

Irish Constabulary, Dublin. It is addressed to Mr. Jones, who occupies the similar, but subordinate position in Cork. It is as follows:

The Castle, Dublin, 13, 11, 1887.

Private.
MY DEAR JONES: I want for private Government use a short and concise history of the Pensonby estate agitation. Can you do it for me?

1. Were the rents reasonable, and whether well paid?
2. Was there a harsh landlord or agent, or the reverse?

3. How did the agitation originate, and how do matters now stand?
4. Any interesting facts or circumstances known to you?

Please reply direct in a Special Branch Cover.

Oblige yours faithfully,
S. A. W. WATERS.

Here is a complete vindication of a wronged and persecuted patriot, and at the same time an unflinching confession of the brutality and stupidity of the Imbecile Government which now sways over the destinies of the British Empire. They actually knew nothing of the merits of the case when they adjudicated over twelve months ago, and they are now going to look into it! And how are they proceeding? Their method is quite on a par with their antecedents. A Dublin policeman writes to a Cork policeman for full information on the case. The man of Cork sends the letter to a third policeman, Kerin, District Inspector of Youghal, which is in the centre of the Pensonby Estate. This Kerin, who is to decide the whole question whether the rents were reasonable or not, is a person who knows no more about the value of land, than a dog does about a holiday, as *United Ireland* declares. He is to decide whether Mr. Pensonby the landlord, or Mr. Blakeney the agent is "harsh or the reverse." The fate of the thousands of men, women and children is trembling in the balance, awaiting the decision of this mighty arbiter of human destinies! The dispute is on a difficult and delicate agrarian question, and for its settlement the Government appoints a police-inspector to do the duty of a Land Commissioner! But the comedy of the transaction does not end here. Mr. Kerin is the boon companion of Blakeney, Mr. Pensonby's agent; and no doubt as soon as he received Mr. Waters' letter, he carried it to Mr. Blakeney to consult with him as to the answer to be given to the question, "Was there a harsh landlord or agent, or the reverse?" A monstrous transaction was never heard of, even in the administration of the law in Ireland.

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.

The *Mail* is much troubled about the fate which impends over the United States schools. "They are threatened with destruction." We read in that journal of the 13th inst:

"The people of the United States are evidently becoming awake to the danger which threatens their schools."

And what is the danger? It is to be found stated in an address delivered by the Rev. Dr. Josiah L. Strong, at a session of the Christian Conference at Washington, in which he appeals to the Churches for united action, thus: "There can be no doubt that the ten or twelve millions of Church members in this country could, if united in aim and method, accomplish any moral reform within the limits of possibility. Christian sentiment is not organized, and cannot, therefore, get its due weight upon public questions, such as the Ultramontane attack on public schools, and the attempt to pervert public funds to the support of sectarian schools. The common school is the digestive organ of the body politic, in which the heterogeneous material coming to us is digested and assimilated."

There is no attack made on Catholics from any quarter, and especially on Catholic Schools, which the *Mail* does not adopt and make its own; yet it professes the greatest liberality towards all, and a particular affection for Catholics, in whom it feels so great an interest that it is constantly giving us advice how we are to enjoy civil and religious liberty. The *Mail*, in fact, like "the moral Pecksniff," "a direction post which is always telling the way to a place, and never goes there."

We will speak plainly. The Reverend Josiah L. Strong states two deliberate falsehoods in the above extract, and the *Mail* is equally responsible with Mr. Strong, for he adopts these statements. In the United States there is no Ultramontane attack on Public Schools: neither is there any attempt on the part of Catholics at perverting public funds to the support of sectarian schools. We pass over the absurd application of the term "sectarian" when Catholic is meant. We know that the speaker meant to say that Catholics wish to rob the public to sustain Catholic schools, but we presume that in his ignorance of his mother tongue he was unable to express himself accurately.

Let Catholics have nowhere in the United States attempted to injure the Public Schools. The *Mail* did attempt, many times, to make it appear that they did so, but the stories he recorded were gross misrepresentations, as we pointed out at the time.

Catholics do wish to educate Catholic children religiously. We wish them to be

instructed in the Catholic faith; but surely this can be done without any attack being made on Public Schools. Indeed it would be only fair and just that in the United States, the Catholics should be allowed their share of taxes, as is the case in Ontario, for the support of schools in which education is imparted in accordance with Catholic conscientious convictions. In this there would be no injury inflicted on the Public Schools; but the injury which is now inflicted on Catholics would be avoided; for as everybody knows, wherever Catholic Schools are established, Catholics are plying for the education of Protestant children, and at the same time are educating their own at their own expense. The iniquity and injustice are committed by such Protestants as the Rev. Josiah L. Strong, who are perpetuating injustice under the hypocritical pretence that Catholics are endeavoring to destroy the Public School system.

But does not the very fact of teaching religion in the schools destroy the Public School system? If it does so, Protestants in the United States are making the very attack on it, the blame of which deceitful agitators are endeavoring to put upon "Ultramontanians." Over and over again, have Protestant Ministerial Associations, both in the United States and Canada, asserted the necessity of religious teaching in the Schools, and this year even more persistently than heretofore. The alarm sounded by Rev. Mr. Strong and the *Mail* is therefore a piece of evident hypocrisy.

2dly. Catholics do not desire to pervert public funds for the support of either Catholic or "Sectarian" Schools. The funds which are called "public" are private funds until they are taken from the pockets of the taxpayers on equitable principles. Catholics do desire that these funds shall not be taken from them for the support of schools which will not benefit them. Where they are able to support Catholic schools efficiently, they are quite willing themselves to pay for the education of their own children, but they desire to be exempted from paying for the education of other people's children at the same time. There is, therefore, no perversion of any funds at all in question: still less a perversion of public funds, which would imply that Protestants as well as Catholics, that is to say, taxpayers in general, had had contributed towards them.

What we have said of the schools of the United States is equally applicable to Ontario. Under pretence that Catholics are taxing the public for the support of Catholic schools here, the *Mail* and those who follow its teachings would, if they could, impose on us the same injustice under which Catholics in the United States are laboring. This is the secret of the *Mail*'s course in constantly calling up every incident which occurs through the Union which may be so distorted as to excite the prejudices of the Protestant population here against Catholic schools. If we retain them in a state of efficiency, as we expect to do, small thanks will be due either to the *Mail* or to the noisy bigots who echo its utterances.

MR. BALFOUR ON EVICTIONS.

On Wednesday night, Dec. 14th, Mr. Balfour addressed an immense assemblage at Manchester. In consequence of a rumored plot against his life, police guarded the hall and platform, and also the street by which he reached the hall. On his appearance on the platform he was greeted with prolonged cheering, which could not, however, drown the hissing from another portion of the audience.

He maintained that evictions were less frequent under his administration than under that of Sir George Trevelyan, though Sir George said: "The farmers are being evicted by wholesale." He asserted that in the three months which began Sir George Trevelyan's administration there were 855 evictions, while during the same period under the speaker there were only 132. Such estimates, if true, only prove that no administration has done or will do justice to Ireland until she obtain self-government. Every British government, whether Whig or Tory, has misgoverned the country; but Mr. Gladstone's last administration has this in its favor, that the Grand Old Man made an honest but unsuccessful effort to atone for the evils of the past by introducing a measure which would substitute the blessings of Home Rule for the alien regime under which the country has suffered for centuries.

It has been stated that Mr. Gladstone, in using the figures of Mr. Mulhall, very much exaggerated the number of those evicted since 1848. Mr. Balfour said that Mr. Mulhall's figures were all wrong, and that the number of evictions was in reality small; and this statement has been made again in England and Ireland in a campaign pamphlet issued by the Conservative Associations, and repeated in the columns of the *Toronto Mail*. Mr. Mulhall resides now at Buenos Ayres, and it was therefore impossible for him at once to answer Mr. Balfour's charge of inaccuracy. However, a letter has appeared from him addressed to the editor of the *Times* in which he proves that Mr. Balfour's statement is entirely false.

Mr. Mulhall says: "I have before me a table which I copied in the British Museum, showing the number of evictions, and of persons reinstated as caretakers." The total of evictions from 1849 to 1882, a period of 33 years, was 482,000, and the number reinstated as caretakers was 119,000. Now as there must be at least five persons to each family, the number of evicted persons must be at least 2,910,000; or deducting those reinstated as caretakers, 1,815,000." Mr. Mulhall points out that this is much below the actual number, as it represents only those cases in which the police took part.

The Government Blue Books show that during the same period, 3,130,000 persons emigrated from Ireland. Evicted persons, it is known, constitute the majority of emigrants, so that this is collateral evidence of the truth of Mr. Mulhall's figures, whereas according to Mr. Balfour's figures, not more than 10 per cent of the emigrants were evicted, which is evidently false.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is rumored that Lord Randolph Churchill will soon re-enter the Cabinet.

AUBERTIN, who attempted to assassinate Mr. Ferry, being attacked by dementia, has been sent to a mad-house.

DETROIT has beaten the record in divorces. Mrs. Book secured a divorce in twenty-four hours, having employed eminent lawyers to conduct her case.

It is announced on good authority that the Hon. Edward Blake will probably not be present during the next Parliamentary Session. For the sake of the restoration of his health, he may extend his tour from Europe into Egypt.

Mr. J. J. Curran, Q. C., M. P., will leave for Hamilton on the 19th, where he will deliver a lecture, on the 21st, under the auspices of the Society of the League of the Cross of that city. A treat is in store for the Hamiltonians.

It is almost certain that the negotiations for a settlement of the Fishery question have failed. The folly of the Salisbury Government in appointing Mr. Chamberlain will now be apparent even to the warmest friends of the blundering and bullying Cabinet.

THE POPE'S JUBILEE ROBES will be made of Irish white poplin, manufactured at Dublin. This will be in accordance with the request of the Right Reverend Bishop of Meath, who asked that this mark of special affection be given to the Irish people. His Lordship presents the robes.

It is asserted that the mission of the Duke of Norfolk as special envoy for the Queen, is not merely to bear a civil message to the Pope, in acknowledgment of the Pope's jubilee gift, but that the Government intends to resume diplomatic relations with the Vatican. Many extreme Protestants are much agitated by this port.

PRINCE Lichtenstein presented to the Pope the jubilee presents of the Austrian Emperor. His Holiness expressed his gratitude, and said that he regarded the gifts as a fresh proof of the Emperor's unwavering friendship. President Carnot intends to send some valuable gifts. The religious services in the Elysee chapel have been resumed by the President's order.

Many English Catholics are about to send an address to Mr. Persico, expressing the hope that the Pope will be induced to assist in obtaining for Ireland the fulfilment of the national aspirations. The address repudiates the actions of those English Catholics who have adopted a course of bitter and uncompromising hostility towards Ireland. It has been already signed by the Marquis of Ripon, Lord Ashburnham, Lord Oxford and other prominent gentlemen.

It was hoped that the throat of the German Crown Prince was cured, but alarming symptoms have again appeared of fresh growth, and a new swelling which has spread rapidly is growing still. It has been frequently asserted that his illness arose from excessive smoking, but in reality few Germans are so moderate smokers as the Crown Prince. As a rule he smokes daily three mild cigars or a few cigarettes. He never uses the pipe except when campaigning, and then two pipes a day have been his usual allowance.

ON THE 17th inst. the Pope gave audience to the Duke of Norfolk. The Duke expressed the congratulations of Queen Victoria on the papal jubilee, and her thanks for the mission of Mgr. Scilla on occasion of her jubilee. The Pope expressed his pleasure at this proof of kindly feeling of the Queen, and his hope that its influence would be felt on other occasions. He said he was animated by feelings of the greatest affection towards the English people.

The United States Congress met on the

5th inst. The Hon. Mr. Carlisle was chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives. The tariff, the questions of restricting immigration, and of the assumption of the telegraph system by the National Government, are expected to be the principal subjects which will occupy the attention of legislators during the session. The object of the restriction of immigration is, according to those who are promoting the measure, to prevent the importation of Mormons, Socialists, Anarchists, and those who would be likely to be dependent on the public for support. The measure to hand over the telegraphs to the Government is likely to meet with strenuous opposition, as many believe that immediate evils would attend it, from the great enlargement of political patronage, while on the other hand, though private speculation might make use of the knowledge which passes through their hands, hitherto from a prudent regard for the credit of the telegraph companies, the managers have kept the telegraph as a confidential transmitter of intelligence.

RUSSIA has massed large bodies of troops on her Western frontier, thus threatening Austria, so that it is feared that within an incredibly short space of time war on a large scale may again break out. As usual, however, the Czar and the Russian newspapers declare that their intentions are peaceful. Austria declares that she is prepared for any emergency. The *Pesther-Lloyd*, in a warlike article, says: "The Russian army is inferior to that of any of the great powers. Austro-Hungary will be able to fight Russia unaided." Many well-informed persons think that Russia may threaten, but will not venture to challenge the triple alliance. The Bourse at Vienna is feverish, fluctuating according to the intensity of the varying rumors. On the 16th instant, Austrian rentes declined two per cent. Anglo-Austrian bank shares fell from one hundred and three to ninety-four, and then recovered to ninety-six. Still later advices indicate that Germany and Austria are very likely to declare war, which will be initiated in the spring, to check Russian aggressiveness; and that both powers are making their preparations on a large scale.

ARCH-ABBOT BONIFACE WIMMER. THE PIONEER BENEDICTINE OF AMERICA DEAD.

The Rt. Rev. Boniface Wimmer, Arch Abbot and founder of the Order of St. Benedict in America, died at St. Vincent's Abbey, near Beatty, Pa., on December 8, aged seventy-eight years. He was born January 14, 1809, at Thalbach, Bavaria, studied for the priesthood at Ratisbon, and was ordained July 31, 1831. The year following he entered the Benedictine Monastery at Metten, Bavaria. He filled professorships in the seminaries of his order in Edinestadt, Augsburg, and in Munich from 1833 till 1846. In the meantime, a flood of German immigration to America had set in. The immigrants were clamoring for priests, Father Boniface was empowered to establish a seminary in America for the education of aspirants to the priesthood. He enlisted the sympathy and substantial aid of King Louis of Bavaria, and finally, four students for the priesthood and fifteen artisans for the lay brotherhood, volunteered for America. They arrived here in September, 1846, were warmly welcomed by Bishop O'Connor of Pittsburgh, Pa., and took possession of the land on which St. Vincent's Abbey now stands.

Readers of the *Pilot* will recall a charming sketch of the Benedictines in America, which appeared in these columns two years ago, and in which the foundation of St. Vincent's was graphically described. It is enough to say here that the order's glorious history of twelve centuries repeated itself, and the pioneer American Benedictines, like the pioneers of the order in older times and lands, cleared the primeval forest, and made the waste places to blossom as the rose. No sturdier axe man in all the company than Prior Boniface. In 1854 he visited Rome, where he was most kindly received by Pope Pius IX., who, in recognition of his labors in the cause of religion and education, raised his monastery to the rank of an abbey, and himself to the dignity of Abbot.

The new Abbot forthwith devoted himself to the extension of his Order to such effect that to-day it has abbeys in Concepcion, Mo., Collegeville, Minn., St. Meinrad's, Ind., Belmont, N. C., Atchison, Kan., Indian Territory and Newark, N. J., and a great number of priories in various parts of the country. Pope Leo XIII. raised Abbot Boniface to the dignity of Arch Abbot in December 29, 1883, the 50th anniversary of his monastic profession, as a mark of his appreciation for the learned Abbot's nearly forty years of successful labor in the United States. On this occasion there was a grand celebration of the event at St. Vincent, with members of the Benedictine Order in attendance from all parts of the globe.

This grand old prelate was a most noble and conspicuous figure in the Church in this country; and his personal worth and boundless charity endeared him fondly to the people of his immediate neighborhood. His business capacity is attested by the fact that during late years there have grown up to the monastery all kinds of industries that are self-sustaining. A large flouring mill, a brewery of established reputation, tailor shop, book bindery and telegraph office are some of the leading conveniences, and the large brick barn at the monastery, with all its steaming and beating facilities, is decidedly the best building of the kind in the country.—*Boston Pilot*.

SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC RECORD. MONTREAL CORRESPONDENCE.

St. Ann's Church was on the evening of Sunday, the 11th, the scene of a most impressive demonstration. The celebration was in honor of our Lady of Perpetual Help, to invoke her intercession on behalf of the parish that it might be spared the visitation of sickness or contagion. The sacred edifice was filled long before the appointed hour. The ceremonies were opened with prayer, followed by a sermon, after which a procession composed of the children of the parish was formed, and headed by the sanctuary boys bearing aloft the picture of our Lady, and the banners of the Immaculate Conception, and carrying lighted tapers, wound its way through the aisles. A solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament followed. Rev. Father Gaudin, pastor of St. Ann's, celebrant, assisted by deacon and sub-deacon. The beautiful marble altars were resplendent with countless lights. The singing of the choir was in keeping with the grandeur of the occasion.

The monthly meeting of the St. Patrick's T. A. and B. Society was held on the 11th. The attendance showed a marked increase over previous meetings. The religious exercises in St. Patrick's church were largely attended by non-members. The Rev. J. A. McCallen preached a most eloquent sermon on the vice of intemperance—the evils of drinking liquor to excess was graphically described. A large number took the pledge. Mr. Edward Murphy presided at the business meeting. The monthly meeting of the St. Ann's T. A. and B. Society was also largely attended. Mr. P. Reilly presided. Rev. Father Strubbe delivered a very eloquent address on temperance. A special committee was, on suggestion of the Rev. Father, formed, to devise means to increase the membership of the Society.

The business meeting of the Irish Catholic Temperance Convention was held on the 13th. Rev. Father McCallen presided. The four Irish Catholic Temperance Societies of the city were well represented. Rev. Father Strubbe, Messrs. Jas. J. Costigan, Geo. Murphy, John Cogan and others delivered short addresses. The following petition was, at the suggestion of Mr. Costigan, adopted, and will be presented to the Local Legislature at its next session.

That owing to the very great increase of intemperance arising from the abuse of intoxicating liquor, and caused in a great measure by the excessive number of saloons now existing, and also the unlawful sale of liquors by the glass by grocers and others, your petitioners beg leave to suggest that the laws relating to the sale of liquor be amended as follows:

1. That the liquor traffic be entirely separated from all other trades, especially from the retail grocery business.
2. That the number of licenses now existing be reduced.
3. That a rigid system be enforced for the purpose of stamping out illicit liquor selling.

That the liquors sold in licensed saloons be subject to analysis from time to time for the protection of the public against the poison now sold under the names of wines, brandies, etc.

The third lecture of the St. Ann's Young Men's Society course took place on the 14th. Mr. Henry J. Kavanagh, Advocate, was the lecturer. The subject was Gratian's Parliament. Mr. Kavanagh traced the history of the dealings of the Imperial Parliament with the Irish Legislature, Gratian's career and Flood's rivalry, the Insurrection of '98, the extinction of Ireland's liberties by the machinations of Castlereagh. The lecturer brought his instructive, brilliant and eloquent effort to a close by an able peroration on the cheering hopes for the future, when the genius of Ireland's sons will devise means to restore to her the brilliancy and prestige of Gratian's Parliament, and add to the peace and prosperity which the country stands in need of.

A vote of thanks, moved by Mr. J. Coffey, seconded by Mr. P. O'Reilly, was unanimously carried, and, after a stirring address by Mr. J. J. Curran, Q. C., M. P., the large audience dispersed, well pleased with the evening's instructive treat.

A gloom has been cast over the city, occasioned by the death of the late Rev. Father Flavien Parre, Maréchal, of the parish of St. Joseph. The sad event took place at the Seminary shortly after 10 o'clock on the morning of the 14th. The deceased was endowed with remarkable ability and indefatigable zeal, possessing rare talent which specially fitted him for the service of his holy calling. As a pulpit orator he had few equals, as an organizer and director of religious festivities and societies, he could not be excelled; he was a zealous advocate of temperance, and his powerful sermons on the cause have been productive of far reaching good. He was beloved and respected not only by his own people but by the community at large, and the regret at his demise is universal.

Rev. Father Martineau was born at Chausse, diocese of Lucon, (Charente, France) June 17, 1830, and was educated at the Seminary of St. Sulpice in 1853, the Seminary of St. Joseph in 1854, served as professor of rhetoric in the Seminary of the Sables d'Olonnes and arrived in Montreal in September, 1860; was attached to St. Joseph's church for some years, transferred to Notre Dame in 1864, where he has ever since labored with great zeal and devotion. Since 1870 he has yearly preached the thirty one sermons of the month of Mary and also conducted the Rosary services of the month of October. He possessed great musical abilities and generally conducted the musical portion of all the great services of the Church. On the feast of the Immaculate Conception he preached no less than five sermons, one of which was delivered at High Mass at Notre Dame. On this occasion it is said he was more eloquent than usual, his voice developed a sweetness which charmed his hearers and the ideas he gave expression to were grand and lofty. The severe exertion, added to a slight cold, brought on inflammation of the lungs, which ended in death. His last moments were most peaceful, and showed a calm resignation.

to the will of Him whom he had served so faithfully. When he requested himself growing weaker, he requested Rev. Father Hamon to give him absolution. The priests of the Seminary were summoned, and the last rites of our Holy Church were administered, the priests present reciting the prayers for the dying. Turning to Dr. Laramie, Father Martineau said, "It is the end, is it not, doctor?" The doctor told him gently all hope was not gone, when he exclaimed, "My God, my God, allow me to die now." One of the priests present said, "Say rather allow me to suffer." "Yes, yes, anything I may wish," and, kissing the crucifix he held clasped in his hands, he passed away quietly. The remains were, on the 15th, laid in state in the mortuary chapel of the seminary. The dear father was placed in the coffin in a semi-inclined position, holding between his hands the crucifix which he always used during his life time during his temperance mission. The body was attired in the priestly robes. No less than twelve to fifteen thousand persons viewed the remains during the day, and many a tear was shed, and many a prayer was uttered for the repose of his soul. In the evening the remains were removed to the Church of Notre Dame. A solemn vigil was kept up during the night by the members of the Alarion, Neutrality and kindred societies. The funeral obsequies were held on the morning of the 16th. The commodious church of Notre Dame never held within its arched walls a larger or more sorrowful congregation, all were visibly affected. The scene was one of great solemnity and impressive grandeur. The eyes of the great assemblage would turn from the catafalque bearing the remains to the pulpit, where his eloquent lips had often pointed out the way and portrayed the beauties of the Almighty, thence again to the choir gallery from where his grand voice was often heard resounding in songs of praise and adoration. The church was draped in mourning, the sanctuary was filled with the priests from the diocese and distant parts. His Grace the Archbishop of Montreal presided. The solemn Requiem mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Larue, procurer of St. Sulpice, assisted by Rev. Father Guillet, of St. James, as deacon, and Rev. Father Dennis, of the Seminary, as sub-deacon. His Lordship Bishop Gradin of St. Albert gave the absoute. After the service the remains were conveyed to the hearse and the sad cortege wound its way to the vaults of the grand Seminary, the final resting place, followed by an enormous concourse of clergy and citizens of all classes.

The late Bernard Gunning, whose death took place on the 14th, was widely known, and much sympathy is felt for his family. The deceased was a native of Sligo and was for over twenty years in the employ of Wm. Evans, the well known seedman. He was held in great esteem by that gentleman, who reposed great confidence in him. He was during his lifetime a prominent member and held important offices in the following societies: Irish Catholic Benefit, St. Ann's T. A. and B. Society, and St. Patrick's T. A. and B. Society. He was also at one time a member of the Branch 26, G. M. B. A. He possessed many qualities which endeared him to all with whom he came into contact. He was a warm-hearted, generous, good, honest citizen, he was only forty years of age and leaves behind a wife and three young sons, who have the earnest sympathy of a wide circle of friends. May his soul rest in peace.

Rev. Father Coffin, Superior of the Seminary, is still suffering from heart disease, and is now at the Hotel Dieu. Rev. Father Palatin, of St. James Church, has been removed to the Hotel Dieu, prostrated with a very severe attack of typhoid fever.

A largely attended meeting of the representatives of the various Irish Catholic Societies was held in St. Patrick's Hall on the 14th to arrange for the reception of Sir T. Gratton Edmonds, M. P., and Mr. A. O'Connor, M. P. B. A. He was here on or about the 31st of January. The meeting was an enthusiastic one. On motion of Mr. Edward Murphy it was agreed that the parliamentary and civic representatives together with the Presidents of various societies and a number of chosen leading citizens form the reception committee. The visitors will be presented with an address and be entertained by a banquet at the Hotel Dieu. A grand meeting on the burning question of the day, in the Queen's Hall, during their stay. A further meeting in connection with their visit will be held on the 20th, when all final arrangements will be completed. Cos.

CHURCH OF "OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL," MONTREAL.

The closing exercises of the retreat of the Children of Mary's Sodality, the benefits of which were extended to all the ladies of the parish, took place on Thursday, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. A number of new members were received. The ceremonies were most impressive, and quite in harmony with the tasteful decorations of this unique and beautiful edifice, of which its gifted and zealous pastor, Reverend J. J. Salmon, should feel justly proud, as, owing to his untiring efforts, as well as those of his able and indefatigable curate, Rev. Father Duval, its affairs are progressing so favorably as to merit congratulation from all its well-wishers. E. C.

Montreal, Dec. 10, 1887.

Behind the altar in the church of St. Bartholomew, Crowkers, Somerset, England, is a room which is said to have been formerly used as a confessional, the doors on either side being intended for the entrance and egress of the penitent. Over the former of these two doors is the figure of a saint, intended to denote the polluted state of the conscience before the act of confession; while, over the other door, are the figures of two doves to denote the purity of the penitent soul after absolution.

It is asserted that the Shah of Persia will go to Rome, to be present at the ceremonies of the Papal Jubilee.