

A SLIGHT MISTAKE AND HOW IT CAME ABOUT.

A good story is told of the Irish comedian, Joe Murphy, who appeared in Ontario last week. It was during the "blue ribbon" excitement of last season, and Joe was journeying to a small town in the vicinity of Pittsburgh. As the train steamed into the depot it was boarded by half a dozen men, who, after a hurried conference with the conductor, approached the comedian with beaming faces.

LETTER TO A DOCTOR OPPOSED TO THE SUPERNATURAL.

From the New York Freeman's Journal. [This letter comes to us from a learned and successful Physician, in the great Valley of the Mississippi, who does not want his name or residence given. He is of an honorable old French family; and, if he had not given us his name we would have known, by the finess of his satire, what country his fathers came from. It reminds us of a witty French tract, of thirty, or more, years ago, that the late Bishop Fitzpatrick, of Boston, to whose soul may be said a prayer for his soul—translated for one of the earliest numbers of *Boverton's Review*. It was so witty, so superbly done up in the style of *Yankee Quack*, that the original, in French, compared with it, was a thing to yawn over! It was called by Bishop Fitzpatrick: "The Salve for the Bite of the Devil Serpent!"

MY DEAR DOCTOR.—I have just been shown a letter dated August 30th, and written by a person residing near Etampes. This letter is all the more annoying, because the facts it contains, with details, is reported in brief by the *New York Freeman's Journal*, under the title of *Wonderful Cases of Lourdes*. It relates to a coincidence disagreeable enough, as you will see yourself. There is, doubtless, allusion made here, to only one of the miracles prepared and arranged for the needs of the cause, and which a scientific man, who has any respect for himself, can place no confidence in, and I know that you are a man of that kind.

It is to be feared that the narrative of these circumstances, joined to the report in the *Freeman's Journal*, may cause you some little uneasiness. If, then, I anticipate them, it is only to put you on your guard against a trick so well played, that it might bring conviction to the mind of any one not warned beforehand. You are, certainly, not among those who have the weakness to believe in the supernatural, but it is to be feared that, taken suddenly, you might not sufficiently brace yourself against the evidence in the case. The affair is this:

A young girl belonging to Etampes, in the Department of Seine and Oise, near Paris, known as Mlle. Clemence Chausser, took a notion to imagine herself a paralytic, and this, for the last five years. Naturally, her parents, and all the in-laws of the little town, bent their aid in propagating the fraud. The very doctors who had seen and nursed her pronounced her paralyzed; her affliction arising from a diseased spinal marrow.

It is evident that these doctors, although on the ground where all this was going on, did not see beyond the end of their noses. Who knows, but perhaps these very doctors were secretly in the service of Clericalism! In brief, it happened one fine day Clemence Chausser, tired of playing the paralytic so long, took a notion to have herself taken to Lourdes, as to have a decent reason for giving up a role that was getting to be rather troublesome.

So soon as her intention was known, it was met with objections on the part of some and ridiculed by others. But in spite of objections and jeers, Clemence would hold out no longer, and to Lourdes she went.

She was taken to the bath, and no sooner was she plunged into the water, than without any transition whatever, she came out cured. Radically cured! Without assistance from any one she left the grotto and Lourdes, and returned to her home at Etampes. Great, however, as was Clemence's hurry to get home, the news of her cure had preceded her to Etampes, a crowd of people waited for her at the station; some came to scoff, others, out of mere curiosity.

GENERAL CAMBRONNE.

There was a young corporal in the garrison of Nantes in the year 1795. He was a spirited fellow, barely twenty; but young though he was, he had already learned to drink to excess, according to the too frequent custom of the day. Brave and excitable, wine was a bad master for him, and one day when intoxicated he struck an officer who was giving him an order. Death was the punishment for such an offence, and to death the lad was condemned.

The colonel of the regiment, remembering the intelligence and bravery of the young criminal, spared no pains to obtain a remission of the sentence; at first with no success, but finally hampered with a certain condition—that the prisoner should never again be found intoxicated. The colonel at once proceeded to the military prison and summoned Cambronne.

"You are in trouble, corporal," he said. "True, colonel; and I forfeit my life for my folly," returned the young fellow. "It may be so," quoth the colonel shortly. "May I beg?" demanded Cambronne; "you are aware of the strictness of martial law, colonel. I expect no pardon; I have only to die."

"But suppose I bring you a pardon on one condition?" The lad's eyes sparkled. "A condition? Let me hear it, colonel. I would do much to save life and honor." "You must never again get drunk," said the colonel. "Impossible, boy! you will be shot to-morrow otherwise; think of that!" "I do think of it. But never to let one drop of wine touch my lips! See you, colonel? Cambronne and the bottle have one another so well, that when once they get together it is all up with sobriety. No, no! I dare not promise never to get drunk."

"But, unhappy boy, could you not promise never to touch wine?" "Not a drop, colonel!" "Not a drop," said the colonel. "Ah! that is a weighty matter, colonel. Let me reflect. Never to touch wine all my life!"

The young soldier paused; he then looked up. "But, colonel, if I promise, what guarantee will you have that I shall keep my promise?" "Your word of honor," said the officer. "I know you; you will not fail me." A light came into the young fellow's eyes. "Then I promise," said he solemnly. "I, Cambronne, swear never to take a drop of wine."

The next day Corporal Cambronne resumed his place in his regiment. Twenty-five years after he was General Cambronne, a man of note, respected and beloved. Dining one day in Paris with his old colonel, many brothers in arms being present, he was offered a glass of rare old wine by his former commanding officer. Cambronne drew back.

"My word of honor, colonel; have you forgotten that?" he asked excitedly. "And Nantes—the prison—the pardon—the vow?" he continued, striking the table. "Never, sir, from that day to this has a drop of wine touched my lips. I swore it, and I have kept it; and shall keep it, I give you, to the end."

Once more, not without reason, did the good old colonel thank God that he had been able to preserve such a man for France. MONTALEMBERT ON IRISH CATHOLICISM.

Contrast the magnificent churches which the Irish are building to-day in Ireland with those which they are helping to build in America, with what they had in 1829, when Montalembert's *Lettres sur le Catholicisme en Irlande* were published, and in which there is to be found the following passage: "I shall never forget the first Mass which I heard in a country chapel in the foot of a hill, the lower part of which was clothed with a thick plantation of oak and fir, and alighted from my horse to ascend it. I had taken only a few steps on my way when my attention was attracted by the appearance of a man who knelt at the foot of one of the trees; several others became visible in succession in the same attitude, and the higher I ascended the larger became the numbers of these kneeling peasants. At length, on reaching the top of the hill I saw a cruciform building, badly built of stone, without cement, and covered with thatch. Around it knelt a crowd of robust and vigorous men, all united in the same attitude, and the priest, in profound silence, reigned everywhere. It was the Catholic chapel of Barney, and the priest was saying Mass. I reached the door at the moment of the elevation, and all this pious assembly had prostrated themselves with their faces on the earth. I made an effort to penetrate under the roof of this chapel, thus overflowed with worshippers. There were no seats, no decorations, not even a pavement. The floor was of earth, damp and stony, the roof dilapidated, and tallow candles burned on the altar in place of tapers. I heard the priest announce in Irish, the language of the Gaelic people, that on such a day he would go, in order to save his parishioners, the trouble of a long journey, to a certain 'cabin,' which should for the moment be turned into the house of God—there to administer the sacraments and receive the humble offerings with which his flock supported him. When the Holy Sacrifice was ended, the priest mounted his horse and rode away; then each worshipper rose from his knees and went slowly homeward; some of them, wandering harvestmen, carrying their reaping hooks, turned their steps towards the nearest cottage to ask the hospitality to which they were considered to have a right; others, with their wives riding behind them, went off to their distant homes. Many remained for a much longer time in prayer, kneeling in the mud, in that silent enclosure chosen by the poor and faithful people in the times of ancient persecutions."

IRISH M. P.'S AND THEIR CONSTITUENTS. Last Wednesday Mr. Redmond, member for the borough, and Mr. Keyes O'Clery, one of the members for the county of Wexford, met their constituents in public meeting. Both were warmly received, and both addressed the meeting, whose fervor was increased by recent events with which his name has been connected. He detailed the course of his Parliamentary action, and alluded to what had been done in the way of Irish legislation during the session. He spoke of the Inter-mediate Education Bill as a great concession, and gave much credit to Mr. Butt for his active share in the passing of it. He added that the determination to do battle on the Queen's Colleges estimates accelerated its progress. After his speech it was unanimously resolved, "That we renew the expression of confidence in Mr. Redmond, M. P., and reiterate our conviction that the only true hope for Ireland exists in the restoration of our plundered Legislature. We desire also to record our opinion that the consideration of Irish interests by the House of Commons can best be secured by the united action of our representatives in a determined and energetic line of policy." The action of the Wexford representatives in voting for the Sunday Closing Bill was also warmly approved. Father Joseph

Murphy, C. C., addressed the meeting, urging united action among the Irish members, and loyalty to the leadership of Mr. Butt. At the meeting of Mr. Cleary's constituents in the borough of Wexford, the hon. gentleman made an eloquent speech, and satisfactorily vindicated his votes, &c., in Parliament. The meeting was, however, rather a meeting of the Wexford Independent Club, and it was in that capacity its resolutions were passed. It was resolved, "That the club hereby declares its thorough approval and adhesion to the line of Parliamentary policy enunciated and acted upon by Messrs. Parnell and Biggar, and considers that no candidates at a future election will deserve the support and confidence of this people who shall not be prepared to adopt and maintain it." A vote of confidence in Mr. O'Clery was unanimously adopted, as was also his vote on the Eastern Question, when, as a member of the Irish party, he declared he could have no sympathy with Imperial England whilst the demand of Ireland for self-government was unheeded, and recorded his vote against the Government. It was also resolved, "That we hereby express our condemnation of Imperialism, as lately introduced into Irish National politics." This latter resolution hits directly at Mr. F. O'Donnell's vindication of his votes on the Eastern Question. The Kerry Farmers' Club have expressed their discontent with Mr. Herbert's views on the Irish Land Question, and have called on him to resign his seat as their representative.

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VOL. ECCLESIA

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LETTER OF HIS DR. WALSH

London, Ontario, Dear Sir:— Having been published a Catholic in this city, which as a just and friendly spirit there is room in every Weekly, and if on efficient manner a principles, it could give a general a journal, we must utterances and be considered as our believe in church clergyman under Bishop. But any sary reserve, we a Goal Speed to you Belie

A VOL

To the Editor of the "Standard":— Sir,— Now in despair of the better side of things, where ignorance, where virtue, with pity duty, the sorrowful, where selfish, where force and where force and

This sadly, writes the poet and religion of the barbarous Turk trampled her glo So little know so rich in all this yet so unprosperous in the end, is it even the best day a sigh of despair demption. A Catholic w ponderingly apprais. After the lapse of patriarchy seems heritance of Ch slavery and infid If, indeed, at more than an hour, it is that part day the lives of sacrifice to the signs are washing kings are wor treated as typical claims of civil men in the co rized and par quished of mo Bergero, wrote of the moral Africa are pl course of Ch would be nex the African climate alone morality. W such deep dep specially how, patly has, boy and State in resolved to e endeavor to e This is show intercal trav of several so merely by pr peros, kings Formosa gium, and co person but p Ash to the w Some time Belgium call the Explor which Frato and other gr Just the Ki already gov from its of fected. Th and the goal however, in incipient m doration it and will do necessitate and dysent dots of ev party might tion of th degree of l the explor regions of I need no present.