

The Charlottetown Herald.

NEW SERIES.

CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, WEDNESDAY, OCT. 15, 1902

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A Letter to the Public

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Color in Eggs Nature's Secret.

It is not of us that science acknowledges herself at fault in an apparently simple matter, but she frankly loses so in regard to the color and making of a large proportion of birds' eggs. A reason there must be for their infinite diversity—it can not be an esthetic one; and all we can say with any confidence is that the ever-pervading instinct of distrust is probably exhibited in eggshells as in more important things, and the main idea in their scheme of coloration has been the securing of safety from many enemies by harmonising them with their surroundings. But it is a scheme full of perplexing exceptions, which any one can study for himself in the spring. To take a very easy instance first. The doves present a problem which works out satisfactorily if we keep nature's extreme conservatism of habits in view, and take the cavern-building rock doves, in this country at all events, as representing the ancestral stock. The color of all pigeons' eggs is white, while the structure of their nests is flimsy in the extreme. The original rock-doves laid white eggs, in obedience to a law ordaining that color for most species nesting in the dark, possibly with the object of the mother bird readily perceiving their position as she comes into the gloom. And these cliff pigeons made their nests of the most accessible material—namely, dry, hard fronds of seaweed from prehistoric beaches. To suppose that they would use moss or wool, or study compactness in those dusky corners, where no eye followed them or winds blew, would be unreasonable. When, for some forgotten reason, the species left their precipice recess, they brought away their old traditions with them. The stock doves which may be found on almost any extensive warren still show their ancient habits by taking to deserted rabbit burrows for the rearing of their young, and even the domestic dove cot is a concession to a certain habit.

And all the pigeons continued, with that persistence so often characterizing the workings of nature, to lay white shells and build nests identical in form to the sea wrack of their primogenitors. These nests were of the finest material—namely, dead, dry, twigs.

The owls lay eggs as pallid as the doves, doubtless for the same reason; they breed in the dark. If the coloration of shells were all as simple as this, the matter would be easy enough, but no sooner have we disposed of the two families above than we find the ducks, which have, so far as we know, always frequented the most open places, also laying shells without markings! We may note, however, that there is a great tendency among them to revert to olive browns or sandy tints, and if we suppose the first ducks laid along ancient sea margins or by shingly pits, this would be the very hue to preserve their eggs from observation.

The same end, of course, is served by the beautiful marbling of most of the beautiful beach-breeding plovers, and waders; by the russet produce of partridges and pheasants who nest among the dead grass and fallen leaves; and by the sage-colored eggs of the nightingale, which, forsaking the bush-building habits of its kind, instantly forsakes also the generic coloration of their eggs for that of its new grounding associates. Nor can there be a reasonable doubt that protective mimicry is active in the nests of grouse and moor-fowl, where the contents match admirably the brown stems of heather and scales from pine-trees among which they lie. As for the brooding nightjar, both mother bird and eggs are the best-ideal of protective deceit. Not content with a bare resemblance to her surroundings, the former appears to take into nice consideration the very pattern and shade of her gray plumage, and, choosing for a nesting-place some tangled spot where a fire has reduced a patch of gorse to charcoal, covers there over the leaden-hued eggs in the same so like the things about her that the keenest eye of hawk or man is deceived.—Fall Mall Magazine.

Persecution is likely to have in France at the present day the same effect which it has had throughout the ages. The congregations were hardly expelled than steps were in contemplation to enable their members to continue their work of charity and abnegation and to save at the same time from utter ruin the fruits of their lives. An association which is known as the League of Catholic Defense has been formed, for the purpose of enabling the nuns to continue their apostleship. This league, which has been formed by the most prominent ladies of the French aristocracy, intends to establish, with the approval of the ecclesiastical authorities, a number of non-educational establishments under the control of the nuns which have been expelled from the schools. The chief idea is to first, in every commune or parish in France one nun, who will be intrusted with visiting the sick

and looking after the poor. This nun will also be in charge of a "patronage" for young girls, which will be a meeting place for the young girls of the parish, where they will find opportunities for amusement and instruction and for healthy recreations while being encouraged in the practice of their religious duties. The nun will also be in charge of a small library of good books, which will be lent gratuitously to the parishioners. In places where one nun would not be sufficient to carry on the work, she will be given lay assistants. It is intended that the nun in each parish should wear her religious costume, but should M. Combes or his successors assimilate this one nun to an unauthorized congregation, she will then be requested to give up her costume and wear civilian dress. The league will provide especially for the country districts. In addition to the above league another association has been formed at Rennes on the initiative of Admiral de Caverville, Senator for the Finistere Department, which has for object the defense of the rights and liberty of Brittany. This association is called "La Ligue pour la Defense des libertes Bretonnes," and a meeting has been called for all the Breton members of Parliament and members of Councils General and of Councils of Arrondissement to consider the situation and to endeavor to come to an understanding for the organization of an electoral campaign.

The Rev. Francis B. Doherty, C. S. P., chaplain of the Eleventh Cavalry, U. S. A., has been on duty at Bigan in the Philippine Islands in the midst of the region infected by cholera.

Father Lonergan, S. J., who has just returned from Spain, having been called thence to assume a position in the Jesuit college at Denver, says that the scandalous stories told the papers about the young King of Spain are all malicious Freemason fabrications; that the young King is a model of a Catholic.

The fifth anniversary of the settlement of the Lazarist Fathers at Emmitsburg, Md., was observed in St. Joseph's Church there last week. The occasion was marked by the presence of distinguished members of the hierarchy and a large number of visiting priests. Solemn Pontifical Mass was celebrated by Bishop Edward P. Allen, of Mobile Ala., former president of Mount St. Joseph's College. Cardinal Gibbons assisted in the sanctuary.

Right Rev. George Montgomery, Bishop of Monterey and Los Angeles, Cal., who has been appointed coadjutor to Archbishop Riordan, of San Francisco, is very popular on the Pacific coast. His appointment has been received with great satisfaction in San Francisco. Bishop Montgomery is one of the ablest members of the American hierarchy. He has earned distinction as a preacher. He was ordained in 1879. In 1894 he was appointed coadjutor to the Right Rev. Bishop More, of Los Angeles, becoming Bishop on the retirement of the aged prelate in 1896.

By the will of the late Rev. Thomas Scully, of the Church of the Annunciation, Cambridge, Mass., \$1,000 are left for Masses, \$500 each is given to the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Annunciation Guild connected with the parish, his library and pictures go to St. Mary's parish school; and this school, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and the Society for Roman Catholic Missions among the Indians and Negroes in America are made legatees of the estate, after one personal bequest of \$3,000.

In the course of a trenchant article on the persecution of the religious congregations in France, an authoritative organ as the "Revue des Deux-Mondes" has this to say: "The congregations succor the poor and the miserable, feed them, harbor them, dress their wounds, be they ever so offensive; guide the blind, endeavor to give speech to the dumb, house the paralytic, attend the plague-stricken and nurse the lepers. It is feared that they thus wage an intolerable competition with the new religion preached from so high a quarter? These admirable works are performed by the religious congregations because they are religious congregations; that is to say, because their members, united by religious ties, live in communities. Suppress the ties, suppress the common life and there will be nothing left—no more congregations but also no more works."

Minard's Liniment relieves neuralgia.

It is reported that the Holy Father will soon grant an episcopal see to Norway, owing to the growth of Catholicity in that country.

The conversion is announced of Mr. Arthur Moe, F. R. A. S., a well-known Welsh scientist and author, who has been received into the Church by Father Kennedy at Cardiff.

The Rev. W. H. Mitchell, rector of the Anglican parish of Eberston, Gloucestershire, England, was recently received into the Church by the Rev. George Nichols, of St. Joseph's, Bristol.

In the State of New Hampshire there are now eighty-six Catholic churches and thirty chapels, with 104 priests and over 100,000 people in their care. There are four religious communities of men and eight of women.

An important decree promulgated by the recent synod of the clergy of the St. Louis Archdiocese prohibits festivals, encores, pious excursions and all manner of church entertainments on Sunday. Archbishop Kain characterized all such exhibitions as shameful and scandalous.

Notre Dame University, South Bend, Ind., has opened for the fifty-ninth year with over 600 students, and it is thought there will be over 1,000 when all arrive. Among the pupils are some from the Philippine Islands, Cuba, Porto Rico, Mexico, South America and Japan, also from Ireland, France and Canada.

The Sisters of the Precious Blood are about to open a new monastery in Havana, Cuba, from their monastery in Manchester, N. H. Several Cuban Sisters, under the guidance of Mother M. St. Gertrude, formerly of the Brooklyn house, will sail from New York on September 25. They will spend a few days at the Brooklyn monastery previous to their departure for Cuba.

Apparently, in spite of all reports to the contrary, the monks of Grande Chartreuse have not decided to leave France. The procurator general has become a secular priest, so as to keep in hand the temporality. The monks will apply for authorization, and should it be refused will migrate, half to Austria, half to England, to which latter country their valuable library has been already sent.

According to "Diaris" the Spanish Government has decided that all questions concerning the religious orders shall be made matter of treaty after due and calm discussion. Pending such discussion the State will take no action whatever against the congregations. Under all circumstances the government is resolved to avoid any violent or sudden break in its negotiations. And, finally, it recognizes that the religious orders are an integral part of the ecclesiastical ministry. This is as it should be.

Sir Thomas Edmond, the chief whip of the Irish party in the House of Commons, left London the other day for Rome, bearing the address of congratulation from his colleagues to the Pope on the celebration of his jubilee. The address has been especially illuminated by an Irish artist in Dublin, and it is enclosed in a massive silver casket. Sir Thomas Edmond will remain in Rome for a month, and will also introduce the great Irish pilgrimage to the Pope during the present month.

Monsieur and Madame Nicholas, the first couple to be married in the Church of the Madeleine in Paris after its consecration, recently appeared therein at a Mass celebrated on the occasion of their diamond wedding, when four generations of the family were present, and one of the old people's descendants was baptized at the end of the service. Monsieur Nicholas is dean of the employees of the city of Paris. He and his wife, respectively eighty-eight and eighty-one years of age, had chairs at the head of the high altar. In the choir stalls were their sons, wife, the grand children and two great-grand-children.

Aching Joints

In the fingers, toes, arms, and other parts of the body, are joints that are inflamed and swollen by rheumatism—that acid condition of the blood which affects the muscles also.

Sufferers desire to move, especially after sitting or lying long, and their condition is commonly worse in wet weather.

"I suffered dreadfully from rheumatism, but have been completely cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla, for which I am deeply grateful." Miss FRANCES SMITH, Prescott, Ont.

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