased self-importance and good cheer! Jim caught sight of Harlan as he was going out the front door.

"Merry Christmas, Mr. Harlan," he called. "Thanks for the check and Merry Christmas to you!"

"Merry Christmas, bah! What does Christmas mean to me now, anyway? Christmas is a time for fools and babies," muttered Harlan to himself as he walked to the street car, first telling the waiting chauffeur to drive home without him. And when he got to the car he walked up on Market street; he felt he could not bear the



The News Failed to Interest Him.

inside of a stuffy car. The street at least held a variety of things to divert one's thoughts.

Christmas decorations were on all the buildings; wreaths dangling broad red ribbons hung in most windows and every corner was a jumble of green and red where the flower vendors were selling holly, while "Merry Christmas!" he heard on every side. Great bunches of cherry laurel and eucalyptus boughs made a veritable canopy over the flower vendors' stands, where flashed red and white and yellow carnations, red and green Christmas wreaths and holly.

"Holly here, mister; only 15 cents a bunch, two for two bits. Take a bunch home to your wife," and a flower vendor poked a bunch of holly into Harlan's face.

"No, no!" he cried, brushing the vendor aside, and walked on. At last, unable to stand it longer he jumped into a waiting taxi and called out his home address.

At first he peered from out the taxi; but every window seemed to hold a Christmas wreath and he soon gave up glancing out the window to stare straight before him into the dimness of the cab. When the taxi stopped, he sprang out; paid the fare, and let himself into the house with his latch-key.

A woman in the white apron of a nurse-maid was just ascending the broad staircase as he came into the hall. She had a child with her but Harlan did not see the child; the nurse was too quick in running up the stairs.

"I'm sick of seeing that woman slink away like a thief every time I enter a room where she's had the child. Why under the sun don't she stay away from this part of the house altogether like I've ordered her to?" grumbled the man.

(Continued on page 6.)

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