

such enormous quantities by the publishing houses of this country? "Everything we read," says Father Matthew Russell, S. J., "makes us better or worse, and by a necessary consequence, increases or lessens our happiness. Be scrupulous in the choice of your books; often ask yourself what influence your reading exercises upon your conduct. If after having read such and such a work that pleases you—philosophy, history, fiction,—or else such and such a review, or magazine, or newspaper in which you take delight—if you find yourself more slothful about discharging your duties, more dry and cross to your equals, harder towards your inferiors, with more disrelish for your state of life, more greedy for pleasures, enjoyments, honors, riches,—do not hesitate about giving up such readings: they would poison your life and endanger your eternal happiness."

## Columbus and the Freemasons.

Our readers are aware that Christopher Columbus was not only a pious Christian but also a devoted Tertiary, and that the process of his beatification inaugurated by the Franciscan bishop of Aquila, Msgr. Filippi, is now pending in Rome.

While all the world is convinced that the intrepid navigator was a true Christian hero who deserves the reverence and admiration of mankind, not only because of the indomitable spirit he manifested in the hazardous enterprise of discovery, but also on account of the heroism he displayed in the practice of Christian virtues, a handful of Freemasons, Jews, and freethinkers in our own country have thought themselves called

upon to ridicule the process of his beatification and to start a campaign of vilification against him. At the head of this movement is a Masonic clique, known as the "Secular League." In a meeting recently held in Washington, the great explorer and pious Christian was branded with infamy and held up to contempt as a marauder and adventurer, impelled in his explorations by insatiable ambition and sordid love of lucre.

Why these blatant bigots should strive to smirch the fair name of the great discoverer, is beyond our power to divine. Possibly it is their blind hatred against the Church that gave him birth which has betrayed them into making a laughing-stock of themselves. It is a comfort to know, however, that notwithstanding the base aspersions of the "Secular League," the world will continue to honor the memory of Columbus.

## Infamous Portugal.

Having vented their rage on the living members of religious orders, the infidel rulers of Portugal are now beginning to turn their attention to the deceased religious.

In the town of Guimaraes, in the northern part of the country, a community of Franciscan Sisters, before the revolution had charge of a hospital. A benefactor had erected for them a mortuary on the cemetery of that place, and here the good Sisters were laid to rest after a life of toil and sacrifice in the service of the poor and infirm. Some time ago the town officials decided to lay their sacrilegious hands on the little vault, and they informed the relatives of the deceased Sisters to have the bodies removed within thirty days, otherwise they would be consigned to the potter's field. Many of the Sisters had no rela-