

THE CATHOLIC SUMMER SCHOOL.

On Sunday last the 1899 session of the Lake Champlain Catholic Summer School opened, at Cliff Haven—near Plattsburg, N. Y., and the fourth week has been announced as devoted to the interests of the Alumnae Auxiliary Association. The promoters of this admirable institution desire to have attention drawn to this fact in particular. It is almost unnecessary for us to detail for our readers the history of and the utility and importance of the Summer School, Montrealers are almost as familiar with it as are the Catholic people of New York. A recent circular issued by the authorities of the School gives a fair statement of its principal aim. It says:—

"Briefly stated, the object of the Champlain Summer School is to increase the facilities for busy people as well as for those of leisure to pursue lines of study in various departments of knowledge by providing opportunities of getting instruction from eminent specialists. It is not intended to have the scope of the work limited to any class, but rather to establish an intellectual centre where anyone with serious purpose may come, and find new incentives to efforts for self-improvement. Here, in the leisure of a summer vacation, without great expense, one may listen to the best thought of the world condensed and presented by unselfish masters of study."

As many persons desirous of attending the Summer School, can afford to go for one week, or for a few days, and as each would like to be present when lectures of special interest and of utility—as far as he (or she) is concerned—are delivered, we will give the fullest programme, after the first week, which is over, for this summer's session:—

"Lectures for the second week, beginning July 16:—Sociology, by the Rev. William J. Kerby, Ph. D., Catholic University, Washington, D.C.; Dean Swift and Dickens, by John F. Waters, M. A., Ottawa, Canada. Reception to the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Loughlin, D.D., Philadelphia, Pa."

"Third week, beginning July 23:—Tendencies in Biology, by Dr. James C. Walsh, New York City; Glimpses of American History, by the Hon. John C. Fitzgerald, Member of Congress, Brooklyn, New York City; Camp Life

and Incidents of the Spanish-American War, by the Rev. William J. B. Daly, Chaplain of the 69th Regt."

"Fourth week, beginning July 30:—Famous Women of the Court of Louis XIV., by Alexis J. du Pont Coleman, B. A. (Oxford); Readings from great authors, illustrating expression in Literature, by Miss Marie Collins, Boston, Mass. Reception to Dr. Thos. Hunter, President of the Normal College, New York City."

The members of the Alumnae Auxiliary Association are expected to be present in attendance especially during the fourth week of the session. An important meeting of the officers will be held Monday morning, July 31, at half-past seven."

"Fifth week, beginning August 7:—Sensation and Thought, by the Rev. John T. Driscoll, Watervliet, N. Y.; English Law and Catholic Chancellors by Mr. William M. Byrne, Wilmington Delaware, Reception to the Hon. John T. McDonough, LL.D., Secretary of State and Regent of the University of the State of New York."

"Sixth week, beginning August 14:—Psychology in Education, by the Rev. James A. Doonan, S.J., Philadelphia, Pa.; Life on a War-ship with an account of the explosion of the "Maine" by the Rev. John P. Chidwick, Chaplain in the United States Navy; With the Men Behind the Guns, by Lieut. Godfrey L. Carden, ordnance officer during the Spanish-American War on the U. S. S. "Manning" of Admiral Sampson's Fleet."

"Seventh week, beginning August 20:—Will Power in the Domain of Ethics, by the Rev. Thomas J. Gasson, S.J., Boston, Mass.; Song Recitals, by the Rev. Thomas P. McLaughlin, S.T.L., New York City."

"Reception to Governor Roosevelt, August 21."

"Round Table Talks are arranged on the study of the Latin Language under the direction of the Rev. M. J. Lavelle, LL.D.; Nature Study, by Prof. F. D. Chester, M.D., Director of Pathological and Bacteriological Laboratory of the State Board of Health, Delaware; Practical Demonstrations in the Study of Biology, by Dr. Joseph P. Walsh, University of Pennsylvania; Vocal Music, by Miss Rose A. Carrigan, Normal School, Boston, Mass."

"Reading Circle Day, August 21."

SOME PHASES OF EDUCATION DISCUSSED.

FROM AN OCCASIONAL CONTRIBUTOR.

IN THE PRISON CELL.—We have before us two articles, the reading of which would incline one to believe that education was a great evil, joining them together they constitute a strong argument against the idea of general or universal education. It is a boon to the world. But it must be remembered that in both cases the writers argue from the exceptions and not from the rule. The first of these is from the San Francisco "Monitor," one of the most staunch Catholic organs of the Pacific Coast. The subject of the editorial was suggested by the publication of a masterly organ called the "Prison Forum," to which inmates of New York City penal institutions contribute very able, scientific and literary articles. The writer however, says that it is not necessary to go to prisons to find the great number of educated people who are offenders against the laws of God and of man. The article says:—

"In the life around us we find among the most frequent and flagrant offenders against the higher code, persons who enjoyed exceptional advantages in the way of early mental training. These people are not always legally culpable though their guilt is often blacker than that of those who are. The sort of education they received enables them to evade amenability to criminal statutes, without inspiring them with decent respect for the spirit of law, human or divine."

"This class of persons figure conspicuously in divorce court annals and in domestic scandals. Socially reputable and even distinguished, their transgressions however glaring and notorious, not coming within the purview of the written code, they pursue their wicked course unmolested of mundane justice. Who can doubt that in the eyes of God, many an inmate of a felon's cell, is infinitely less a sinner, than some of his more fortunate brethren counted among the social elite, beneath whose outward vestment of gentility there lies a core of moral rotteness?"

CREATES DISCONTENT.—The second article is from the pen of Maurice Thompson, and it appeared in the Philadelphia "Evening Post" of last week. Mr. Thompson's object seems to be the proving that contentment is the great source of happiness, and that education does not always—in an

fact it rarely—brings contentment. While we feel that the writer is a little too one-sided in his appreciation of education and its usefulness, still there is much common sense in remarks such as the following:

"Instead of generating a spirit of subtle and indescribable discontent, or a disposition to begrudge Providence and mankind because we are not all born equally gifted, fortunate and clever, education should disclose to us our limitations and make us glad to do our best within the periphery of our abilities. If Nature has made a man for the hoe, is it well to try to make him fancy that he can easily train himself to be a poet or a statesman, an architect, or an orator? A second thought would lead us to help him find out how to accomplish most with his hoe. The clods must be broken, the hods must be carried, the plow must have its man; we cannot all be Senators, railroad magnates, lawyers, doctors, teachers, poets, journalists, landlords, bankers, merchants, brokers, factors—the earth must give up the food of the world, and the toiler the man with the hoe, or his like, must bear the burden."

Again in the following paragraphs we have a very good development of the subject:—

"Ignorance is a word of many meanings; it represents the whole gamut of intellectual conditions below the supreme ideal. The philosopher regards the blunt and busy grocer as a very ignorant fellow; but the grocer sneeringly relates how a celebrated statesman, being told by his wife to buy some dry beans for the family, sent up a barrel of them. 'There is ignorance for you!' he exclaims; but he could no more understand the great lawyer's technicalities than could the lawyer grasp the fine points of the bean problem. Every man to his trade, and let his only discontent with it be an account of his failures to make the most of an honorable business."

"It is never too late to mend education; but the earlier the better. Discontent with slovenly work is the greatest aid to self-training, and this is the discontent that our schools should engender."

After presenting a number of arguments against the tendency towards universal education, and after discussing

the question of too much education, Mr. Thompson is obliged to make these admissions:—

"And yet it is a great error to suppose that education is an evil; the trouble lies in breeding. The first dawn of life should open upon carefully planned preparations for teaching that life to flow contentedly in the channels of its greatest usefulness. Young men should feel as they develop that no sphere is inferior if it is necessary to human economy, and that ignorance of how to hoe a hill of corn or how to house a crop of grain is just as great a defect as ignorance of how the law of gravitation affects the heavenly bodies."

"But every young man owes it to himself to be discontented so long as there lingers in his heart the slightest aversion to the work that Nature and the conditions of his breeding have fitted him to. If by earnest application to that work, his superior qualities assert themselves, there will be no difficulty about finding a higher area for their activities. Nearly all of the unwholesome and unmanly discontent among educated young men is but the result of a foolish excess of self-esteem—a visionary illusion of life with impracticable ambition."

It seems to us that in both these articles there is food for very serious reflection—is education a general boon, or a partial evil? Our own views will be given in another form at the opportune time.

SCHOOL CHILDREN TESTED.—The New York "Herald" recently published an elaborate and illustrated article upon the subject of "Remarkable Results of 22,000 Tests of School Children." It appears that the United States Bureau of Education has been spending large sums on the instruments and inventions whereby the capacities of children may be tested. The whole affair is somewhat novel, and we confess, that so far, we are unable to see the practical utility of it. It has required several years to finish every detail of the experimental undertaking. It is thus described by the "Herald's" article:—

"All of the youthful subjects if grouped together would equal in number the men in the ranks of our standing army at the outbreak of the last war. The object of the investigation was to discover the relationship between parentage, surroundings, nationality, stature, weight, size and shape of head and other conditions and the conduct, intellect and health of children at different ages. Almost all of the subjects were selected from the public schools of Washington, the

transient population of which includes nearly all American and foreign types of childhood."

"For the case of each child was issued a blank calling for as many as 107 details, covering all facts and characteristics to be considered. All of these data were collected by teachers in the various schools under the direction of Dr. Arthur Macdonald, well known as an anthropologist, who personally examined cases demanding the use of instruments of precision."

Let us see a couple of the results attained, or the conclusions arrived at through this new and wonderful system. Naturally, when an enterprise of a scientific kind has been carried out at great expense and for long years, the ordinary public may expect that the results will be both of a practical utility and a scientific interest. The article says:—

"The extravagant theories of pseudo-scientists of the spectacular schools of phrenology must be abandoned for conclusions reached by such thorough work as this. No attempt was made to study the bumps of the youthful heads, yet the general dimensions of the cranium were carefully considered. One of the most interesting deductions is that broad-headed children appear to be brighter than long-headed children, the length of the head being measured from front to back of cranium."

"Another interesting deduction is that the child with a large head is apt to be more intelligent than the one whose cranium is small. Diagrams made from the statistics show that as the circumference of the skull increases so does mental ability. Children of laborers were found to have smaller heads than those whose parents work with their brain rather than with their bodies. Of all his measurements the anthropologist says he attaches most importance to those of the head. Defects of the cranium, says he, are probably more significant than those of other parts, and in general the nearer a bodily defect is to the brain the more important it is."

This is all very interesting and also very true; but it seems to us that there was no need of examining 22,000 children, and expending vast sums of money, during a number of years, as well as inventing and causing to be invented, in order to find out what these gentlemen claim to have learned. In any case, our grandfathers knew all this about children. But possibly there is something great behind these experiments—if so we would like to hear of it.

THE DANGERS OF SUMMER RESORTS.

As we are now in full vacation time, and thousands are flocking to the various summer resorts—be they far or near—and as Saturday and Sunday excursions are the order of the hour, we will take from the Syracuse "Sun," the report of some remarks recently made by Rev. William F. Dougherty, pastor of the St. Vincent de Paul's Church, Syracuse, N.Y. While Father Dougherty's timely and very important words would permit of much amplification and of a great deal of local application, still, on the old principle that "a hint is as good as a wink," we will simply reproduce the short sermon, and leave to our readers the easy task of putting it into practice.

"He took for his text: 'And Jesus saith to Simon: Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.' He said in part:—'In the text Jesus said to His apostles: 'From henceforth thou shalt catch men,' but it also reminds me of the devil's struggle for the souls of men. It is now vacation time, and this is a season when the greatest of temptations is at hand—the temptation of seeking pleasure at improper places. Not only ourselves will seek the cool surroundings of the near-by groves, but also our children in our company or alone will go to the lake resorts, and often when the veil of night is cast about them they are not yet at home."

Where are they after dark? Do you know? Many a father and mother does not, and when the child is asked, they say that they have been, or see a friend when they have not. It is at this time of the year that the devil is in our midst, and he is not clothed in the garb of a lion, but in the dress of a summer pleasure resort. It is this place that many of our young folks visit without the

A HICKORY COFFIN,

A man who recently died in New York, had made his own coffin forty years before in the New England State in which he then lived. The coffin was made of lumber from a hickory tree that grew on his own place. When it was finished he had it stored away in an attic.

When the man died the coffin was sent for. It was well made and in

proper condition, and often-times it is late at night when they come home, and it is at such places as this, that they indulge in vice and commit sin. The extreme heat and the burning rays of the sweltering sun affect their throats, and it is not water, soda water or lemonade that can satisfy their wants, but they will indulge in a glass of beer. Of course, I don't mean that this one glass of beer will be the ruination of the child, but it may lead to vice. When darkness surrounds the lake resort is no more a fit place for a respectable young girl, escort or no escort; their place is at home, where the eye of the father and the mother can observe their actions."

"Many young girls will take their bicycles after dark, some with an escort, some without. What does this lead to? Is it the proper thing to do for a young girl? And if in company with her brother it will cause considerable gossip, and the impression made upon people by such young girls is not as it should be. There are many ways of enjoyment; but all these can be indulged in before dark, and at night your children should be in your homes."

"Try and have no discord in your families, because this sets a poor example for the children, and they are oftentimes driven to places of enjoyment where they will endeavor to forget the scenes at home."

"Therefore my good people, let it be your aim that the home be made the most comfortable, the most enjoyable place for your children, and when you do this they will have no desire to go to the lake resorts, and like places after dark. When your children are in their home, it is then that you have control over them, and you can plainly observe their actions, and all fear that they are in unfit company can be disbanded."

good condition; but the man had so grown that it was too small. The survivors bought for him a coffin of red cedar, but they had the hickory coffin taken apart and placed inside the modern one, so that after all the man was buried as he had desired to be—in his own hickory coffin.

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THE ST. CROIX SOAP MFG. CO. ST. STEPHEN, N.S.

IMPRESSIONS OF ITALY.

Three weeks ago we published a synopsis of a letter, from Rev. William Barry, D.D., to the Catholic Times of Liverpool, in which we gave some of his impressions of Italy. Last week a second letter, under the same heading appeared, and we take the liberty of reproducing some extracts from this second admirable essay. A London Alderman recently associated "wretched poverty," with the "Popish sway," in an address he gave before a Baptist association. Rev. Dr. Barry, after pointing out the contrast between the Roman Empire and the Roman Church says:—

"So far from Italy being under the Pope's sway, it is well known that he does not govern a single square mile of its territory. And when he did govern the country was much more prosperous than it is to-day. Under Popish rule taxes were light, officialdom had not grown to be the curse of a suffering people; corruption did not raise armies on a colossal scale, which had to be lodged, clothed, and nourished by the millions who were scarcely able to support themselves. From the point of view called economic, Italy has lost—lost in an extraordinary degree—and not gained by throwing off the rule of the Pope at Rome. The general situation, which has now continued for just upon forty years, is every day less endurable. Italians of the Manchester school, admirers of the Manchester school, and like him, have dreamt that they would set up a modern, industrial, competitive Italy. See now what kind of Italy they have made. It is a barracks, a naval dockyard, a bug shop front with empty stores and a famished nation as its resources for to-morrow. Some years ago a travelled gentleman of Bologna, whom I met on board an Atlantic liner, said to me, 'Sir, they have done their best to ruin Italy as a modern country, and they will ruin her. The thing cannot be done. A modern country lives by coal and iron. Italy has neither. I compared these words to Alderman Horsfall. It is not 'Popish' sway, but to geological strata, misunderstood by politicians, that Italian poverty must be traced home.'"

"It is not the Pope that devours the people alive; it is conscription, the navy, and the Triple Alliance. In one word taxation."

AN EMPHATIC VERDICT.

The Review, of St. Louis, is responsible for the following:—

"In a criminal prosecution recently tried in York, Neb., the jury, after a brief deliberation, returned the following verdict:—We the jury in the above-named case, do not believe one word that the witnesses have sworn to; neither do we believe that any of the attorneys have spoken the truth, nor that either of them could do so, even if he should care to take the trouble to try."

This verdict may, or may not have been pronounced; but, even were it an invention on the part of some writer, it contains the expression of sentiments very often entertained by juries. All might not be prepared to speak out their minds quite so fully, but there is no doubt that a jury often finds the greatest difficulty in arriving at a verdict to be the most equitable character of all that has been said or sworn to in the case.

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IMPRESSIONS OF ITALY.

"There are Italian 'Liberals' who would like to see the cities clean, prosperous, well managed; but they have taken Paris for their model, or they turn for inspiration to England; their minds are foreign, if their sentiments are patriotic. The social movement at large has left them behind. They do not grasp the evils of Capitalism. They let the working classes fall into the hands of syndicates, usurers, speculative financiers—all the harpy brood which is eating up our civilization with unclean jaws. Italy pays a fearful and ever-growing tribute in hard gold, not in the rags of paper-money, to loan-mongers, under whose intolerable sway, and not under that of any Pope, the land is dying. Talk about the Kings of Italy. Where are they? Neither at the Vatican, nor the Quirinal, but in Paris, where a certain great Jewish dynasty keeps its court, in the Rue St. Florentin."

"Moreover, the Pope spends his revenues, such as they are, at home; and the Italian cities, Rome above all, receive no slight advantage from the thousands of Catholic pilgrims who flock to their shrines. Will the Anno Santo, in 1900, impoverish Italy, if it brings five hundred thousand strangers to the threshold of the apostles? Let our good Alderman knock at Mr. Rothschild's door, not at the Porta Santa which leads into the great Basilica, if he would know what becomes of the people's earnings, swept off land and sea into this ever-widening net of taxation. The Government exacts all it can, borrows where it may, pays out and does not bring in, and when loyal Milan cries aloud for relief, at once it claps editors in prison, suppresses newspapers, and does a little shooting of its own, on the fine old Austrian pattern. And Alderman Horsfall describes Italy as 'under Popish sway.'"

"It is not the Pope my dear Alderman Horsfall, who must answer for this state of things. It is your atrocious gospel of Mammon which, having exploited the poor in these northern countries, has now invaded Italy, and under the fine delusive names of progress and civilization, is creating a proletariat in Tuscany, reducing the people to economic serfdom, and grinding out of them a tribute to Jew and barbarian alike."

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