

DISTRIBUTION OF PREMIUMS

At the Academy of Mount St. Vincent, the Mother House of the Sisters of Charity of New-York.

Since the establishment of the Sisters of Charity in Halifax, and the numerous advantages which so many hundreds of our female children have derived from their valuable instruction and care, every thing connected with this excellent institution possesses a peculiar interest for us. Hence, we transfer to our columns with great pleasure, the following account of the annual distribution of prizes at the celebrated Academy of Mount St. Vincent, which is conducted by the Sisters of Charity. It is from the pen of a Correspondent of the New-York Freeman's Journal:

Yesterday at an early hour I made it my business to be in the vicinity of the lovely spot where the Academy of Mt. St. Vincent is situated. Already the parents, and friends of the children had begun to collect, and clustered in happy groups under the shady trees which adorn the front and rear of the main building, and the little nook where stands the residence of the Chaplain. The entrance is decorated by a massive fence, of beautiful design, furnished, as I was informed, by the talented young Architect, Mr. White. On entering the Academy, I found the passages and parlors thronged with a number of ladies and gentlemen, amongst whom were pointed out to me many of the Clergy, and of the most respectable Catholics of New York. Our friendly meetings with old acquaintances, introduction to new ones, and entertaining gossip, was agreeably interrupted by the entrance of the Pupils, who filed through the corridor to their allotted places in the Hall. Shortly after, the familiar buzz subsided into perfect silence at the appearance of our beloved Bishop, whom all who were fortunate enough to be near him in the crowd approached with filial reverence and affection, delighted with his appearance of excellent health and spirits. We were agreeably surprised in observing by his side a noble specimen of the Catholic Priest and Irish gentleman, in whose benevolent countenance and amiable bearing, the passing whisper of the numerous guests showed that no one failed to recognize "the good FATHER MATHEW."

The whole cortege now entered the hall in excellent order, preceded by the Clergy who took their place on the platform, opposite which, in long lines, sat the young ladies in spotless white, relieved here and there by the sable garment of a sister. The proceedings began with Bird's well-known chorus "God Bless America," which was executed with great taste and spirit. It struck me as a great pity that some of those grim-visaged gentlemen and old maids who believe in the assertion that our religion is not apt to inspire love for one's country, were not present to have the swelling chorus "God bless America," rung in their ears by the fifteen or twenty pretty little "Papists" who joined in the song with such hearty good will. The entertainment chiefly consisted of pieces of music, solos, and choruses, selected from celebrated masters. There were also several duos on the piano. Some of the girls, though quite young, are really first-rate pianists, and performed a number of pieces in different styles with masterly taste and precision.

The proceedings were agreeably suspended by the appearance in front of the platform of a little lady, who delivered a brief address to Rev. Father Mathew, presenting him with a bouquet in token of the affection and respect of the school, and of the satisfaction of all on witnessing his presence at the Exhibition.

The Reverend gentleman responded in a few appropriate sentences, expressing his grateful acceptance of the beautiful little present, in which he recognized an emblem of the purity and virtue of the youthful donors, and of the laurels which were soon to crown their brows with the well-earned reward of merit. This was followed by a chorus composed expressly for the occasion, and sung by the pupils in honor of their distinguished guest.

The names of those who distinguished themselves in the different classes were read, and each little conqueror walked gracefully up to the Bishop to receive her reward and be crowned with the well-deserved wreath of flowers in the presence of her friends, of her proud and happy parents. A short and very

appropriate address was delivered at the end of the proceedings, expressive of the gratitude of the Institution to the numerous visitors. The Rt. Rev. Bishop then rose to express his satisfaction with the scene he had just witnessed. The improvement of the Exhibition on that of the previous year was so great that it really surpassed his fondest anticipations. He proceeded to encourage the good Sisters and their youthful wards to further success, in terms so kind and well-timed that all their hearts must have warmed towards the venerable speaker, in whom they recognized the Father and Founder of the Institution itself. Less than two years ago, as the Bishop remarked, that hill was a rugged and barren spot, rendered almost inaccessible by ridges of stone and briery thickets, and now it was adorned by the presence of a hundred young ladies, the flower and pride of the Catholic families of New York. Then it required a courageous effort to proceed with the Institution at all, and now it was unable to meet the demands of the numerous children anxious to enjoy its advantages!

On the platform I observed the Rt. Rev. Dr. Byrne, of Arkansas, and nearly all the Clergy of our city. Several gentlemen from other Dioceses were likewise present, amongst whom were remarked the Rev. Messrs. Conroy, of Albany; Havreman, of Troy; Rev. Messrs. Shaw, of Boston; Gibson, of Worcester; Rev. Mr. Waters, Mr. Edwards, of Philadelphia, &c. &c. There must have been from twenty-five to thirty Clergymen present besides the two Bishops. But I am trespassing on your limits, so I must conclude.

Yours, &c., P.

FATHER MATHEW AND JAMES REYBURN.

We copy the following from the New-York Correspondent of the Dublin Freeman's Journal. The escape of Father Mathew from his insidious friends in New-York is no more than we expected, and we hope it will be a valuable hint to similar friends of his in other parts who would, if they could, make a tool of him for their own purposes:

FATHER MATHEW.—The welcome extended to the good Father Mathew by the people of this city and Brooklyn has been cordial in the extreme. To be the guest of the city, however, and feted, and flattered with a committee of aldermen eager to see and to cheer the Apostle of Temperance, his every movement marked and recorded in the public press—so far as this ought to be a happiness and a distinction, Father Mathew is happy and distinguished.

It may have been some drawback from this to find, as Father Mathew appears to have found ere this, that many of the friends of temperance, lay and clerical, who appropriated him on his arrival, were not exactly the class of persons in whose hands a Catholic priest would be most at home, and whose co-operation would be most efficient. He has lost no time in escaping from such associations and devoting himself to the mission of benevolence which first attracted him to our shores. Already, notwithstanding the intense heat precluded any outdoor meetings or exertions, he has in three or four days administered the pledge to nearly 8000 persons. His design is, henceforward, as far as he can consistently with a proper respect for such public hospitalities and compliments, to pursue his labours in administering the pledge, unintermittedly. Thus far he has invitations from Albany, Philadelphia, Rochester, Baltimore, and several other cities.

Among the recent victims of the epidemic in this city, one whose death has excited profound general sorrow here, and will be heard with much regret in Dublin, is Mr. James Reyburn. He was an Irish merchant in this city of high standing and universally popular for the kindness of his heart, his ready wit that often set the table in a roar, and active benevolence, "open as day to melting charity." With Mr. Van Schaick he was the life and soul of the Irish relief movement, to which he devoted himself with all the energy of his character. A sincere friend of his native land, he was, unlike many of his fellow Protestants here, ardently on the popular side of Irish politics. His loss will be much felt in the private and public circles of his acquaintance.

To the Editors of the Cross.

GENTLEMEN,—

I observed with much pleasure some time ago in your valuable Paper, an account of the Visitation held by the Bishop of Halifax in our little Church at the Eastern Passage. The Catholics of this neighbourhood are very much obliged for the remarks you made on the unfinished state of that building. They are not numerous or wealthy enough to finish it themselves, though very well inclined to do so. This Church was begun several years ago, by that worthy priest, Rev. Father Geary, and at that time, I believe, he got assistance from several of our good neighbours in Halifax. Since that time we have not troubled any one, but as we have received great encouragement from the Bishop to complete the Church, and to enclose the piece of ground around it for a Christian Burial-place, we are very anxious to meet his wishes and to do every thing we can to have the Church and grave-yard ready when he comes down to bless them as he promised to do. Will I request of you to say something in the Cross in favour of our holy undertaking. Two persons from this neighbourhood have been appointed to collect subscriptions, and if each of our kind friends in town would only give a trifle we would have plenty of means to do all that is required, and there would soon be another very nice Church in the environs of Halifax.

I remain Yours, &c.

A CATHOLIC.

Eastern Passage, 21st August.

THE CONSISTENCY OF ENGLISH CHRISTIANS AND ENGLISH PROTESTANTS.

The English Government has lately sent a steam-sloop to Tangiers for the purpose of conveying the two sons of the Emperor of Morocco to Mecca and back again. The young princes are going on a visit to the shrine of Mahomet the Imposter! The same Government is very tender in its conscience whenever it is called on to perform the smallest act of justice to its Roman Catholic subjects. It would be an awful crime to give any countenance to Popery; but the worship of Mahomet or Juggernaut is a mere peccadillo, easily justified by reasons of state. In like manner that brazen hypocrite Lord Palmerston is professing sympathy for the Hungarians, and meetings have been held in England to assist their cause. And yet the Hungarians are far greater rebels against their lawful sovereign, and far more treacherous too, than the Young Irelanders of last year. When Vienna, the capital of the Empire was seized by the Red Republicans, the Hungarians marched a numerous army into Austria to assist those ruffians, and to deliver the whole country to anarchy and pillage. The Young Irelanders took no such advantage; they openly proclaimed what they were about, and Ireland had far more reason to rebel than Hungary. But there was no English meeting of sympathy for them. These treacherous English have first tried their hand in Sicily, and failed. They failed in Naples, and Rome and Lombardy and Piedmont. Hungary seems to be their last crutch in diplomatic villany.

EASTERN PASSAGE.

The worthy Catholic who writes to us upon the subject of the Church in this beautiful locality, has accomplished his task so well that he leaves us indeed very little to say. He need not have been so timid about the probable refusal of his communication, as he will perceive we have hardly made any change in his letter, with the exception of an occasional alteration in the spelling. The case speaks for itself, and we can only say that we wish our Catholic neighbours every success in their pious work, and that we will gladly publish any communication or list of subscribers which may be furnished us in connection with the Church of the Eastern Passage.

VACATION.

A brief vacation was given on Wednesday last to the children of the very numerous schools of the Sisters of Charity, whose gratifying progress hitherto has been the theme of general praise. The vacation will terminate on Monday week, 3rd of September, on which day the schools will be re-opened.

CHARITABLE BAZAAR.

We have been informed that it is the intention to hold a Fancy Fair or Bazaar very early in 1850, for the purpose of assisting the Orphan Asylum which the Sisters of Charity are anxious to open as speedily as possible. This early notice is given in order to bespeak the valuable assistance of the benevolent ladies of our city, who, we have no doubt, will kindly support so blessed a work of charity as that of procuring an asylum for the destitute orphan. The smallest contributions or donations will be thankfully received.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH.

The Treasurer has received per the Rev. David O'Connor, the additional sum of £5 5s which was collected in Herring Cove, Ferguson's Cove and Penouait.

NEWS FROM EUROPE.

The Packet arrived on Wednesday night. There is not much additional news. The Royal visit to Ireland was nearly over. As far as we can see it has done very little good for that suffering land. There has been a momentary blaze and flash, but all is darkness and desolation again. Twenty such visits would not heal the wounds of Ireland, nor neutralize the effect of British misgovernment and injustice. We may return to this subject again.

The French ministry has been sustained in their Roman policy by an immense majority. Oudinot has been, however, recalled, at a lucky moment, we think, for his future fame. Cardinal Patrizi, the Pope's Vicar General, has returned to Rome. The Pope will come back in his proper capacity, or not at all. Garibaldi is on his last legs. From the conduct of England towards Austria and Russia, and the apparent inclination of the latter power to the present French Government, we think that more mischief is brewing for Great Britain than she is aware of. The English papers continue to be filled with the most lying accounts of the Hungarian insurrection. She has now for commercial and political purposes encouraged rebellion in almost every part of Europe. She may succeed for a time in selling more of her manufactures on the Continent, but a reaction will take place before long, when she will be made to pay a severe penalty for her present treachery. English policy for the last two years is the most favourable for Russia that could be devised.

THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH.

THE CROSS.—This Journal was originated under the auspices of that excellent and pious Institution, the Halifax Branch of the great Catholic Society for the Propagation of the Faith. We again invite the co-operation of our fellow Catholics in this and the neighboring Provinces. We especially court the valuable assistance of the members of the Association for the Propagation of the Catholic Faith. With their powerful aid, our circulation might be double its present amount in the city of Halifax alone; and to bring this useful weekly Periodical within the reach of every one in Halifax, we are anxious that our friends in different parts of the city should assist us in the sale of the Paper. The following have already promised their services in the kindest manner, to promote this religious work, and the Cross can be regularly had from them at an early hour on the mornings of publication: Mr. James Danohoe, Market Square. Mr. Forristall, corner of Brunswick and Jacob Streets; Mr. John Barron, corner of Gottingen and Cornwallis streets; Mr. Thomas Connor, adjoining St. Patrick's Church. Mr. Richard O'Neil, Water Street; Mr. Joseph Roles, Water Street, near Fairbanks' Wharf. Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Dartmouth.

The following gentlemen, to whom we tender our best thanks, have kindly promised their valuable assistance, as agents to this Journal:—

Ketch Harbour—John Martin, J. P.
Portuguese Cove—Mr. Richard Neal, Senr.
Bear Cove—Samuel Johnson, J. P.
Herring Cove—Mr. Edwards Hayes, and Mr. Nicholas Power.
Ferguson's Cove—Mr. William Conway.
Quarries—Mr. O'Keefe.
North West Arm—Mr. Patrick Brennan.
Upper Prospect—Peter Power, J. P.