

BENEDICTINE WORK IN SCOTLAND.

It is about two years ago since we commented on the laying of the foundation-stone of St. Benedict's College, Fort Augustus, and we have now the pleasant task of congratulating the promoters on the completion of a great part of the work. It has been stated that St. Columba established in Scotland not less than three hundred religious houses; and subsequently the Benedictines played a part in Scotch history not inferior to that of any other Order. The ancient Abbey of Dunfermline, which was their chief house, was as remarkable for its association with Scotch kings as is Westminster Abbey for its association with English kings. And in all the troubles of the Stuarts this great Order was ever loyal and ever prominent in service and fidelity. Well might Prior Vaughan, in the course of the address which he read to the Bishop of Aberdeen, say that the Order was as loyal as it was Catholic; and that its sufferings in Scotland had been due to its allegiance both to its temporal and spiritual masters. As Bishop Macdonald expressed it, "they were erecting a monastery, hospital, and college, which in its proportion might well be said to vie with some of the greatest centres of religion and education which in ancient days, in ages of faith, covered the land." And it has been specially determined that, to meet the wants of the age, the education shall be more than commonly profound. The tendency of our times being rationalistic, it is more necessary than it was formerly that "the grounds of the faith" should be intellectually appreciated and mastered. One other modern necessity has also not been forgotten, and that is the cultivation of refinement. The prospectus of the College, which has already been issued, says that the ultimate object of every regulation will be to make the students "good Catholics and perfect gentlemen." To enable their pupils to cope with the newest difficulties of modern rationalism, and to take their places as cultured members of society is the twofold object which the founders of the new College have before them.—*London Tablet*.

THE PRIVATE ENGLISH SOLDIER.

The condition of the enlisted recruit has been very much improved since the Crimean war, both morally and physically. Step by step, first in one direction, then in another, the terms of his contract with his country have all been modified to his advantage. During Lord (Cardwell's) administration, he personally spared no pains to attract to the army a superior stamp of men. He certainly succeeded. At the present moment, for example, there is hardly a single cavalry regiment in which one commission (and in some regiments more than one commission) is not held by a man who has risen from the ranks. "The ranker" is no longer looked upon by his brother-officers; snobism of this sort is stamped out; and the respect due to the individual character of a man is increased rather than otherwise if he happens to have risen by sheer merit. The staff officers of the army are very dependent upon their non-commissioned officers, and respect them very much; and as every one knows, the non-commissioned officer is simply the recruit promoted as soon as he has shown of what stuff he is made. The writer knows certain men who exercise a directing influence over important principles of army organization—exercising it, too, in consultation with the highest in the land—who only a few years ago were simply non-commissioned officers. Now, the peculiar position of a soldier depends, as in other professions, upon his qualifications. Hodge enlists from the plough's tail, can neither read nor write, and is a densely stupid fellow. He, however, at 21s a year; his provisions, his lodgings, firing and light, furniture, clothing, and medical attendance are all found for him; and his only necessary outgoings for laundress, grocery, and beer, additions to the regulated ration, monthly hair cutting, etc., are 2s a year; recouped, however, by pay for good conduct to the extent of 30s. a year. Hodge's cost to the country for the items mentioned is £10 a year. But when it is stated that his daily three-quarters of a pound of bread is of the estimated value of 6d. only or 2s. 2d. a year; when his clothing is estimated at only 4s a year; it is obvious that Hodge could not maintain himself in the self-same necessities of life for so small a sum as £10 a year. In other words, his position is worth much more to him than it actually costs the country. He falls sick, and has the best advice, the best nursing, the most suitable medicines, irrespective of cost, and is treated in a hospital built with the latest sanitary improvements. For the capital spent upon these hospitals and barracks not a penny is included in our estimate of £10 as the soldier's cost.—*Chamber's Journal*.

THE AFGHAN CAPITAL.

Standing upon a river of the same name, in the midst of a wide plain bordered by low hills and dotted with countless villages, the Afghan metropolis has a striking picture-queerness of aspect, heightened by the innumerable gardens which are the prominent feature of every Asiatic city from Tushkend to Damascus. The houses are of wood, but much neater and more commodious than is usual in Eastern towns. The great bazar and several of the public buildings are of essentially modern construction, thanks to the partial demolition of the place by the English in October, 1842; but it possesses one splendid monument of antiquity in the tomb of the Emperor Baber, the founder of the Mogul dynasty of India. Its climate is surprisingly healthy on the whole, although the great difference of temperature between day and night exposes foreigners to the risk of fever and ophthalmia. From a military point of view, again, its position, which may be compared with that of Sophia in Western Turkey, is admirable for all purposes of defense. Placed at the intersection of the four great roads leading to Koondooz, Herat, Peshawar and Kandahar, it is protected on the north by the snows of the Hindoo Koosh, and on the southeast by the westernmost spur of the Sulaiman range, while the most practicable approach from the southwest is commanded by the impregnable fortress of Ghizni, the Afghan Gibraltar, whose capture in 1841 was only accomplished by treachery. In a word, Cabul needs nothing but a more complete system of fortification to make it one of the strongest places in Central Asia.

A young man named Hunt, an assistant master at a school near Bath, in England, while playing football the other day, was suddenly seized with a fainting fit and died in a few minutes. His last words were go into it, boys, I can't help you any longer.

Marshall MacMahon is an adept with the gun, and goes every week nowadays to the chateaux of his friends where shooting fetes and grand battues are held. But reports from the preserves all over France indicate that sport this fall is much below the average.

ANALYSIS OF PARTIES

The 1,620,000 people of this province include, according to the Census of 1871, the following:—

	Irish	English	Scottish	Other Nationalities
Irish	550,000	430,000	320,000	290,000

During the recent contest the men of "other nationalities" who are ordinarily in special sympathy with the Grits, were, as far as we can learn, divided evenly. The Scotch voted recently as usual—out of every six, one for the Tories, five for the Grits. The Irish Protestants are governed very much by party; and cast their votes at the election in the proportion of one for the Grits and five for the Tories. The Irish Catholic vote last September was a reversal of that five years ago—one fourth of it for the Grits, three-fourths for the Tories. On the basis of these general statements and the assumption that the majority in the Province represents 3 per cent. of the population, we arrive at the following approximation of the division of the population between the two parties:

	TORY.	GRIT.
Irish Protestants	299,000	60,000
Irish Catholics	150,000	50,000
English	180,000	255,000
Scottish	83,000	274,000
Other Nationalities	146,000	147,000
Total	858,000	786,000

The above figures give a general view of the constituent elements of the two parties. Approximations though they are, they are perfectly trustworthy as ground for the conclusion that, while the number of Scotchmen who supported the Tory party in the late elections is insignificant, the majority of the support of that party in these elections was supplied by the Irish.—*Irish Canadian*.

BANQUET TO LORD DUFFERIN.

TORONTO, November 28.—The *Globe* has the following special by cable:—The Dufferin banquet at Belfast yesterday was a brilliant affair. There was an enthusiastic gathering of the principal residents of Belfast and the Counties of Down and Antrim. Sir John Preston, the Mayor, presided. Lord Dufferin on entering was received with tremendous cheering. After the royal toasts had been honoured, the Mayor proposed the health of Lord Dufferin, who, on rising to reply was greeted with great enthusiasm, with cheers and the waving of handkerchiefs. He said the honor done him was unparalleled in Ulster. When he quitted Ireland he never contemplated returning under such happy auspices. The success of a colonial governor often depended on the good fortune he might encounter in soluble problems or popular discontent. He might be betrayed by ministers or thwarted by his party; nature herself might rise against him; his rule might be signalled by pestilence, famine or war. But these trials had been mercifully spared him. He found the Canadian people to be not only free from dissensions, but enamoured of their prospects. His ministers proved to be able and trustworthy; contentment reigned within and peace without. On three sides Canada was without a neighbor, and on her southern frontier lay her most friendly nation. The noble Earl alluded to the payment of the fishery award, and passed a warm eulogium on the American people. Referring to four statesmen whom he was anxious to mention, he credited Lord Carnarvon, Lord Monck, Lord Lisgar, and Sir Edward Thornton, for the halcyon days he had enjoyed. A colonial government had to conciliate two public opinions, that of the colony and that of the mother country, and these sometimes diverged. This great demonstration was not a mere compliment to himself; that was rather an intimation of the interest the English people took in Canada. Nothing so stimulated the affections of Canadians as this. John Bull was not very sympathetic, and occasionally failed to make allowances for other peoples' susceptibilities. When dealing with kindred nationalities one ought to take their sentimental tendencies into account. Ties created between those of Great Britain and those of their emigrant relations unified the empire's colonial system. John Bull, instead of confining his attention to his home farm, had become more conversant with Imperial estates. Lord Dufferin concluded his brilliant speech, which had been repeatedly interrupted by applause by again expressing his grateful sense of the kindly welcome which had so heartily been extended to him, and finally resumed his seat amid long and prolonged cheers.

MISCELLANEOUS.

—The Japanese Government still tortures prisoners to extort confession.

—The trade between France and Italy has been increased twenty-five per cent. since the opening of the Mont Cenis tunnel, in September, 1871.

—Baroness Mary Itulak Artymowska, 25 years of age, and moving in the best Russian society, has just been banished to Siberia for forgery, fraud and bribery, leaving debts to the amount of 2,000,000 troubles.

—A man committed suicide in St. Clair, Ill., by drowning himself in four inches of water, but the local newspaper thinks he would not have succeeded if his wife had not obligingly sat on his head.

—A Connecticut wife wants a divorce because her husband bound her with a rope, poured kerosene oil over her, and threatened to burn her up. He replies that he was only enforcing proper obedience.

—Daniel and Derrick Creviston, brothers, fought with knives in Sparta, Wis. Their mother implored them to stop, and then tried by main strength to part them, but they kept at it until Daniel was killed.

—Bertha Von Hillern, who for several years performed remarkable feats in pedestrianism, and thereby accumulated considerable money, has settled down to the study and practice of sculpture in Boston. She says that the walking that she has done has not in any way injured her health.

The Duke of Connaught, prince royal, gives £20 towards the funds of the Dublin Orthopaedic Hospital. Edward Cecil Guinness, prince merchant, beats him by £30, for he gives £50.

CHILDREN'S HAIR.—The hair of children should never be plaited, braided, twisted nor knotted. Nothing should ever be put on it except simply pure water and even this not until the scalp be cleansed. The hair should be kept short, and should be always combed leisurely and for some considerable time, at least every morning, and neither brush nor comb ought to be allowed to pass against the direction of the hair growth. And if at times any falling off is observed, and it is desirable to arrest it sooner than more cleanliness and health would do it, one of the most accessible washes is boiling water poured on tea leaves, which have already been used and allowed to stand twelve hours, then put in a bottle. It should be of moderate strength.

AGRICULTURAL.

FARM AND GARDEN.

OWING to the famine in China, a large demand for breadstuffs from the Pacific slope has been developed, and all the steamers from San Francisco for China go out fully loaded with flour.

On stiff clays, barley may yield a greater produce, but it is of a coarser quality. On light chalky soils, it is thin-skinned, rich in color, and, though light in weight, well adapted for maling. On loamy lands and sandy marls, it assumes greater plumpness, and yet still retains its malting quality.

THE YEAR'S STOCK OF WOOD.—After your harvest is done, just before winter sets in, is a good time to pick up and cut the dead portions of your wood-lot, and thus provide your fuel for the coming year. It is better thus to do, than to wait until snow falls, and wallow about in the snow after wood.

RETROSPECTIVE.—In looking back over the past season, what farmer does not discover points of failure in his past year's work? Let all who thus discover these, now make a note of them, that they may be avoided in the year 1879. A careful review of the past will show you your successes and failures alike; be encouraged by the one and warned by the other for your future operation on your farms.

FARMERS' CLUBS.—These should be organized everywhere among farmers where they do not already exist, for lectures and discussions. These farm conferences are the primary schools of agricultural education. No farmer should consider himself exempt from the duty of being an active member of the club in his neighborhood or town. He can be a good listener, if not a good talker, for good listeners are quite as rare as good talkers.

FARMERS, are you ready for winter? Are your potatoes all day, your wants harvested, your apples all picked, your corn all in? If so, then pick up about your domiciles and farm buildings, that no pieces of boards, wood, old rails, etc., shall be found out of place. Neatness, order and method are the essentials of good husbandry. Let these hints and suggestions be heeded by our rural readers, and put into diligent practice.

BURNING STUMPS.—Tree stumps are said to be easily removed by boring a two-inch hole eighteen inches deep into the stump. Fill with a concentrated solution of saltpetre, and plug up to keep out water. By spring it will have permeated every part. Then fill the hole with kerosene, set on fire, and the whole stump, it is said, will be consumed, even to the roots. It would seem to be feasible, and it is certainly an easy way to get rid of stumps. The ashes will remain to fertilize the soil.

HOUSE MEAL FOR SWINE.—The Indiana Farmer says that most farmers have noticed that in fattening swine, especially when they are crowded rapidly, they always appear weak in their hind legs, and sometimes lose the use of them entirely. An intelligent farmer says that he and his neighbors have made a practice of feeding bone meal in such cases, and find that a small quantity mixed with the daily feed will prevent any weakness, and strengthen the animals so as to admit of the most rapid forcing. As bone meal is known to be a preventive of rickets and weakness in cows, it looks reasonable that it should also be a benefit to hogs, which are often confined to a diet containing but little or no bone-making material.

The apple crop has been very abundant, and of superior quality during the season of 1878. Never have we known apples to sell so low by the barrel as this year. Good apples have sold for 50s cents to \$1 a barrel, the apple-seller furnishing the barrel. Such prices hardly pay the farmer for picking and marketing his fruit. Good, nice Baldwin have sold from 75 cents to \$1 a barrel. Yet dealers, as retailers, have sold apples for 40 cents a peck to families in and about Boston this present autumn. And those who have bought fruit at the stands for eating, say two or three, or half-a-dozen apples, have paid old retail prices. Such things ought not to be. Yet owing to negligence, heedlessness, or thoughtlessness, people have paid these prices with seeming satisfaction. It ought not to be.

BADLY LIGHTED STABLES.—The horse, although it looks straight forward much more than most animals, yet does not so nearly as much as man, and therefore requires in its habitation an arrangement of light quite different from that in its owner's dwelling. Give the horse the light from only one side, and it will direct only one of its eyes towards it, but the other eye will be in the shade; this inequality weakens both eyes. Put it in such a position that it looks into the dark, which is certainly unnatural, and when taken out of the stable, the abrupt change from darkness to light will harm it. To place it straight against the light gives a blinding effect, which is also injurious to the eyes. The horse-stable should, therefore, always receive its light from above, either through skylights or through windows placed near the ceiling in the wall to which the animal's head is turned as he stands in the stall. Moreover, the stable should be always bright—as bright, indeed, as daylight; for the horse is not a night or twilight animal, and is in no need of an artificial darkness, like fattening stock.

This corn crop has been large, and of superior quality, rarely better. This is true, through the corn-growing belt of the United States, from the Atlantic to the Rocky Mountains. The Eastern and the Middle States, especially the former section, had come to depend on the West for corn, as they did for wheat, during a period of nearly a quarter of a century, but has, for the past year or two, turned attention to growing Indian corn, as in years of olden times; and the results of 1877 and 1878 have shown and are showing that New England can raise her own maize better than she can furnish the money in any other way to buy Western corn. This is a wise reconsideration, one that the farmers will find to their advantage, without doubt, for we speak from our own experience on this important and practical subject. Corn that was cut up when glazed, shocked, and cured thus, during the remarkably fine autumn that has passed and is passing, was never found in better condition, both the grain and the fodder, than farmers are finding both, as they are engaged in husking. This we know both from experience and observation, for we have been among, and of, the huskers, as they have stripped the golden ears of the coverings. Corn-fodder thus cut and cured during such a splendid fall, is a valuable appendage to the fodder crop for wintering the herds and flocks of the farm. Corn-fodder is pronounced as equal in value to good stock hay, worth \$8 a ton. It is good fodder for milch cows, which, with a few shorts, makes good milk.

FRAGILE HORSES.—The Mexicans have a method of subduing fractious horses, and such as are inclined to run away, which might be introduced here with profit. A hood or winker is so arranged that the driver or rider can, in an instant, throw it directly over the eyes of the animal, effectually blinding him. When this is done the horse instantly becomes quiet, and a repetition of the blinding two or three times gradually results in his becoming quiet and docile.

LADY GOOCH'S BABY.

Sir Francis Gooch, the husband, on the death of his elder brother inherited an estate of a hundred and twenty thousand dollars. If he should die without heirs the estate would go to a third brother, and, in case of his death, would revert to the widow of the elder brother, from whom it came to Sir Francis. As the younger brother of Sir Francis was in feeble health, and as Sir Francis himself was apparently not expected to make very old bones, Lady Gooch was brought face to face with a horrible fact. This fact was not merely that she herself would be left unprotected, but that the fortune would fall plump into the lap of Lady Eleanor, who is clearly Lady Gooch's pet aversion. Not only to be poor herself, but to see another woman enriched with her fortune! This would be almost too much for any good woman, and this horrible state of the case haunted her fancy day and night. Evidently she asked herself frequently, "What are you going to do about it?" and the answer always came that what was wanted was an heir. But no heir came into that unhappy family in the natural way, and so Lady Gooch was determined that an heir should come in some other way. She formed the purpose to obtain a foundling, and by simulation of all the circumstances impose it upon her husband as his own child. He detected her design almost as soon as it was formed, and warned her against it; but she went on. She sought all about her for confederates and assistants in her scheme, but the shocking amount of honesty that faced her on every hand is simply startling. Nobody would touch the plan, but everybody urged her against it, and her husband was so well informed of all her steps that the police almost assisted at the appearance on the scene of the putative infant. Indeed, the infuriated woman went on with her conspiracy in the open daylight, and this gave her conduct the appearance of being inspired by a mania in regard to the discovery of an heir.—*N. Y. Herald*.

IT BEGINS to look now as if Campana and O'Leary will take a little walk of four or five hundred miles together before the Christmas holidays.

We read in the current number of the *Gentleman's Magazine*: "A man with some experience as a teacher of Irish Catholic children tells me that disloyalty is open and constantly avowed by the youths under his control, and that Catholic schools in Ireland are mere hotbeds of sedition."

The entire of the household effects of the late Cardinal Cullen in his residence in Eccles street, including, some say, his eminece's large and valuable library, will soon be disposed of by public auction, according to the directions in his will. The contents of this has not been made generally known, and others say that the library has been bequeathed to Clongowes College.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR LOWER CANADA.

No. 1467.

The sixth November, eighteen hundred and seventy-eight.

Present:

The Hon. MR. JUSTICE TORMAN.

"La Societe Canadienne Francaise de Construction de Montreal."

vs.

Louise Mathon, of the City and District of Montreal, wife separated as to property from Pierre Lapointe, Grocer, of the same place, and the said Pierre Lapointe to the effect hereof.

IT IS ORDERED, on the motion of G. M. Rueland, Esquire, of Counsel for the Plaintiff, in as much as it appears by the return of P. Archambault, one of the Bailiffs of this Court on the writ of summons in this cause issued, written, that the Defendants have left their domicile in the Province of Quebec in Canada, and cannot be found in the District of Montreal, that the said Defendants, by an advertisement to be twice inserted in the French language, in the newspaper of the City of Montreal, called *La Minerve*, and twice in the English language in the newspaper of the said city, called *The Daily Star*, be notified to appear before this Court, and there to answer the demand of the Plaintiff within two months after the last insertion of such advertisement, and upon the neglect of the said Defendants to appear and answer to such demand within the period aforesaid, the said Plaintiff will be permitted to proceed to trial and judgment as in a cause by default.

(By the Court.)

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