

A PLEA FOR UNITY

Among English-Speaking Catholics in Montreal.

ITS DESIRABILITY NECESSARY TO SECURE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS.

A Practical View of the Prospects for a United Canadian Sentiment That Would Sweep Away the Forces of Sectionalism.

The remarks of Walter R., in last week's issue of THE TRUE WITNESS, in reference to the impotency of the English-speaking, and particularly the Irish-Catholic vote in Montreal, have excited my renewed interest in the subject.

That there is a lack of union amongst our people is set forth therein as the general opinion of the politicians, and Walter R., while, apparently, agreeing with this idea, instead of suggesting a remedy, proceeds to hold us up to our own ridicule, probably with the not unlaudable object in view of spurring us onwards to reformation by mirroring our present position as undesirable and ineffective, and as a sign that we are governed more by individual selfishness than by patriotic impulses.

The question of the lack of unity amongst Irishmen is no new one. It is not confined to the City of Montreal. Disunion is lamentably evident in Ireland, and truly patriotic men are now laboring to effect it, to cement the different sections of the people together, that they may work as a harmonious whole for the consummation of the hope that is dear to the heart of each true Irishman, whether he is the leader of a faction or isolated.

I do not intend in this paper to discuss Ireland at all, but to come nearer home, into a circle where we all are factors and in which each one of us may do his share in bringing English-speaking Catholic citizens together in bonds of brotherhood for their mutual social benefit.

I will start out with the hypothesis (which requires no great stretch of the imagination) that we are not united, and consider, first, the desirability of unity; second, the true principles of unity; third, the feasibility of attaining an effective degree of union at the present time.

As I hope not to be wearisome, and fear I could not write at length without becoming so, I will give my views on the three considerations above mentioned in separate papers and in the order I have put them down.

The Desirability of Union.

The primary object in the uniting of a people is their own advancement. The union of a particular section of a community is not calculated to be advantageous to a section with views antagonistic to theirs. When any particular class of persons characterized by identical nationality or creed join together as a single body, it is for the sole purpose of benefiting their own people—working on the principle that they will look out for themselves and that those of other descent or different persuasion can do likewise. In an individual this rule of conduct or maxim would be selfish; amongst a class who form a distinct part of a community it becomes necessary to the preservation of their identity.

Poets may sing of a united Canada where we would all stand under a common flag, on the same principles of nationality, and sectionalism be a matter of history. The idea is a grand one, the thought, sublime and soul-inspiring; the hope, patriotic in the highest sense of the word; but, not to be realized in anything like its completeness for the next century.

Divide the city of Montreal into its three prime sections, French-Canadian, English-speaking, Protestants and English-speaking Catholics. To get a perfectly united community we must merge these three people together in such a manner that the good qualities of each would be present in the whole. This is a task I would hesitate to-day to attempt, even on paper, and which must be left in the hands of that great master moulder of men and events—time.

If we desire to be present on the day of general union we must not lose our identity as English-speaking Catholics in the meantime. What is good in our nature must be preserved to enrich the character of the future nation.

We pride ourselves on a due proportion of virtues, and we would consider it the height of presumption were French-Canadian or English-speaking Protestants to suggest that we should sink our distinctive hereditary traits, and lose our identity, with the object in view of taking the first step towards national union. We would indignantly retort that we were here to stay, that the signs of Catholicism would be indelibly imprinted in the constitution of the Canada of the future, that if it tapers down to a question of the "survival of the fittest," we are quite willing to take our chances, and certainly will not deliberately barter or sacrifice our principles to further or spread the ideas of others. I do not think a single Catholic could be found who would answer otherwise, yet—what are we doing to make our chances of survival at least equal to those of others? Nothing, we are negatively passive—or nearly so.

There is a collision in the ranks of French-Canadians and amongst English

Protestants, where their interests as a class are endangered, which is admirable. They have their daily, weekly and monthly publications to voice their sentiments and champion their rights. They have put themselves in positions that when they speak they command attention and respect, for they speak as a people, not as individuals.

We Catholics are scattered and left to our personal resources. Naturally, there can be no marked unanimity amongst us under the circumstances. Private judgment holds tall away in dealing with public matters, and the power we should wield by virtue of our numerical strength is spent in ill-directed efforts.

To place our people on the same plane in the social and political world as our fellow-citizens of other nationalities and creeds, we must seek to concentrate our efforts, to work with a singleness of purpose on all occasions. In short, we must unite and ever act in unity.

If we are to advance our people, if we are to get a fair share of public honors and patronage, if we are to obtain an equitable voice and proportionate influence in the administration of the affairs of the country and in moulding its future, unity is not only desirable, but absolutely and imperatively necessary. It is necessary for our present recognition, and our future existence as a people depends upon it, and solely upon it.

Our principles must survive. It rests with Irishmen and sons of Irishmen to-day to ensure their survival.

Let our forces, then, gather 'neath the banner of Unity, and let us pledge ourselves, as descendants of brave men and virtuous women to be true to our colors. Having disposed of the first of my three considerations to my own satisfaction, I will close paper number one.

OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Some of Their Defects Which Teachers Should Remedy.

In the current number of that very interesting magazine, the Catholic Reading Circle Review, is the following important article on "Some Defects of Children," by Mary A. Kiniry:—

While all agree that no two pupils are exactly alike, that the powers of some tend in this, of others in that direction, large numbers fail to see that a little power along many lines is desirable if not necessary in every one. A physician does not require the eloquence of a preacher; still, it is very likely that at some time he will be called upon to speak in public. It may be at a banquet or at a convention of his co-laborers. It may be to congratulate a distinguished guest, or to defend the principles of his own profession. If he have not enough eloquence to speak according to his knowledge and experience he is certainly at a great disadvantage. A teacher need not be a physician; yet when accidents occur it will be well to be able to staunch a flow of blood, or treat a sprained member. So along all lines of human interest, a little knowledge of many and a profound knowledge of one is the best state of attainment for the individual.

In the majority of schools founded to give this broad range of ability, and, by cultivating all the faculties, lay the foundations of future power, it seems to me that the work of the special or professional school is often anticipated. The bright pupil is left triumphantly along the path of his peculiar power to the neglect of his less obvious possibilities. It is no wonder this is so. The teacher's work is reduced to the minimum, yet the child advances with astonishing rapidity. He brings credit to his school, credit to his master.

"Draw out what is in the child. Develop his faculties." Words said so often and so often grossly misapplied. The possibilities of a child are not bounded by his leading talent. They are many and various. Very often they are necessary to the fullest development of his superlative power. But they are not like it, showy and strong. They are much oftener veiled under the thick folds of a defect, and it is to such defects and their darkened possibilities I wish to call the attention of earnest teachers. Why is it that so many persons fail to accomplish in maturity the promise of their youth? It is, I think, because an associate power, which should have sustained or otherwise assisted the leading one, was not developed in early life. It was hidden under a defect.

Let us glance for a moment at some of our little people. See yonder child poring over a book while her classmates are out at play. "She is my brightest pupil," says her teacher. Ah, yes, she is bright; but if you do not charm her into physical activity she will be burdened through life with an overpowering indolence, which will prevent serious exertion and leave her a useless dreamer.

Yonder is another type. "He is gentle and obedient. He is willing to do whatever I propose, and I have never known him to quarrel or disagree with a companion." Ah, true; but will he be able to say "no" when temptations offer? Will he be able to resist the lures of evil company should circumstances place him therein in later life? That boy's defect is weakness, and you, dear teacher, must help him to overcome it. Place him in positions where he will be constrained to exercise his own judgment and act on his decisions. Give him his choice of two or three objects, or conditions, insisting that he shall make a choice and shall tell his reason for preferring one to others. Thus his judgment shall be strengthened, and his will shall rule over his actions in the freedom given it by God. "What a good child!" cries the teacher, indicating with smiling glance another of her little flock.

Hardly know he is in school. He never interrupts, or answers out of his turn. He never troubles me in any way and his written work is beyond criticism. His oral work is not so

good. He falters sometimes when I call upon him. "This is the timid child, the one I pity of all others, the child that will not strive for place, in fact shrinks from it, and yet would like to have it; the child that is likely to be passed over because he will bear it in silence and give no trouble. In mercy bring this child forward, approve his efforts, encourage him, make him feel his power. Do not permit him to grow up a morbid, over sensitive man feeling none of the joy of life, believing himself deserted and despised by all, through lack of ability to struggle with the crowd and take and keep his proper place.

There are many other defects I might describe but I have chosen a few that I consider peculiarly dangerous because of their quiet, hidden nature. Those whose symptoms are noisy or active no teacher can fail to observe. Anger, disobedience, insubordination and the like she must treat or her authority will suffer. A few pupils there are who seem to have the fullness of their peculiar good gifts, bright intellects, clever tongues, unembarrassed bearing, unwearied activity. They go on almost unassisted to the very heights. Thank God that it is so. But pray Him likewise that as teachers, followers of the Divine Teacher of Nazareth, we may help to lead thither others capable of deeds as noble, who might have been held back by defects which in the little child seemed scarcely less than virtues.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION. While the rich green of hemlock and holly and the bright red berries of the latter fill the body of the church with cheery warmth, household decoration should be entirely different in character, and a great mistake is made when evergreens are thrust into every available corner and lavishly wreathed about chandeliers and pictures.

The mistletoe bough is allowable on Christmas eve, and where there are little people the time-honored Christmas tree in one corner is a pretty sight; but while the whole house should be at its freshest and brightest, and exhale the very atmosphere of good cheer and hospitality, it is not desirable to hang it with wreaths and ropes of green like a public hall.

The Christmas dinner table should be the central point of decoration, and this can be carried out with a very moderate amount of trouble and expense. On the fine damask table cover should be laid a central strip of sash-curtain silk in scarlet or old-red, extending from end to end, and bordered all around with guipure lace. A strip of any other material in rich coloring may be substituted for the silk, only heavy lace would be appropriate, and a narrow fringe could be used instead of lace.

That Tired Feeling

Makes you seem "all broken up," without life, ambition, energy or appetite. It is often the forerunner of serious illness, or the accompaniment of nervous troubles. It is a positive proof of thin, weak, impure blood; for, if the blood is rich, red, vitalized and vigorous, it imparts life and energy to every nerve, organ and tissue of the body. The necessity of taking Hood's Sarsaparilla for that tired feeling is therefore apparent to every one, and the good it will do you is equally beyond question. Remember

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier.

Hood's Pills cure liver ills, easy to take, easy to operate. 25 cents.

good. He falters sometimes when I call upon him. "This is the timid child, the one I pity of all others, the child that will not strive for place, in fact shrinks from it, and yet would like to have it; the child that is likely to be passed over because he will bear it in silence and give no trouble. In mercy bring this child forward, approve his efforts, encourage him, make him feel his power. Do not permit him to grow up a morbid, over sensitive man feeling none of the joy of life, believing himself deserted and despised by all, through lack of ability to struggle with the crowd and take and keep his proper place.

There are many other defects I might describe but I have chosen a few that I consider peculiarly dangerous because of their quiet, hidden nature. Those whose symptoms are noisy or active no teacher can fail to observe. Anger, disobedience, insubordination and the like she must treat or her authority will suffer. A few pupils there are who seem to have the fullness of their peculiar good gifts, bright intellects, clever tongues, unembarrassed bearing, unwearied activity. They go on almost unassisted to the very heights. Thank God that it is so. But pray Him likewise that as teachers, followers of the Divine Teacher of Nazareth, we may help to lead thither others capable of deeds as noble, who might have been held back by defects which in the little child seemed scarcely less than virtues.

OUR PARAGRAPHER

ON THE RECENT DELIVERANCE OF HON. MR. DOBELL, IN ENGLAND.

NEW INVENTIONS—THE S. A. A.—THE CHICAGO IDEA OF HARNESSING "OLD SOL"—TARIFF REFORM—NEW TAXES—THE CALENDAR AND OTHER SUBJECTS.

The Hon. Mr. Dobell has received more than one compliment since the delivery of his Imperial Federation speech in London. It was characteristic of the honorable gentleman and full of professions of unwavering loyalty, which we in Canada should humbly endorse. Although loyalty talk, like the reverse, is easy, Mr. Dobell has excelled at the business, and his roseate picture of the time when all the English speaking people of the world shall gather together 'neath the sheltering wing of the Mother country defies competition.

On the canvas of his imagination he has painted our neighbors to the south returning to the fold and being received in a manner that would make the prodigal son purple with envy. This touch makes the federation picture complete, so rounds it off as to leave no room for improvement.

Mr. Dobell has not stated exactly that the prodigal "Uncle" (Sam) has displayed any signs of repentance for his unnatural behavior in 1776, but such symptoms must surely be perceived by the honorable gentleman, who, having no particular duties assigned to him as a member of the Laurier Government, may spend his leisure in feeling the pulse of the great American democracy, with whom, doubtless, he is closely in touch.

John Bull has not ordered a "fatted calf" yet, however.

A French genius has invented a steamship which runs on wheels. If things keep going around at their present rate of progress, we may expect to hear in the near future of bicycle races across the Atlantic, and of members of the Shamrock Bicycle Club being arrested for "scorching" down the Lachine Rapids or St. Mary's current. Whither are we drifting?

The many friends of Dr. J. J. Guerin, M.L.A., and particularly the Irish-Catholic section of the community, are pleased to see that he has recovered from his recent severe illness and is again able to attend to his professional and parliamentary duties.

Last week's conflagration of the Barron Block presented a picturesque sight from all parts of the city and surrounding country, but from no place was the view so awe-inspiring as from the Star office, immediately opposite.

Were an artist to truly transfer to his canvass those seething, devouring tongues of fire which issued forth from windows and roof in hissing defiance to the heavens, he would have the groundwork for a master representation of the popular idea of a winter resort which I hope none of us will ever visit.

The Shamrock A.A.A. is an organization which has made its way to the front in the face of great obstacles and despite the bitter opposition of antagonistic forces. The Irish people of Montreal have reason to be proud of it.

President Butler's appeal to the young men of the city to join the Association is well timed and should meet with a hearty response.

There is no reason why the Shamrocks should not show a numerical strength of, at least, a thousand members, and I have the assurance of men high up in the councils of the Association that if anything like this number could be obtained a commodious and well-equipped Club house would be secured in the heart of the city. The building is available at present writing, and all the Directors ask is a little substantial aid from the young men before going ahead.

It is not a question of charity but simply a means of deriving great benefits from a small expenditure.

A gentleman, whose residence, if I mistake not, is in Chicago, claims to have devised a means of harnessing the Sun.

OUR PHILOSOPHER

DISCUSSES THE EDUCATIONAL QUESTION.

ATTRIBUTES THE RESULT IN MANITOBA TO THE WEAKNESS OF TEMPORIZERS AND THE PROMOTERS OF A SO CALLED CON-CILIATORY POLICY.

In a country such as ours, with its mixed population and diverse creeds, the prevalence of harmony and fraternal good will is a necessary condition of progress and development. As the state of affairs in Manitoba for the past six years shows, harmony and good will can only exist where all classes and creeds are in the enjoyment of equal rights. The Catholics in that province do not enjoy equal rights with their Protestant fellow-citizens in the very important matter of education. Their schools have been taken from them; and they are forced by law to pay for the maintenance of Protestant schools, to which they cannot conscientiously send their children. They know that, as history and experience have abundantly demonstrated, unless the principles of religion are implanted in the minds of the children at school, the quality of their citizenship when they grow up will be of a very undesirable character. And as the citizen is, so is the nation. Better far that the children should remain ignorant of many things than that they should be bereft of the knowledge which is eternal life—the knowledge of God and of the Church which He commissioned to teach all nations the saving truths of religion.

Catholic laymen, who, from motives best known to themselves, publicly approve of the settlement, we repeat, are deserving of the gravest censure. If the Catholic minority in Ontario had been composed of weak-kneed temporizers like them, would there be separate Catholic schools in Ontario to-day? If the Protestant minority in Quebec had been actuated by such a paltry spirit, would there be Protestant separate schools in Quebec to-day?

There would not. All true Catholics, who are worthy of the name, should stand firmly for their principles. There should be no saint-heartedness, no spirit of compromise, no opportunism in them. While respecting the rights of their Protestant brethren in educational and in all other matters, let them resent with all their might every encroachment upon their own rights.

It is only by the mutual recognition of, and respect for, the rights of each other, that the Catholics and Protestants of Canada can succeed in working successfully and in common to achieve for their country the greatness which Providence has manifestly in store for it.

STUDYING ECONOMY.

Important for the Home.

In these hard times thousands of smart and bright women in Canada find that the Diamond Dyes are great and important helps in economizing. With their aid, the husband, the children and the mother herself can be handsomely dressed, although nearly all the clothing may be old material dyed over.

Diamond Dyes make such lasting and beautiful colors that goods dyed with them cannot be told from new. Any one can use them, as the directions are so plain and simple that no skill is needed. The colors of Diamond Dyes never grow dim; they never fade or wash out. In order to secure the best advantages in dyeing, every woman should see that her dealer gives her the "Diamond Dyes," as other package dyes are only poor imitations.

THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

THE DATE OF THE SESSION AND ITS PROBABLE DURATION.

A London correspondent of an American exchange says: "Doubts already are being expressed as to the expediency of the date fixed for the reassembling of Parliament—January 19. It is said that those best informed in parliamentary matters have warned the Government that they cannot hope to get passed the measures they pledged themselves to in August last, and also carry the necessary money votes before the end of the financial year.

Ministers were therefore urged to begin on January 12, thus leaving a sufficient margin for such topics as are sure to give rise to long debates before Easter. Mr. Balfour, however, is satisfied with the programme of the work he has set out, and hopes to give himself and the Ministerialists Liberal Whitsun and Easter holidays; while in Opposition quarters it is maliciously prophesied that before March is over the government will find themselves in as hopeless a muddle as that of last year. But beyond the fact that it is, as a rule, extremely difficult to get a good attendance of members before the third week in January, I am assured that the approaching session's work is to be restricted by the government within very modest limits. It is foreseen with good reason that colonial difficulties and international complications will next year demand the close and most earnest attention of the cabinet. Ministers are therefore anxious to secure a "quiet life" in home affairs by keeping clear of contentious legislation."

SONNET.

"Is It Nothing to You, All Ye that Pass By?"—Lam. 1-12.

[Suggested by looking at the Calvary, near the entrance to the Church of the Franciscan Fathers, Jarenton Street.]

Here by the road side hangs the God-made Man, Upon the gibbet that on Calvary's height, Became for human souls redemption's night, Whence Love and Mercy in one chancel ran. Here rest your eyes, all ye that passing can. And let your hearts be melted at the sight, Death's terrors are as taught. Divine light Illumines even this for those who scan.

And yet, of all the thousands hurrying by, Seeing the symbol of salvation here, How few there are who look with pitying eye, Or feel the sense of sin in shuddering fear? The world has wooed them to its joy and gain; They dare not think nor call their seeking vain.

B. F. D. DUNN.

Mrs. Knight—Does your husband treat you the same now as he did when he was courting you? Mrs. Light—Pretty much. He keeps me in the dark!—Yonkers Statesman.

RICH RED BLOOD is the foundation of good health. That is why Hood's Sarsaparilla, the One True Blood Purifier, gives HEALTH.

We hear a great deal about purifying the blood. The way to purify it is to enrich it. Blood is not a simple fluid like water. It is made up of minute bodies and when these are deficient, the blood lacks the life-giving principle. Scott's Emulsion is not a mere blood purifier. It actually increases the number of the red corpuscles in the blood and changes unhealthy action into health.

If you want to learn more of it we have a book, which tells the story in simple words.

SCOTT & BOWNE, Belleville, Ont.

revenue according to the extent and value of the premises used for business purposes, or, I may say, in proportion to the number of people they employ.

The city wants all the money it can get, and from all appearances, more. The people require all the fresh air obtainable. Only a few of them get their share.

There are two sides to most questions.

Madame Albani has come and gone, and many a two dollar bill has gone with her. Owing to the prices of admission a lot of one dollar notes, which might otherwise have left us, are still in local circulation.

There is a suggestion made that, commencing on January 1st, 1897, the year be divided into thirteen months—twelve of twenty eight days, or four weeks each, and one of twenty-nine days. I am in no way superstitious, but I think I could worry along for the balance of my existence under the present calendar.

OUR PHILOSOPHER

DISCUSSES THE EDUCATIONAL QUESTION.

ATTRIBUTES THE RESULT IN MANITOBA TO THE WEAKNESS OF TEMPORIZERS AND THE PROMOTERS OF A SO CALLED CON-CILIATORY POLICY.

In a country such as ours, with its mixed population and diverse creeds, the prevalence of harmony and fraternal good will is a necessary condition of progress and development. As the state of affairs in Manitoba for the past six years shows, harmony and good will can only exist where all classes and creeds are in the enjoyment of equal rights. The Catholics in that province do not enjoy equal rights with their Protestant fellow-citizens in the very important matter of education. Their schools have been taken from them; and they are forced by law to pay for the maintenance of Protestant schools, to which they cannot conscientiously send their children. They know that, as history and experience have abundantly demonstrated, unless the principles of religion are implanted in the minds of the children at school, the quality of their citizenship when they grow up will be of a very undesirable character. And as the citizen is, so is the nation. Better far that the children should remain ignorant of many things than that they should be bereft of the knowledge which is eternal life—the knowledge of God and of the Church which He commissioned to teach all nations the saving truths of religion.

Catholic laymen, who, from motives best known to themselves, publicly approve of the settlement, we repeat, are deserving of the gravest censure. If the Catholic minority in Ontario had been composed of weak-kneed temporizers like them, would there be separate Catholic schools in Ontario to-day? If the Protestant minority in Quebec had been actuated by such a paltry spirit, would there be Protestant separate schools in Quebec to-day?

There would not. All true Catholics, who are worthy of the name, should stand firmly for their principles. There should be no saint-heartedness, no spirit of compromise, no opportunism in them. While respecting the rights of their Protestant brethren in educational and in all other matters, let them resent with all their might every encroachment upon their own rights.

It is only by the mutual recognition of, and respect for, the rights of each other, that the Catholics and Protestants of Canada can succeed in working successfully and in common to achieve for their country the greatness which Providence has manifestly in store for it.

STUDYING ECONOMY.

Important for the Home.

In these hard times thousands of smart and bright women in Canada find that the Diamond Dyes are great and important helps in economizing. With their aid, the husband, the children and the mother herself can be handsomely dressed, although nearly all the clothing may be old material dyed over.

Diamond Dyes make such lasting and beautiful colors that goods dyed with them cannot be told from new. Any one can use them, as the directions are so plain and simple that no skill is needed. The colors of Diamond Dyes never grow dim; they never fade or wash out. In order to secure the best advantages in dyeing, every woman should see that her dealer gives her the "Diamond Dyes," as other package dyes are only poor imitations.

THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

THE DATE OF THE SESSION AND ITS PROBABLE DURATION.

A London correspondent of an American exchange says: "Doubts already are being expressed as to the expediency of the date fixed for the reassembling of Parliament—January 19. It is said that those best informed in parliamentary matters have warned the Government that they cannot hope to get passed the measures they pledged themselves to in August last, and also carry the necessary money votes before the end of the financial year.

Ministers were therefore urged to begin on January 12, thus leaving a sufficient margin for such topics as are sure to give rise to long debates before Easter. Mr. Balfour, however, is satisfied with the programme of the work he has set out, and hopes to give himself and the Ministerialists Liberal Whitsun and Easter holidays; while in Opposition quarters it is maliciously prophesied that before March is over the government will find themselves in as hopeless a muddle as that of last year. But beyond the fact that it is, as a rule, extremely difficult to get a good attendance of members before the third week in January, I am assured that the approaching session's work is to be restricted by the government within very modest limits. It is foreseen with good reason that colonial difficulties and international complications will next year demand the close and most earnest attention of the cabinet. Ministers are therefore anxious to secure a "quiet life" in home affairs by keeping clear of contentious legislation."

SONNET.

"Is It Nothing to You, All Ye that Pass By?"—Lam. 1-12.

[Suggested by looking at the Calvary, near the entrance to the Church of the Franciscan Fathers, Jarenton Street.]

Here by the road side hangs the God-made Man, Upon the gibbet that on Calvary's height, Became for human souls redemption's night, Whence Love and Mercy in one chancel ran. Here rest your eyes, all ye that passing can. And let your hearts be melted at the sight, Death's terrors are as taught. Divine light Illumines even this for those who scan.

OUR PHILOSOPHER

DISCUSSES THE EDUCATIONAL QUESTION.

ATTRIBUTES THE RESULT IN MANITOBA TO THE WEAKNESS OF TEMPORIZERS AND THE PROMOTERS OF A SO CALLED CON-CILIATORY POLICY.

In a country such as ours, with its mixed population and diverse creeds, the prevalence of harmony and fraternal good will is a necessary condition of progress and development. As the state of affairs in Manitoba for the past six years shows, harmony and good will can only exist where all classes and creeds are in the enjoyment of equal rights. The Catholics in that province do not enjoy equal rights with their Protestant fellow-citizens in the very important matter of education. Their schools have been taken from them; and they are forced by law to pay for the maintenance of Protestant schools, to which they cannot conscientiously send their children. They know that, as history and experience have abundantly demonstrated, unless the principles of religion are implanted in the minds of the children at school, the quality of their citizenship when they grow up will be of a very undesirable character. And as the citizen is, so is the nation. Better far that the children should remain ignorant of many things than that they should be bereft of the knowledge which is eternal life—the knowledge of God and of the Church which He commissioned to teach all nations the saving truths of religion.

Catholic laymen, who, from motives best known to themselves, publicly approve of the settlement, we repeat, are deserving of the gravest censure. If the Catholic minority in Ontario had been composed of weak-kneed temporizers like them, would there be separate Catholic schools in Ontario to-day? If the Protestant minority in Quebec had been actuated by such a paltry spirit, would there be Protestant separate schools in Quebec to-day?

There would not. All true Catholics, who are worthy of the name, should stand firmly for their principles. There should be no saint-heartedness, no spirit of compromise, no opportunism in them. While respecting the rights of their Protestant brethren in educational and in all other matters, let them resent with all their might every encroachment upon their own rights.

It is only by the mutual recognition of, and respect for, the rights of each other, that the Catholics and Protestants of Canada can succeed in working successfully and in common to achieve for their country the greatness which Providence has manifestly in store for it.

STUDYING ECONOMY.

Important for the Home.

In these hard times thousands of smart and bright women in Canada find that the Diamond Dyes are great and important helps in economizing. With their aid, the husband, the children and the mother herself can be handsomely dressed, although nearly all the clothing may be old material dyed over.

Diamond Dyes make such lasting and beautiful colors that goods dyed with them cannot be told from new. Any one can use them, as the directions are so plain and simple that no skill is needed. The colors of Diamond Dyes never grow dim; they never fade or wash out. In order to secure the best advantages in dyeing, every woman should see that her dealer gives her the "Diamond Dyes," as other package dyes are only poor imitations.

THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

THE DATE OF THE SESSION AND ITS PROBABLE DURATION.

A London correspondent of an American exchange says: "Doubts already are being expressed as to the expediency of the date fixed for the reassembling of Parliament—January 19. It is said that those best informed in parliamentary matters have warned the Government that they cannot hope to get passed the measures they pledged themselves to in August last, and also carry the necessary money votes before the end of the financial year.

Ministers were therefore urged to begin on January 12, thus leaving a sufficient margin for such topics as are sure to give rise to long debates before Easter. Mr. Balfour, however, is satisfied with the programme of the work he has set out, and hopes to give himself and the Ministerialists Liberal Whitsun and Easter holidays; while in Opposition quarters it is maliciously prophesied that before March is over the government will find themselves in as hopeless a muddle as that of last year. But beyond the fact that it is, as a rule, extremely difficult to get a good attendance of members before the third week in January, I am assured that the approaching session's work is to be restricted by the government within very modest limits. It is foreseen with good reason that colonial difficulties and international complications will next year demand the close and most earnest attention of the cabinet. Ministers are therefore anxious to secure a "quiet life" in home affairs by keeping clear of contentious legislation."

SONNET.

"Is It Nothing to You, All Ye that Pass By?"—Lam. 1-12.

[Suggested by looking at the Calvary, near the entrance to the Church of the Franciscan Fathers, Jarenton Street.]

Here by the road side hangs the God-made Man, Upon the gibbet that on Calvary's height, Became for human souls redemption's night, Whence Love and Mercy in one chancel ran. Here rest your eyes, all ye that passing can. And let your hearts be melted at the sight, Death's terrors are as taught. Divine light Illumines even this for those who scan.

And yet, of all the thousands hurrying by, Seeing the symbol of salvation here, How few there are who look with pitying eye, Or feel the sense of sin in shuddering fear? The world has wooed them to its joy and gain; They dare not think nor call their seeking vain.

B. F. D. DUNN.

Mrs. Knight—Does your husband treat you the same now as he did when he was courting you? Mrs. Light—Pretty much. He keeps me in the dark!—Yonkers Statesman.