

Religious Bulletin.
December 15, 1923.

They Came in the Same Mail.

Tuesday's mail brought a newspaper which told of an alumnus who spent Sunday in Jail instead of Church, and the following letter from another alumnus, a member of the same class:

"Dear Father:

"I miss Notre Dame, Father. Scarcely a day passes but thoughts regarding some association in the past four years steal near. They are varied, of course, sometimes having a 'gridiron flavor', at other times an academic one, but what I most appreciate reflecting upon is what Notre Dame has done for me in a moral way.

"How she did it is not so mysterious. That is what is so beautiful about it. I was asked (only asked) to get up in the morning and receive. It was, I admit, just a bit hard at first to get up in the morning, but after a year or two rolled by, I found it hard to remain in bed while Communion hour called.

"It took me four years to appreciate what Notre Dame was doing for me in this respect and from what little experience I had away from her moulding influence, it would take more than a life of sin to make me forget her.

"Sin pricks every man's conscience more or less but the conscience of a staunch Catholic is more easily hurt than that of any other creature in the world. The average Notre Dame man doesn't know what the leading of a moral life means until he gets out. He can realize the weight of his virtues only by looking backward. While at school he can't see what channels of purity God is chiseling in his soul. Not until he has left the old institution forever and is constantly challenged to listen to the vulgar sex experiences of 'good' boys and girls does he treasure those beads of character that he has strung in the past.

"He will find it hard to be a nonconformist, a Catholic, a Notre Dame man! But why have it otherwise? Better to listen, and observe in silent suffering than to be a participant in forbidden sensual pleasures. During these times of trial the hand of a true Notre Dame man will dig deeper into an obscure pocket to clutch an ever-present rosary

"My four years at Notre Dame, I feel, have not been spent in vain. While there, I regarded seriously your efforts to make every Notre Dame man a frequent Communicant. I now enjoy the fruits of past sacrifice. I have been given the means whereby I may be able to save my soul. I still and always will retain the practice of frequent Communion.

"The greatest happiness that I now experience is during those moments in which I commune with Our Blessed Saviour. Then, too, when I feel a bit depressed, when at times it seems the very world is against me, I find great consolation in fingering the beads before our Blessed Mother in some nearby church.

"It has been a source of great pleasure to write you, Father. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a world of success in 'grinding out character during the new year."

Not to mention a senior.