



EDITORIAL NOTES.

RECENTLY Mr. Dana of the New York Sun delivered an address, at Ithica, N. Y., on journalism. Mr. Dana being regarded as one of the leading American editors, a great deal of attention was given to his statements. However his defense of detailed reports of obnoxious things, on the plea that if a paper did not print such things people would not buy it, was unworthy of a man holding such an important place in the journalistic world. It shows clearly that bright as the New York Sun is there are still very many specs upon its disc.

PREPARATIONS are being made in Rome to celebrate, in April, the third centenary of Torquato Tasso, the great epic poet of Italy. To-day his works are as highly appreciated as they were three hundred years ago. *La Gerusalemme Liberata* (Jerusalem Delivered) is a classic work that has passed into almost every language spoken by civilized man. His ashes repose in the convent of St. Onofrio, near the Vatican, and on the banks of the historic Tiber. In two lines Tasso condensed the whole of his master piece of composition:

"Canto l'armi pletose, e il Capitano,
Che il gran Sepolcro liberto di Christo."

THERE is a loneliness that wealth and rank cannot destroy; in fact, they often combine to render it more intense. A couple of weeks ago Wm. Waldorf Astor strewed white roses and pink orchids upon the coffin of his young wife; and he followed her, alone in his carriage, to her grave. And while the lone man, the only mourner, the solitary millionaire, was performing this sad duty, John Jacob Astor and his wife were dancing at a ball in Philadelphia. Even the founder of the Astors and their millions would have had more heart. How many will mourn, and how many will refrain from dancing when the other Astors are carried to the tomb?

"LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON," is an old adage; "like father, like daughter" may often find an application as well. For some time past a writer signing "Jane Smiley" has been contributing some very bright and interesting tales in the *Catholic World* and in *Harper's Young People*. According to all critics these stories "betray a delicacy of touch and fine play of fancy that indicate the possession of a born genius for story telling." It has leaked out that "Jane Smiley" is the eldest daughter of the late John Boyle O'Reilly. The *nom de plume* is the writer's grandmother's name. It is suggested that since the secret is out she should in future sign her full name, Mary Boyle O'Reilly.

VERY few people have an idea of the extent of the famous Roman catacombs. The generality of people imagine that they consist of a few miles of winding, subterranean corridors under the city and portion of the surrounding suburbs. At present there are great portions of

the catacombs that have been filled up and are not penetrable. But there are still sufficient of them explored to reveal a wonderful story of their extent. There are five hundred and eighty miles of passages in that labyrinth of the dead. It is estimated that at the lowest figure six millions and at the highest fifteen millions of dead are therein interred. Just try to imagine the underground Rome that may be said to form part of the Eternal City.

It was a struggle between Rev. Mr. Madill and Mr. Essery for the Presidency of the P.P.A. Some say that Mr. Madill's old friends opposed him; others have it that the reverend gentleman had become sick of the business, that he was mad with his former friends and ill from the worry his position brought upon him. In fact it has been reported that he is disgusted with the P.P.A. No matter; he will needs use a goodly amount of water before he can remove the stains that his connection with the unsavory society has left upon his name.

REV. HALL HARRISON, an Episcopal clergyman, speaking at Ellicott city, Maryland, the other day, paid the following tribute to Cardinal Gibbons:

"The words of the Cardinal anticipate the spirit of the words of the Pope for the re-union of Christendom. The hour has come for all who believe in the divinity of Christ to see wherein they agree and to find out wherein it is possible for them to still further agree. The era of heated controversy is closed. The time of widening breaches and emphasizing differences has gone by. More attention is to be paid to the prayer of Christ that all His followers should be one, even as He and the Father were one."

THERE is a rumor that the German Government may soon make advances to the centre on the Jesuit question. A few days ago Count Frederic Waldburg Wolfegg said his first Mass in the private chapel of his ancestral castle. As soon as the Mass was over he was obliged to leave Germany, on account of being a member of the Jesuit Order. During several generations the Wolfegg family has given the Church one cardinal, eight bishops, twenty-seven canons, and five cloistered monks. It is a good evidence of the degree of intolerance to which religion can be carried when the son of such a family is obliged to expatriate himself on account of his vocation. And yet Protestants talk of Catholic persecution.

MR. JUSTIN MCCARTHY has sent forth an address to all Irishmen. He reviews the present situation and he asks for funds to enable the Irish members to attend constantly to their Parliamentary duties during the coming session. He says that the depression in America and Australia excludes all hope of assistance from abroad. He states that this session will be one of extreme importance as, in some way, the fate of the Home Rule movement must be decided. There is not the slightest doubt that the coming session will be one of great mo-

ment for the Irish party. The different sections should close up their ranks and prepare to fight the battle in a united phalanx.

THE Ottawa Carnival has been a great success. It appears, from all reports, that Friday's display, and the storming of the ice-palace that night, surpassed anything, of a similar nature, heretofore witnessed in Canada. No city in America is more splendidly situated than Ottawa; its surroundings are most picturesque, and its site imposing; it is exactly the place for such an exhibition of Carnival attractions.

A CORRESPONDENT has twice asked us to publish a sketch of the St. Patrick's Hall, of Montreal, as it was in 1868, with a description of the same, and the names of its promoters. If our correspondent will furnish us with the sketch we will gladly publish it. But we were to attempt the writing out and publication of the scores of similar subjects, that individual readers are constantly asking to have given in our columns, we would soon have to abandon all idea of writing on any other subjects—there are only seven days in a week, and we would certainly have to double the number of our pages, which would cost more than double the present subscription price of THE TRUE WITNESS could meet.

IN THIS ISSUE we give the full text of a most interesting and instructive address delivered last week, by Professor Leitch, of the Commercial Academy, on the important subject of "The teacher's relations to his pupils, the community and himself as a man." In these times, when educational matters are taking the lead in public attention, and when so many false theories are abroad, it is with great satisfaction that we meet with genuine and logical theories on that almost all-embarassing subject. Our readers, who are interested in the great questions that concern education, will peruse with pleasure the remarks of a practical teacher—one who adds experience to theory.

WHILE some people are striving to persuade us that the annexation of Canada to the United States would benefit our country, Newfoundland is seriously thinking of saving itself from ruin by uniting with our Dominion and becoming a member of this Confederation. More than that, hundreds of families are preparing to leave the United States and return to Canada. Last week Rev. Father Paradis came back from the Western States with the news that a whole settlement—a complete townful of people—were making arrangements to return to the land of their nativity or of their fathers. If there was ever an exodus of Canadians there is certainly a repatriation of the same people about to take place. We all know of the famous "Flight of the Tartar Tribe," when hundreds of thousands abandoned their villages on the Volga and fled back over

the Steppes that their fathers had crossed a generation before. In the past, when the United States was pictured as the *Eldorado* for Canadians, there was a wonderful *Anabasis*; now that they have found "all that glitters not to be gold," the *Katabasis* is about to commence.

A CLERGYMAN, in Edinburgh, recently stated that efforts should be made to convert Roman Catholics, because "the Roman Catholics had no Saviour, no Bible, no Heaven." The Protestant Bishop of Edinburgh demanded an explanation. The clergyman attempted to justify his words, but the Bishop refused to argue the question, and contented himself by saying: "Simply as your Bishop, I severely censure the employment of such language, and I express my sorrow that you could have allowed yourself to be betrayed into making a public charge so baseless and so offensive." The Bishop has earned the gratitude of all right-minded people by his vigorous protest.

THE story told of the abominable sect called the "Flying Roll," now established in Detroit, is a sad evidence of the ungovernable immorality of those who cut themselves loose from the principles of Catholicity. A Mr. Dawson, who joined this sect with his family, objected when, according to its rules, his two daughters were to be "paired" with two young men for a time. His opposition has brought the sect and its abominable practices under the eye of the authorities. The police have been instructed by the State to make every effort to suppress the colony, but the difficulty will be in finding specific charges. Such abominations, practiced even to a more disgusting and unmentionable degree, by the Albigenses and other similar sects, caused the first Inquisition to be established for the protection of the State against these moral vultures. And it is this very fact that the opponents of Catholicity ignore, when they try to saddle the Church with the responsibility for a tribunal set up by the State to destroy immorality.

IN THIS ISSUE we publish the magnificent address recently delivered by Mgr. Satolli, on the subject of education. We invite our readers to carefully peruse it, for in its glowing paragraphs may be found the true aims of the Catholic Church on the subject. A number of extremists, all over the United States, have been attacking Mgr. Satolli on the ground that he is in America upon a special mission to undermine the constitution. The *New York Globe*, which publishes a report of the address we give in this issue, editorially points out the folly and unreasonableness of such attacks. It argues that if to insist upon morality being the basis of education can be construed into an attack upon the constitution and institutions, then there is no knowing what endless harm may not be done by the bigoted enemies of the Apostolic Delegate. It is a wonder that these people cannot see that they are actually making themselves a laughing stock before the world.