

# Madonnas with Millions

It is safe to assume that if the value of the votive gifts and thank offerings made at the various notable shrines dedicated to the virgin were estimated, millions of dollars' worth of treasures would be found among the madonnas' mere temporal possessions. Since the adoration of Our Lady became a Christian cult princess and proletariat have never ceased to glorify the sanctuaries of the Mother of Christ by presentation of great values; each one gave in proportion to his purse of such treasures as would testify to an outward and visible thanksgiving for inward and spiritual grace wrought by prayers in her presence.

Year after year these gifts accumulate. At one famous Italian shrine in New York City where the fete of Our Lady of Carmel is held the votive offerings at the spring festival in her honor pour in in such abundance that the jewels, pins, rings, watches, coins, cups, etc., sometimes fill to the brim an ordinary flour barrel. The priests, whose duty it is to gather up the contributions cast by generous hands at the base of the virgin's statue, never pretend to make any estimate of the aggregate worth of the countless trinkets and ornaments received. The contributions are made freely and without imposed conditions by the people who come to worship before the benign mother of sorrows; a few of the loveliest ornaments are preserved to decorate the statue, and the rest of the gifts are utilized in charity and church improvement as the clerical authorities think best.

This clearly proves that, though the adoration of the virgin dates almost from the introduction of Christianity, enthusiastic belief in and love of her shrines and sanctuaries is as keen in the nineteenth as in the second century. Votive offerings to Our Lady pour in upon the madonna as freely in our own country as in Europe, and one little country chapel records gifts to the value of nearly \$15,000 laid by pious churchmen and women at the feet of the blessed lady. Taking all things into consideration the richest shrine of the virgin in the world is in America. This is Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico. The figure of the madonna herself is partly of pure gold, her robes are encrusted with the virgin metal, her shrine so decorated with it that her altar seems a grotto of unalloyed gold. Perhaps the shrine that rank next in value of the offerings bestowed upon them are those of Notre Dame de Chartres in France, and Notre Dame in Antwerp. The madonna of Chartres is a figure partially wrought of ancient wood and finished with gold, silver and jewels. Her sanctuary is in the great cathedral of Chartres and her robes and gowns fairly beggar description. One jeweled veil she wears in sumptuous procession is said to have been given her by the Empress Irene in the days of the emperor Charlemagne, and the statue itself could be easily concealed under the jewels given by generations of ardently pious men and women.

Once in a century the Virgin of the Antwerp cathedral is borne in a magnificent procession through the streets of the Belgian city. Bishops in gorgeous robes and statesmen wearing splendid orders walk before and after the platform on which she is carried, but with her great diadem and marvelous cloak she easily outshines them all, for possibly the English crown jewels alone are admittedly more glorious than these the statue wears. Her coronet is immensely tall and encrusted with precious stones and in her cloak alone several hundred thousand dollars' worth of flashing jewels are strewn upon its velvet and satin widths.

Far down in the south of France is a shrine frequently honored by the exiled

royal family of that country and particularly noted for the unique laces given to the virgin to whom the little church is dedicated. Our Lady of Betharran is not very far from Lourdes, but the sanctuary is much older and has been always tenderly regarded by the ladies of the Bourbon house. In 1843 the countess of Chambord gave her entire wedding dress and bridal veil of lace to this shrine, a gift of no small value in the art world, and previous to the Duchess d'Angontaine presented the Virgin of Betharran with the exquisite lace veil that had been used by Marie Antoinette at her first communion. A little later the duchess of Berry also presented this madonna with her wedding laces and not very long ago the countess de Paris sent beautiful and historical founes of Venetian point to be used in this Virgin's shrine.

Our Lady of Loretto, a black cedar statue of the virgin that came from the Holy Land, is one of the madonnas richest in jewels. When she left the Holy Land she wore a red woolen gown said to have been the property of the Blessed Virgin herself. Since established in her shrine and working wonderful cures, the Lady of Loretto has been the recipient of marvelously fine gems from crown heads and private individuals. Ordinarily, on days of great importance, the madonna wears a gown of richest brocade on which as many as 500 jewels of unusual splendor glow and glisten, but with her, as with the other madonnas, no computation is allowed of the gifts she has received.

None among the healing shrines is more visited and honored than that of St. Anne de Beaupre, just outside the city of Quebec in Canada. Prayers are said before the life size figure of St. Anne, the mother of Mary, who holds her little daughter, blessed above women, in her arms. It would be quite useless to try to itemize the possessions of this famous shrine, for every day in the year sees some offering laid at the feet of the miracle-working saint. Chief among the treasures of St. Anne and her little daughter are red velvet dresses elaborately worked with gold thread. These are of inestimable value for the embroidery was done by the pious consort of Louis XIV of France who presented them to this most important among Canadian shrines.

In addition to these beautiful pieces of needlework, two crowns deserve especial admiration. They are of gold set with jewels and one fits upon the head of St. Anne, the other upon the little girl on her arm. While the first is estimated as worth \$20,000, the other is valued at \$17,000, and both were fashioned from numbers of votive offerings that men and women cured of their ills have showered in their thanksgivings on the statues of the two divine women.

## Estranged From Her Husband

The Chicago Tribune prints a letter received from a woman, resident in Chicago, entitled "A Woman's Wall," which is published herewith and is self-explanatory. The woman who tells "how she sinned and suffered" has signed her name frankly to both communication and note which accompanies it, and was apparently willing that her name should be published. Only her initials, however, are used.

The note which came with the communication is as follows:

CHICAGO, Dec. 2.—Editor of The Tribune: I am sending you a little history of my life, embracing only facts, and as I have several women friends who are nearly as bad as myself I would ask you to publish it, trusting it may reach their eyes and the eyes of others, too, and be the cause of doing some good. I trust you will give the communication a prominent place in your paper.

### Tells Her Story.

The communication bears the title: "A Woman's Wall; How a Woman Sinned and Suffered. Told in Her Own Language in the Following Communication:

Then it proceeds as follows: "I was born in a small country town thirty-four years ago. My mother brought me up in idleness, humoring me in my every whim. This, I am satisfied, was the means of my ruin, as idleness is the means of the ruin of thousands of other girls who are brought up, not knowing the value of money or the first rudiments of household duties.

"I was married at the age of 21. I took some interest in my married life for the first two or three years, but when the novelty wore off there was a change. I was ignorant of household duties, and, although my husband allowed me far more than he could afford, the servants controlled the house, and expenses doubled and tripled.

"When my husband asked me in a kind and gentle manner if there was not some way to reduce expenses I would fly into a passion, use strong language, and ask him what he meant by insulting me.

"Matters grew worse instead of better until I determined on separation. I had one or two women friends who at that time seemed to be the only friends I had. Their advice to me was always to be independent, and pay no attention to my husband's pleadings, but to assert my rights, and demand whatever my heart desired or craved. I can now see the many mistakes I have made through selfishness—devilishness would express it better. I found fault with my husband at every possible occasion. I made his life a hell on earth. I was always sick and complaining before him. I never



TAILOR GOWN OF GOLDEN BROWN LADY'S CLOTH.

thought it was my duty to make pleasant the home, which he furnished in luxury greater than I had ever known as a girl. I thought my women friends were the truest friends on earth, and I took their advice in preference to my husband's on every occasion. My mother made it a point to encourage me in all my extravagant ways and willful and contemptible acts towards my husband.

"When a child was born to us it seemed to be my delight to make home life disagreeable when my husband was around. I always kept three servants, although I was brought up in much simpler style.

### Fails to Combat Reverses.

"When my husband had a reverse in business and was unable to furnish me all the money I wanted I was peevish and ugly. My actions, as I see them now, were the actions of a fiend. I am at a loss to know how my husband endured it so long as he did. When he told me he was in debt and that it was impossible to keep up such extravagant expenses I called him a liar. When the crash came and he lost everything I left him by the advice of my mother and a woman friend.

"Not until a year ago did I realize what I had done. I found it impossible to live with my mother. I found my disposition so uncontrollable I could not get along with any one with whom I was thrown in contact. I can see now that if I had been brought

up to understand household duties, to know the value of a dollar, and had been coached in childhood to read the Bible as I read it now these things would never have happened.

"My little boy is now living in a convent, while I am working in sweatshops, trying to better my condition by studying stenography. My mother has refused to support me. My luxurious home and loving husband are gone.

"I am writing this hoping it may reach the hearts of mothers, and hoping they will take heed and bring up their daughters so they may be able to fulfill the duties of a wife. I am writing this to warn young wives who are dissatisfied with their present surroundings; to warn them against outside influences; to warn them by the example of my condition; to warn them against the selfishness and unscrupulous methods they may fall into in their home lives.

"You will, no doubt, ask why I write this. It is because I have learned to read the bible, and learned at last to learn my true self. I now believe it was my fault that caused my downfall.

"The woman friend I mentioned, I have learned since by separation from my husband, was my worst enemy. She was in love with my husband and thought to gain his attention in case we separated. My husband told me my seeming friends would desert me in time, and I laughed at him and told him the thought was absurd. It was a fact. They have all deserted me. Young wives will find, when it is too late, they, and not their husbands, will be blamed.

### Blames Women for Unhappiness.

"I believe 95 per cent of all the unhappy homes today are caused by ill-tempered, undomesticated wives. This is to a great extent the fault of their early education. I advise every young woman who believes she is being imposed upon, and who has a good home, to endeavor to lead a Christian life, and by doing so she will work the reformation of her husband. It is the woman's place to make the home pleasant and happy. If she fails to do this through any fault of her own she is unworthy to be called a wife.

"It was through reading the Bible and through the good influence of a friend my eyes were opened and my own faults exposed. Will others take warning from my experience and avoid a hell on earth?

"I am, sincerely yours,  
"A BROKEN-HEARTED MOTHER, M. E. D."

## Medallions and Chains

"You are quite mistaken in all that you have said about jewelry and trinkets," said one fashionable woman to another. "I have just returned from Paris and know that the reigning novelty there is the neck chain and medallion. It is also such an attractive addition to a woman's toilet that I am sure all that can afford it will soon be wearing one."

These new medallions are indeed very fascinating, although in reality there is little that is new about them. They are an old fashion revived. From a heavy chain that is clasped about the neck they are suspended and hang on the front of the gown

to about six inches below the collar. A good deal of the style would be lost if the chain were either too long or too short. The medallions themselves are large, the larger in fact the better and are equally fashionable of either gold or silver. The antique ones are of course the most desirable, but they are scarce and very expensive. Reproductions of them, however, can be procured that it would trouble the cleverest numismatist to detect. For them also when wrought in gold alarmingly high prices are obtained. The majority of women, therefore, wear them in silver, or silver-washed gilt. The effect of having the newest thing and the style is really what is most desired. When they are worn of this quality a pretty idea is to have them pierced in three places on the lower half circle and to have suspended from them semi-precious stones; set simple that they may be held in a tiny band of metal. It would of course be pure vandalism to pierce an antique medallion, although many are found that have already been so treated. From them the idea of hanging them with jewels no doubt originated.

One of the prettiest of these medallions and chains that have been seen in this country was of silver, a copy from an antique and dangling from it were three oval shaped and highly colored amethysts. The silver chain that held it was very simple and heavy. The clasp was an amethyst. It was worn on a waist with an abundance of white chiffon in the front and the effect that it produced was most novel.

## Living Fashion Models

Seasonable styles in hats, coats and gowns are illustrated by this week's living models portrayed in The Bee's fashion photographs. They show the very latest garments from the most stylish tailors and hat builders.

Nothing could be more chic and attractive than this simple tailor gown of golden brown lady's cloth. The skirt is absolutely plain, the little coat fastens far over on the left side with fancy buttons and where the front is cut it shows collar and tiny chimesette of blue cloth embroidered in black and white. The hat is a chinchilla turban dressed with a tall bow of blue velvet. It is a creation of Paris.

The sumptuous evening coat is of the richest silvery white brocade, on the surface of which is embossed a flowering rose vine, each blossom made of velvet and tinted by hand—the coloring surpassingly beautiful, varying from pale flesh shades to glowing crimson. The bodice of this lovely coat is of chinchilla, having frills of willow green mousseline de sole edging the high medallion collar and wide revers. It is also a creation of the Paris brand.

Here is a smart example of one of the very new driving coats that have taken so violent a hold upon the fancy of fashionable women. This garment is of drab satinfaced melton, with revers and collar faced with white velvet. Elaborate stitchings serve to make an effective finish on cuffs, front and skirt and a white felt round hat, dressed with a bunch of drab and white feathers, completes this altogether perfect costume.

In a singularly effective toilet, over a white silk slip hangs white tulle spangled with black velvet dots, the three flounces of irregular width being edged with sable. Fur trims the low-cut bodice and a bow and belt of geranium velvet give just the requisite touch of color.

## Educated

Detroit Journal: The red man drew his blanket more closely about him.

"I will not smoke the pipe of peace with you!" he answered.

We argued with him, but in vain.

"No!" he persisted. "A pipe makes me dizzy! Make it a cigarette and I'll go you!" Scrutinizing him more closely, now, we perceived that he was an educated Indian.



LATEST DRIVING COAT.



WHITE BROCADE EVENING COAT.



SPANGLED WHITE TULLE.