Eastern Clackamas News

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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Michaelmas

Sept. 29th, which this year falls on this coming Sunday, is a notable one in the ecclesiastical calendar. It is there known as Michaelmas day or the Festival of St. Michael and all Angels. In England, like Christmas, it has its peculiar gastronomical usage, only instead of turkey and cranberries, it calls for roast goose and apple sauce. It is also an important date over there in the legal calendar, as it marks the beginning of the term of court succeeding the long vacation. It is also one of the quarter days on which rents are paid, and in the agricultural districts the tenants would visit their landlords for this purpose, and be entertained by him.

The subject of angels is a most interesting one, concerning which there is much popular misconception. Angels are not the spirits of departed men or women, but a different order of beings altogether. Of surpassing beauty, they appeal to the aesthetic sense and both the artist and poet have found in them inspiration, the one for his muse, the other for his brush.

But while different from the human race, yet they are interested with an important ministry of service in behalf of mankind. As far as history goes back, men of faith have believed in the guardianship of angels. "Angels and ministers of grace defend us!" exclaims the prince of Denmark in the play.

This doctrine of the guardianship of angels was curiously revived at the beginning of the war. At the battle of Mons. some English soldiers were hard hard pressed and were threatened with annihilation from the charging German cavalry. Suddenly the onrush of their enemies was halted, and they were mysterously beaten back. The story runs, that one of the soldiers called on St. George of England and the angels for help, who appeared in answer in the form of the ancient English archers.

The report spread like wild fire, and efforts were made to confirm it. The big newspapers wrote editorials on it. Bishops and noted divines preached on it. At last a well known novelist claimed to have originated the story. But this explanation was not entirely accepted and many today believe that angels did appear to rescue the sore beset British soldiers.

In another column we print an account of an instance of angelic protection, which has the merit of being true. To the incredulous, we would rejoin that "there are more things in heaven and earth, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

It Shall Not Fail!

When the German hordes under the Crown Prince, were launching attack after attack against Verdun, and it seemed that the fortress could not long withstand the savage assaults, and must needs be captured, that its commander issued his famous message "They shall not pass."

This electrified and reassured French, who deemed that if Verdun fell, the road to Paris would be unobstructed to the ruthless invaders.

"They shall not pass," expressed a grim decision which presaged the final victory, which at length was achieved.

So with the immensely colossal Fourth Liberty Loan, its success is sure, if all go at it with this determination, "It shall not fail."

An Angelic Bodyguard.

The remarkable experience related below, was told by a late English bishop, on more than one occasion to his friends.

"When I was a curate in a country village, I received a call one evening to go and minister to a sick person living two miles out. When I arrived at the house I found it empty I rang the bell, and walked around but no one appeared. Considerably perplexed, I returned home, and never knew more about it until long afterwards."

"A year or two after becoming bishop, an unfortunate man under sentence of death for a most brutal murder."

"Utterly obdurate he positively refused to listen to any spiritual adviser. I determined then, to try what I could do, so I visited him in his cell. At my entrance he started, but otherwise remained unmoved. As his time was short I visited him each day, and finally obduracy melted. He became sincerely penitent and I baptized him."

"On taking leave of him the day before his execution, he asked me to stop a moment. 'Do you remember' he inquired, 'once being called out to visit a sick person and finding no one at home?' "Yes, what do you know about it?" I replied. 'Well I was the one who sent the message and I had intended to way lay and rob you.' "Why didn't you?" I asked. 'Because altho you paid no attention to him, a man kept close behind you. There was something so myterious about him that he made me afraid.' To me the explanation of this mystery was plain, I had been protected by a guardian angel, who thus appeared to the would be robber."

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