### ROBERT W. SERVICE IN BRITTANY

To the Editor of the RECORD:

The erstwhile poet of the Yukon, R. W. Service, has been writing a series of sketches for the Toronto Daily Star, entitled "Zig-Zags of a Vagabond." His latest effusion, which appeared in the issue of the 17th inst, is nothing more than a gross calumny upon the people of Brittany. We may well pass over the accusation that they are unclean in their habits, for cleanliness is a proverbial virtue among the French peasantry. His assertion that they are intemperate he himself refutes, for he tells us that nowhere else did he meet with so many great-great-grandfathers. Intemperance and longevity do not go hand in hand. But when a man writing for Chrisn readers gives expression to the following, we may seriously ask ourselves, whither are we tending? "Crosses began to punctuate the road. At every point of vantage you would see one, often a relic of the would see one, often a rent of the early Christians, stumpy, mottled, corroded, a very leper of a cross; then the next would be a crucified Saviour, splendidly effective in that desolate place. There were wayside chapels too, fallen into decay, green with middle of the capital on the capital or the capita with mildew, the saints carved on their portals. And there were many Calvarys, square, sturdy structures, in front of the chapels, carved with scriptural scenes, and surmounted by a cross. By such tokens then I reala cross. By such tokens then I readized that I was now in a superstitionstifled land.'

Superstition stifled forsooth! If a cross and a wayside chapel are indi-cations of superstition, then Christianity is supersition. When a man sees nothing to admire, but only subject for ridicule, in the ancient sanctuary of St. Anne D'Auray, the mother shrine of our own Canadian Beaupre, he has no idea of the supernatural and no true poetry in his soul. No, Robert W. Service should never have gone to Brittany. It is no place for a literary scavenger. Pasteur, the greatest scientist of our age, thus refers to those people that he libels: "I have the faith of a Breton peasant and I am convinced that if I pursued still more deeply my re-searches I would have the faith of a

Breton peasant's wife."

The ridiculous or the seamy side of life alone appeals to the author of the "Songs of a Sourdough." The music halls of Paris afford a congenial theme for his Rabelaisian humour. He should keep to such subjects for the morbid delectation of his admirers. But let him restrain his sacrilegious pen from defaming a simple, God-fearing people, whom he does not understand, and with whom he has little in common.

THE GLEANER.

#### THE TEACHER'S CALLING

The recent opening of the Christian Brothers' Novitiate in Toronto

and the consequent opportunity offered to young men of intelligence, piety, and zeal to be trained to devote themselves to the noble work of Catholic Education in this Province, as members of that great teaching order, recalls the exalted view taken by the Church of the vocation of the

ligious teacher.

Men were fascinated by the charming personality of our Lord, and after they had repeatedly witnessed the manifestations of His marvelous power and had heard the words of His wondrous wisdom, they declared that "no man ever spoke as He did," and they called Him, "The Great acher," thus it will be seen that the dignity and importance of the er's calling has been made illustrious by our Divine Lord Himself.

The most admirable appreciation of the dignity of the Christian eacher is, without doubt, that given by St. John Chrysostom in these words: "There is no painter, there is no sculptor nor artist, be he who he may, that can be compared to the man who knows how to form the minds and hearts of youth. This is a work far surpassing the finest creations of human art, to reproduce in souls the "living image of Jesus Christ." I have examined in vain," said the venerable Chancellor Gerson, "and I find no more glorious

duty than that of educating youth."

In his sermon on the vocation of the Christian teacher, the late Archbishop Ryan of Philadelphia draws a striking contrast between the teacher who imparts merely secular knowledge to the child, and the one who instructs and trains the child in all that is necessary for this life and for the world to come. He pictures the religious educator taking the child by the hand, pointing heaven-ward and saying: "To these summits above us, bathed in celestial light, let us ascend and see what greater and newer things our God has made and let us Hear His voice speaking to us." The Archbishop then proceeds to show how the Christian educator rounds and perfects education by teaching man what may be learned of the great infinite Educator who planted and who at once develops all that is great and good in our nature and replies to the soul's questionings concerning man, his origin and

The Right Rev. Bishop Byrne of Nashville, speaking of the Christian teacher's vocation, says: "In some respects the office of teaching has an advantage over the priesthood. The teacher is constantly in contact with coloring them, informing them, making them instinct with his life and motives, giving them high ideals and

# Gall Stones

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worthy aspirations. In this his work is akin to that of the confessor. What office could be higher or holier than that of moulding the heart, chastening the affections, and making the soul God-like? We praise the sculptor who makes the cold marble to breathe, and the painter whose canvas almost lives; but what is the shaping of souls into the divine likeness and breathing into them a divine life? If teachers only knew the value of a soul, they would appreciate more highly than they do the great work and realize its awful importance and respon-

They are constantly at work on the most precious objects—souls created by God unto His own image —making them strong, righteous, and beautiful. It would seem that no more worthy motive, no higher aspiration could be had than to keep them to their task and make them not only to love it, but to be enthusias tic in its pursuit."

"The teacher is the minister, the workman of God; and upon him in a large measure will depend the efficiency of men for good in this life, and their destiny in the next. These motives, it would seem, should be in the cacher bear him on inspire the teacher, cheer him on, encourage and console him, fill him with enthusiasm, and make him a very knight in his high and holy

The religious teaching institutes that make the Christian education of youth their sole aim and occupation, unlike people of the world, have no other business to divide their time and attention, and for this reason they should attain the very best

It was, no doubt, this view that prompted Archbishop Keane of Dubugue to declare: "I have repeatedly said and I now reiterate the assertion, that I am more solicitous for the multiplication and diffusion of teaching orders of the Church, than even for the spread of the priest hood, for education is to-day the greatest work which the Church has n hand."

LETTER FROM A

CONVERT

We are pleased to be able this week to publish another letter from Mr. Geo. Hammond, of Miniota, Man By making study of the claims of the Catholic Church this good soul who had been a local preacher in the Methodist communion, is now happy in the household of the faith : Miniota, Manitoba, Jan 18, 1914, Dear Mr. Coffey—I feel sure that

you will be pleased to know that the precious truths, as believed and aught by the Holy Catholic Church are becoming very plain to me; in fact, with but few exceptions, such as the worshipping of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the veneration of images, pictures and holy relics, con-fession, and any doctrine which is absolutely strange to Protestantism. have been my belief before as owing chiefly the literal interpretation of Holy Scripture where it is to be admitted. Again and again have Protestants, both minister and layman written and spoken to me of the mysterious dogmas and doctrine of the holy Catholic Church, and yet, to my mind, and to one who has not been fortunate enough to procure a good education, it is all so plain and so simple. What a vast difference between the splendid unity which exists in the Catholic Church and the maze which intersects Protestantism.
How my heart rejoices with great joy
as I see so many of our great and
learned men coming out of the network of Protestantism into the glorious liberty of the Catholic Church. How God is indeed hearing the prayers of his children as they are presented to Him by Mary, the mother of our Lord, for the conversion of England. What a glorious inspiration to pray, and how we are encouraged to go on. I must say also that I am in communication with a dear friend of mine, who I firmly believe will accept the Catholic faith and return home again to the fold of Christ. I have also sent a request to a good Catholic in England, regarding one of my sisters who I sincerely pray and trust will finally be led back to the Holy Catholic Church. I am doing my best to refute the accusations brought against the Mother Church, and breaking down amongst my many Protestant friends the wall of suspicion and of prejudice which lurks in their hearts and minds. So it is by prayer, example and kindly entreaty am I trying to bring back the wandering sheep to the fold of Christ. I was a few Sundays ago down at the railway camp on the G. T. P., inside one of the shacks of

the Galicians employed on the railway, and what did I find? Something indeed which cheered me on

and gave me encouragement.

shack. So I feel indeed that there is some work for me to do in Miniota, and I ask you for your prayers.

What a great and glorious work would be accomplished if every individual Catholic would try and bring the Miniotal Catholic would try and bring the Miniotal Catholic would be accomplished. one soul back to Mother Church again. How it would indeed cheer the heart of our Lord, and how the

heavens would ring with the praises and singing of the saints and the angels. This I believe is not much He is happy whose circumstance any circumstances.

BAPTIST MINISTERS

Yours sincerely in Christ

GEO. HAMMOND,

Miniota, Man.

to ask of anyone. We cannot always speak to them. We sometimes can-

URGE PROTESTANTS TO ADOPT CATH OLIC PLAN OF TEACHING CHIL DREN RELIGION

New York, Jan 20 .- The Baptist Ministers' Association at a meeting yesterday appointed a committee of five to consult with other Protestant denominations regarding a proposal that the Protestant churches follow the lead of the Catholics in teaching Christian doctrine to Public schoo children who do not attend Sunday

The Rev. Mr. Bovill said the Catholics "had set a splendid example" in inducing 1,326 Catholic women teachers in the Public schools to give their time to the teaching of reigion to Catholic children and that the Protestants should do likewise.

The Catholic plan, which was re-commended by Cardinal Farley and approved by Superintendent of Schools Maxwell, is, as stated in last week's Catholic Telegraph, that teachers, outside of their time in the Public schools, ascertain what pupils do not attend Sunday schools or receive religious instruction regularly. These are to be taught in schools ar ranged in nearby parish houses.

ADDRESS AND PRESENTATION .- On the occasion of the transfer of Rev. Father Ryan from Stayner to Whitby his old parishioners gave evidence of the high esteem in which he was held. They presented a very flatter-ing address and the sum of \$125 in gold. The Promoters of the Sacred Heart League gave a handsome club bag complete. The address was read by Mr. J. R. Gartlan and the purse presented by Mr. M. Madden. The address was signed by Messrs. E. Coyle, jr., P. Duggan, J. J. Dow-ling and J. R. Gartlan.

THE NURSING PROFESSION.-There are several vacancies for young ladies who wish to take up the pro fession of nursing. Apply to Supt. of Nurses, Sisters Charity, Good Samar-itan Hospital, Suffern, New York.

How much of blessing comes to us through the commonplaces of life; the daily succession of those small benefits so long ours that we have come to think of them as part and parcel of our own work,—almost as matters of our creation, — instead of gifts from without! Think upon these things as the day of giving thanks approaches.

MARRIAGE

HAMILTON - SCANLAN .- At St. Ed. ward's church, Westport, by Rev. Father O'Rourke, on Monday, Jan-uary 26, John D. Hamilton of Elgin to Margaret A., daughter of T. J. Scanlan of Westport.

suit his temper; but he is more ex-cellent who can suit his temper to

### TEACHERS WANTED

not even get in touch with some, as they are so prejudiced against us, but there is at least one thing we can do, and that is pray for them, and if we can do a good turn, let us do it. WANTED THREE CATHOLIC TEACHERS for Public schools in Catholic communities in the Province of Alberta, to enter duty March 1st. 1914. Must have at least second class Normal certificate. Apply Rev. P. Kulawy, O. M. I., Round Hill, Alberta.

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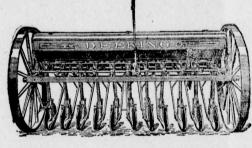
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