

The Catholic Record.

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London, Saturday, May 1, 1897.

OUR SCHOOLS.

The report of the Minister of Education for Ontario for the year 1896 has been before us for a couple of weeks, but in the crowded state of our columns we deferred comments thereon till we would be able to do it justice.

The figures given and the statements of inspectors refer to the year 1895.

The number of pupils registered in all the Public schools, Catholic and Protestant, Separate schools included, was 484,551, being an increase of 3,216 over the year 1894, but it is to be remarked that a considerable number of these must be adults, as there were registered 390 pupils over the age of twenty-one.

The number of pupils registered in the Catholic Separate schools during the year is very small, being only 11, but this is compensated for by their better attendance, so that the average attendance of children at the Catholic schools has actually risen 3 per cent. on the previous year.

It is one of the indications leading to the conclusion that the schools are becoming more efficient from year to year, for both children and parents are more apathetic when there is but little improvement among the pupils, or a lack of good order.

Here we may recall to the minds of our readers a statement which is sometimes very flippantly made by the enemies of our Separate schools, for the purpose of making it appear that Catholics generally do not want Separate schools, as so many of them attend the Public schools of the Province.

The number so doing is usually stated to be, in "round numbers," 50,000. This was the number stated a couple of weeks ago by the Hon. J. I. Tarte. We stated at the time that we believed this number to be an exaggeration, as there are no positive figures from which the inference could be drawn, but we explained that there are certain localities where the Public schools afford all the advantages to be gained from Separate schools, as called so by law.

But the official report enables us to give the figures on this point approximately, though not with absolute accuracy. Taking as our basis the total population of the Province, and of the Catholics, as given in the last census, and again in the school reports, we should expect to find 75,372 Catholic children at school during the year.

We have already stated that the

percentage of average attendance at the Catholic Separate schools is 62 per cent. The percentage at the Public schools only reached 56 per cent. The honor of showing the highest average attendance at the Catholic schools belongs to St. Thomas, which has the very fine average attendance of 80 per cent. We last year mentioned those schools which fell to the lowest mark in this regard; but we notice in all these cases a great improvement.

The Protestant Separate schools are still ten in number, being at Anderdon, Bromley, Cambridge, Osgoode, North Plantagenet, Puslinch, Rama, L'Orignal, and Penetanguishene. They were attended by 492 pupils, with an average attendance of 907, showing a percentage of 62, which is a great improvement on the previous year.

There is no matter more important than the education of the children, especially their religious education, and we are rejoiced to notice that all concerned in our Catholic schools make an effort toward their greater efficiency. There are still many respects under which they may be more improved, and we trust that these efforts will not be relaxed.

THE MONTH OF MARY.

The beautiful and genial month of May, which begins on Saturday of this week, is the month which the Church devotes specially to the honor and veneration of the Immaculate Mary, the Virgin Mother of God made Man.

Every Saturday is dedicated to the Mother of God; because on that day when Christ was in the tomb, Mary had firm faith in His promise to rise again on the third day, whereas seven His Apostles, who abandoned Him when He was arrested and brought up for trial, lost all hope when they saw Him dead on the cross and afterward laid away in His sepulchre. They had indeed been eye witnesses to many of Christ's miracles, and even to His raising others from the dead, but they could not realize that He would rise therefrom by His own power, and so the strong faith in His promise to rise again on the third day from His burial-place was limited to the Blessed Virgin, who never for a moment doubted what would occur.

Catholics have been accused of adoring the Mother of God, and one Pan-Anglican Council sanctioned this calumny by inserting into its encyclical letter issued after the Council, a denunciation of the practice of "Mariolatry." Such a practice does not exist among Catholics, and as far back as the fourth century there was a sect of heretics condemned by the Church for adoring her. But to honor her in proportion to her great dignity is a duty on all Christians, and it is a matter of surprise that Protestants do not see that this is the case.

It was, therefore, always the practice of the Christian Church to honor Mary, and so the Fathers of the Church in every age have attested that she is worthy of the highest honor which can be paid to a creature, though, of course, divine honor is not to be paid to her. Thus the liturgy attributed to St. James, which is certainly of the highest antiquity, even though it may not have been the very work of that Apostle, says:

"Let us celebrate the memory of our most holy, unspotted, most glorious and Blessed Lady, the Mother of God, and the unstained Virgin, that through her intercession we may obtain all mercy. Hail Mary, thou art full of grace. The Lord is with thee, and blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb; for thou hast given birth to the Saviour of our souls."

all the Fathers of the Church have written, and it indicates the manner in which we should honor the Blessed Virgin, especially during this beautiful month which is dedicated to her.

THE REGISTER.

We notice that the last issue of the Catholic Register, of Toronto, has not a word in proof of its slanderous accusation against us that we were purchased by the Government to do its work in consideration of a few dollars worth of Government advertisements, which we published in the usual course of business. This silence is equivalent to an admission that its accusations were ungrounded and false.

THE PARNELLITE CONVENTION.

The Parnellites were called upon by their leader, Mr. John Redmond, to meet in convention in Dublin on the 20th ult., and in response to the call there was a large gathering of those who are the chief cause of the existing divisions in the Irish Parliamentary party.

Four resolutions were passed expressive of the course to be hereafter pursued by that party. The first proclaims an intention to establish a new independent Irish League upon the broader and sounder basis of independent political action for the benefit of the whole Irish nation. The second resolution declares that the objects of the League will be to secure civil and religious liberty, and "to oppose further interference of priests in politics."

It is evident that these propositions are intended rather to perpetuate the dissensions now unfortunately existing in the Nationalist ranks, and they were not acceptable even to those Parnellites who are sincerely desirous of peace. Mr. Timothy Harrington and his followers opposed them strenuously, and left the meeting in a body when they were adopted.

Mr. Redmond himself declared virtually that the purpose of the new League is to obtain the support—by which we presume he means the contribution—of Irishmen at home and in America. The dissensions he is endeavoring to keep up will not tend to any such end, and they have even resulted in stopping contributions toward the Irish cause as represented by any of the three parties or factions into which the Nationalists are divided. The Irishmen of Australia have ceased to send any subscriptions at all to any of the parties, and there is a tendency in the same direction throughout America, the general feeling being that Irishmen at home should show a united front, if they hope for assistance from their compatriots abroad.

The John Dillon party, which represents the great bulk of the Nationalists, are not tied to any English party, as the Parnellite resolutions really assert; but it is useless and a folly for a mere fraction of a party to raise its hand against every one else. The Tories are as bitterly opposed as ever to Home Rule, and are still determined to keep up the policy of coercion. It is wisdom to be on good terms with the Liberals, for surely there can be no hope for justice to Ireland if all friendships are rejected.

The resolution against the interference of priests is wantonly insolent. The Irish priesthood as a rule have not interfered in politics any further than

to assist the people in their battle for good government, and the maintenance of Irish rights. They have been with the people and for the people, and Mr. Redmond will certainly be made to feel that his insults to the priesthood will not be let go with impunity. We would be glad to see Mr. Redmond disposed to put an end to dissension, but he is at present going in the opposite direction, and it is to be feared that his course will result in deferring justice to Ireland.

THE LAST PHASE OF THE GREAT PRETENDED DYNAMITE PLOT.

The Tory Government at Westminster has a new trouble to meet in its relations toward the United States. Only a few months have elapsed since we had an account of a most horrible dynamite plot whereby not only the Queen, the Prince of Wales, and others of the Royal Family were to be blown up, but also the Russian Czar, who was to be at Balmoral on a visit to Her Majesty, and the occasion was to be made use of to strike a fearful blow at the same time for the freedom of Ireland and of the people of Russia.

This was the story sent out by the detectives of Scotland Yard, and we cannot doubt it was concocted in the Government councils. But from the beginning it could be seen that the Czar ridiculed the whole story. He has his own secret agents, and they are certainly as well informed in the doings and plans of plotters against his rule as are the Scotland Yard police. Yet he showed no sign that he placed any reliance on the sensational reports of the British police agents, and he made no effort to counteract the plans of the supposed conspirators against his life, sensitive as he is known to be when any dangers threaten his person or his dynasty.

The truth of the matter is undoubtedly that this dynamite conspiracy was concocted by the British Government itself with a twofold object in view, one to ingratiate itself with the Czar by posing as the protector of the peace of Europe, and the other, to excite the ire of the English people against Ireland by the fear of atrocities, and so to secure to the Government itself a longer lease of power by the influence which could be brought to bear upon the electorate through fears of Irish outrages.

This trick had been tried before, and sometimes it partially succeeded. At other times it failed miserably, as in the celebrated accusations brought against the whole Irish Nationalist party, in an endeavor to connect all its leaders with the agrarian outrages which have sometimes, though for many years past very rarely, occurred in Ireland.

In this case the accusations collapsed suddenly on the discovery that the supposed letters of Charles Stewart Parnell and other Irish leaders, on which the case of the Government rested, were the forgeries of the chief Crown witness, and the world was startled with the suddenness of the sensational and tragic ending of this case, in the escape of the witness Pigott from London and his suicide on the continent a few days after.

There was never any doubt that this case was concocted by the Government, and it was even proved that Irish political prisoners had been approached by agents of the Government to induce them to give false testimony, on the promise of pardon. It is no wonder that with such inducements as were offered to such outcasts as Pigott, and others of the genus "informer," there should be some persons found ready to concoct a hair-raising story of Irish dynamite plots, and the plot by which the Czar and the Queen and part of the British Royal family were to be blown up, was just such another concoction as the celebrated "Parnellism and Crime" story.

There could be no possible connection between Irish-American patriots and Russian Nihilists, and the story of the last dynamite conspiracy was an evident farce, except for the serious effects it might have in arousing the indignation of the people of England against Ireland and in putting back the Irish cause. Nevertheless there were witnesses found who were ready to swear to anything the Government required in order to establish its case. But the Orange professing patriot Smith, who being a Government spy, managed to get into some Irish National societies in New York as a member, had not a chance to show what he could do in the way of false swearing, for though four persons

had been arrested for complicity in the dreaded plot—Haines and Kearney at Antwerp, Tynan in France, and Ivory or Ball in Glasgow, Scotland—the last named, who was the only one brought to trial, was discharged on January 23, before any evidence was offered by the Crown, the prosecuting solicitor admitting that there was no evidence to convict, and asking the judge to dismiss the case, and so it collapsed.

But the end is not yet. Edward J. Ivory has just asked the United States Foreign Department to demand \$100,000 indemnity from the British Government on account of his detention and incarceration. He considers this a very moderate sum for the odium and annoyance to which he has been subjected. He is an American citizen, and has submitted to the Government proofs that this is the case, so it is altogether probable that the full amount of damages claimed will be demanded from Great Britain, and paid too, as the United States Government, notwithstanding all its bluster on many occasions, is really very sensitive when the rights of its citizens have been interfered with, and will not allow them to be ill-treated with impunity to the offenders.

When the Salisbury Government confined itself to imprisoning and ill-treating Irish patriots, even to their death, it went Scot free, as there was no power to demand compensation, but it will find a different state of affairs when it goes so far as to ill-treat the subjects of a country with which it is supposed to be at peace, especially when that country is the United States.

It is stated in defence of the British Government that the authorities gave the prisoner a fair chance for his defence, allowing him counsel and permission to discuss his case with his attorneys without hindrance, and to collect evidence in his own behalf. But this is not enough. Without a particle of evidence to justify the accusation, it had no business to force a peaceable stranger, such as Ivory appears to have been, to go to the extraordinary trouble and expense to which he was subjected, merely for the purpose of enabling the Scotland Yard detectives to show their cleverness in finding out plots. The Government will probably be more backward in future about circulating plot stories, at all events when it brings its accusations against United States citizens.

THE GRECO-TURKISH STRUGGLE.

The war between Turkey and Greece is now in full blast, and the soldiers on both sides are fighting with remarkable bravery.

With their belief in fate, the Turks always exhibit great animal courage in battle—or perhaps we should call it stolidity, for they have been inculcated from infancy with the belief that all events are fated to them, so that they enter into battle with the belief that defeat or victory, death or life, depends not upon themselves, but upon the inexorable fate decreed for them. This belief makes them as a rule stolidly indifferent to personal danger.

As the war progresses, it becomes more and more evident, day after day, that the Greeks will be overpowered unless the strong sympathy which is naturally felt for them throughout Christendom bring volunteers in large numbers to aid them in their super-human struggle.

The population of Greece is less than half that of our Dominion, while that of Turkey exceeds that of its antagonist twelve times. But the battle is not always to the strong, and Christian Europe will scarcely allow Greece to be overrun by Turkey, after its having succeeded seventy years ago by indomitable bravery in freeing itself from the detested yoke.

It is said that forty thousand volunteers are now on the point of going from various states of Europe to the aid of Greece, and if this be true the Turks may yet find hard work before them. If this be really the case these volunteers may be presumed to be only the advance guard of those who will follow.

On the whole the Turks have been so far the most successful in conflict, and they have captured the important pass of Miloussa, which is the pathway to Larissa, but ever since this important capture the Greeks have succeeded in securing several important victories by which is the pathway to Larissa, and they have since captured Larissa itself; but, on the other hand, the Greeks have surprised the world by giving some severe blows to the Turks in other quarters. At Larissa they succeeded in spiking their guns before abandoning their quarters, but

they have actually over-run the Turkish province of Epirus, the inhabitants of which are chiefly Greeks who welcomed the invaders, and many Christian Turkish subjects have joined their ranks, among these being four battalions of Albanians. The Greeks are also close upon the rear of the army which has captured Larissa, and thus the source of Turkish supplies is seriously threatened.

It has been stated that Edham Pasha, the General in command of the Turks, has been superseded by Osman Pasha, the hero of Plevna, as the Sultan is not satisfied with the only partial success of the former. This has been since denied, but it has been reaffirmed, but the truth of the matter will be known soon. In the meantime we can only wish success to the Greeks, who are showing a sublime courage, which reminds us of the heroism of the ancient Greeks which dates back to the days of Leonidas, and still further to the days of the siege of Troy as described by Homer.

A NOVEL DANGER IN HYPNOTISM.

Since hypnotism has been introduced, there have been many strange occurrences connected with it, but none more so than that which has just happened in the town of Simcoe, Ont. A so-called Professor Ferris, a hypnotist, on Monday, the 19th inst., put a subject into a hypnotic sleep and buried him six feet underground, there to remain for three days. Provision was made, however, to supply the buried man with air by means of a box tube.

The sheriff and some policemen appeared on the scene while the grave was being filled in and ordered the professor to take the man out of the ground or be arrested. He refused, on the plea that he was violating no law, and that it would be dangerous to the man on whom he was operating, and though he was given three hours to obey the sheriff he paid no attention to the order.

The County Crown Attorney, Mr. Townsly, was consulted, but declared he could find no law bearing on the case, authorizing the interference of the sheriff, as the man was buried with his own consent.

The professor asserted that he would in proper time bring the man out from his tomb safe and sound, but the people of Simcoe are said to be greatly excited over the event, and to have demanded that he be taken out of the ground.

It may be presumed that the man was disinterred, as it has not been announced that he died under the treatment inflicted on him; but the occurrence shows the folly of persons who, though they have frequently been warned against submitting themselves to hypnotic influence, persist in so doing. This influence has been made an instrument by which many crimes have been committed, but we have not heard of anything more idiotically criminal than this Simcoe transaction.

It is difficult to say which is most to be wondered at, the folly of the victim, the criminality of the professor, or the strange conduct of the police in allowing the act to proceed while they were looking on.

By some strange apathy on the part of the police, the interred man was left in the grave for three days, and was then disinterred, but he was a raving maniac, and it took five men to control him. He smashed the box in which he was confined, while being restored to consciousness. It is hoped he may recover with careful treatment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We publish in another column an article having reference to the Testimonial which it is intended to present to Mrs. James A. Sadlier, the distinguished Catholic writer. This noble lady has done a world of good as a Catholic novelist; her stories have brought joy, gladness and many blessings into Catholic homes throughout America, and now that this gifted lady is approaching the winter of her life, truly it is but fitting that suitable acknowledgment be made for her great and valuable services. This should, more particularly, be the case with those who still experience a keen sense of the pleasure afforded them in early life by a perusal of Mrs. Sadlier's productions.

A BAPTIST minister at South River, New Jersey, has demonstrated that real ministers are no longer necessary to conduct church services. The Rev. Mr. Sammis, of that town, introduced a phonograph into the pulpit on Easter Sunday. The phonograph did

all the work, will operated the m unusually large had gathered cl sake to see the graph first gave of Handel's "Joy, Joy." Na spoken, as a cred it into prayer was than the preacher h remained perfectly er, however, took service, preach "Eggs," which quite as useful a ous mystery wh brates on Easter

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AN IGNORANT MAN.

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The readers them believers mysterious D Leo Taxil was Easter Monday divel to go to attend this order to prov of Diana, in a so-called ex Pa has been said, and in the ant if she had ex siderable pers ment of her a to Paris deliv world, among divel, who ha she was not i

The meeting of the Geo Paris, and prove Diana present. A between the h the evening Taxil appear of having ny What came r wanting, and patch as abo La Verite, in will publish t it will await details. Alth ure is known created a sens circles here. Masonic, said conversion c eleven years dissimulation Dr. Bataille mystificators.

Let the per and in his te —St. Augusti