

## OUR OTTAWA LETTER

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Ottawa, August 17.

**THE SESSION.**—There is now so much monotony about the debates in the House of Commons that all interest seems to have been lost in them. Since the speeches delivered on the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme by Hon. Mr. Blair, criticizing it, and Hon. Messrs. Flavel and Sifton in support thereof, there has been absolutely nothing new to record. All that has followed, on either hand, has merely been a rehash of these leading addresses. We can, therefore, very easily dismiss the subject of Parliamentary affairs for the present.

**C. R. DEVLIN COMING.**—On Sunday last arrangements were made, at a special meeting of the United Irish League, to tender a reception to Mr. C. R. Devlin, M.P., for Galway, in the British House of Commons, on his arrival here about the 22nd instant. Until Mr. Devlin is seen, it is not the intention of the United Irish League to do anything concerning the passage of the Irish Land Bill. The members of the committee intend to have Mr. Devlin address a public meeting here, and to give his views regarding the present condition of affairs in Ireland. Dr. A. Freeland, president of the Ottawa branch of the United Irish League, occupied the chair.

**AN OLD MONTREALER.**—Mr. W. J. McCaffrey, of the statistical branch of the Customs, took over last Sunday the direction of the choir of St. Mary's Church, Baywater. The report in one of the Ottawa dailies contains the following complimentary remarks:—

"Mr. McCaffrey is a native of Montreal, where he has been for a long period identified with church choirs and musical societies generally. For several years he held the leadership of St. Patrick's Church choir of Montreal, and was also musical director of the St. Patrick's and St. Ann's Young Men's Societies there for many years. In the Ancient Order of Hibernians he took a prominent part in all musical entertainments, and assisted greatly whenever the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal had any concerts or musicals. He was transferred from the Customs at the port of Montreal to Ottawa when the statistical branch was opened here a few years ago. He is now musical director of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Ottawa, Division No. 2, and chairman of the Entertainment Committee of the St. Patrick's Literary and Scientific Association."

**FEAST OF ASSUMPTION.**—On Sunday the feast of the Assumption was solemnly celebrated. Special prayers were offered up on the occasion, and the altars of the Blessed Virgin were decorated and illuminated in all the Catholic churches. The "Venie Creator" was chanted after Mass in thanksgiving for the election of a Sovereign Pontiff. This was ordered by the pastoral of His Grace Archbishop Duhamel.

At the Basilica Rev. Father Seguin, who has been at the palace for several years past, sang his last Mass before going to Conception, his new charge.

Rev. Father Whelan's sermon on the late Pope, delivered at the grand Requiem in the Basilica July 29 last, has been printed, and in pamphlet form under mourning cover was distributed to the parishioners of St. Patrick's recently.

Rev. Father W. J. Murphy and Rev. Father Gervais, of the university, are spending a few holidays in Chrysler, Finch and Alexandria. They will return Wednesday for the O.M.I. retreat.

His Excellency Monsignor Sbarretti and his secretary, Rev. Father Stickney, dined at the university last Sunday evening.

**THE ST. THOMAS SOCIETY** of Hull, celebrated its patronal feast on Sunday by a grand Church parade in the morning, and a banquet and programme of games in the afternoon.

The different societies, including St. Thomas Society of Hull, St. Thomas Society of St. Jean Baptiste parish, St. Joseph's of Hull, and delegations from other societies of Ottawa and Asmer assembled at LaFleches' Hall

and marched in procession to Notre Dame de Grace Church, where a solemn High Mass was chanted by Rev. Father Bellemare, assisted by Rev. Fathers Feat and Legault, as deacon and sub-deacon. An eloquent and appropriate sermon was preached. After Mass the procession reformed and went to the Little Farm baseball grounds, where a sumptuous spread was partaken of.

**REV. FATHER EMERY**, rector of Ottawa University, returned on Saturday last from Europe, where he went to attend the conference of Colonial Universities in London, in the early part of July. As the report of the conference is soon to be published, Father Emery preferred not to anticipate it. He was desirous of examining into the various educational systems in Europe, and as a consequence, he visited the leading universities of England, Ireland, France, Italy, Germany, Holland and Switzerland. He stated, however, a few things to the press, and amongst them that he intends increasing the staff this year at the University.

The names of the new teachers will be announced later, but prominent amongst them will be Mr. W. F. Grey, who has been appointed Master of English and Elocution. Mr. Grey, who is a nephew of Lord Grey, and relative of Her Excellency Lady Minto, is a well known writer and elocutionist of Bath, England. He replaces W. F. Stockley, who goes to Halifax to take charge of Archbishop O'Brien's College at that place.

Mr. Grey was well known in Montreal, and had done a considerable amount of contributing to the "True Witness" about eight or ten years ago. He was then connected with the Post Office Department in Montreal.

**AN EXCURSION.**—About 250 people took an excursion, under the patronage of Le Cercle Champlain, to Valleyfield, on Sunday last. The weather was all that could be desired which proved a great factor in the success of the affair. The party arrived at Valleyfield about 10.30 a.m. and were met by a large number of the Valleyfield citizens. Preceded by the Valleyfield band they marched to the St. Jean Baptiste Society grounds. In the afternoon an excellent game of lacrosse was played between the Nationals, of Ottawa, and the Maple Leafs, of Valleyfield. The latter had engaged for the contest five players of the Nationals, of Montreal. Their assistance was very valuable. The Nationals gave them a great fight, but against the engaged players they could not do very much, although the Ottawa team succeeded in scoring two goals. The Valleyfield boys won by a score of 8 to 2. The rest of the afternoon was spent in various sports, and at 7 o'clock the party took the train for Ottawa amid the cheers of Valleyfield people who gave them a hearty send off.

### A LESSON TO LAITY.

"German Catholics! We are determined to prove that we still exist—that we are not going to let ourselves be put to one side—that we do our duty well; but that in return we claim our rights, all our rights, our rights in civil affairs. We will not let our adversaries put in their own pockets, for their exclusive profit, all the rights, all the benefits of the state and commune, while we simply pay for all. Too long have we been the pariahs of Germany. I said to you former: Be ever on the watch! And I say it still: Be ever on the watch!"—Windthorst.

### CHILD LABOR LAW.

The new child labor law making the wilful employment of children under fourteen years a misdemeanor, which goes into effect in New Jersey, Sept. 1, says the "Boston Sacred Heart Review," will be fought both in and out of the courts by the glassmakers in the southern part of the State, who claim that the glass industry will be ruined by the measure. Much political pressure has been brought to bear against it, and the indications are that a lively contest will be waged. Governor Murphy, in speaking of the opposition to the new law, says: "I shall insist upon its rigid enforcement, and if the case is taken into the courts, I will direct the attorney-general to defend it. The complaint of the glassmen that they can not make business pay without child labor seems incredible, but if it is true it will not change the enforcement of this necessary law. The wrong of such employment is too grievous to be palliated upon any consideration."

## With The Scientists.

**VACCINATION.**—Prof. C. E. A. Winslow, of the biological department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, writing for "Science" on the subject of vaccination, says that the recent appearance of an admirable book entitled "A Concise History of Smallpox and Vaccination in Europe," by Edward J. Edwards, has aroused new enthusiasm among British sanitarians in their efforts to undo the evil effects of the last vaccination act, which permitted the exemption of those persons known as "conscientious objectors." Its lesson, he says, is equally as salutary in this country, where the vaccination laws are at present far too lax, and where the opponents of vaccination are conducting an active campaign for their repeal. Professor Winslow frankly acknowledges that the responsibility incurred by the State in compelling its citizens to submit to the introduction of vaccine matter is a grave one, because, in the first place, it is a serious infringement of personal liberty; and, in the second place, the process is attended with a certain, although an almost inappreciable, amount of danger. When arm-to-arm vaccination was practised, loathsome diseases were occasionally conveyed from one human being to another, but the general introduction of calf lymph now prevents the possibility of any such contingency. The transmission of tuberculosis, too, is effectually precluded by the tests to which the calves are submitted. Erysipelas and tetanus still follow vaccination, but in a large majority of such cases the complications are due to secondary infection, although in a few instances they have been traced to the lymph itself.

Professor Winslow then gives the statistics regarding the effects of vaccination in various countries, and concludes his article by saying: "No one now supposes that a single vaccination affords absolute permanent protection, and with the increase of vaccination there must naturally come an increase of cases among the vaccinated. The experience of Leicester, on the other hand, is certainly of interest. It shows that under certain conditions the dangers of neglected vaccination may for a time be braved with impunity by a considerable portion of the community. This has been so far accomplished by prompt reporting and strict isolation of cases, and, according to the chairman of the Public Health Committee of the town by the fact that 'a handful of the population, including the medical men, sanitary staff, smallpox nurses, etc., are as well vaccinated in Leicester as in any other town, so that a cordon of protected persons can at once be drawn around any case of smallpox which may occur.'"

"It should be remembered, however, that the population of Leicester is still to some extent protected by the vaccinations carried out prior to the anti-vaccinationist agitation. Thus of the 358 persons attacked in 1892-5, 198 were returned as having been at some time vaccinated. The experience of Gloucester is ominous for the future of the 'Leicester experiment.' Prior to 1892-3, according to Dr. Edwards, 'vaccination had been almost in abeyance in Gloucester, and the inhabitants lived in a fools' paradise.' The result was an epidemic of 1,979 cases, with 484 deaths in a population of about 40,000, giving a death rate of 10,000 per million!"

"With regard to the smallpox occurring in persons once vaccinated, there are two points to notice. In the first place, the ratio of deaths to cases is far lower than among the unvaccinated. Thus at the Leipzig city hospital in 1870-2, 99 died among 139 unvaccinated cases, 116 died among 1,504 vaccinated cases, and none among 13 revaccinated cases. Creighton and Wallace object to these statistics on the ground that the death rate thus apparent among the unvaccinated is obviously too high, because 'in pre-vaccination times the death rate (18.8 per cent.) was almost the same as it is now in the vaccinated and unvaccinated together.'"

"Now it is quite impossible to fix any such general fatality rate; the ratio of deaths to cases has varied within wide limits both in the eighteenth century and recently. In the second place, it has been claimed that the 'unvaccinated' death rate is swollen by the inclusion in that class of children who escaped vaccination on account of feeble health. In the case of Gloucester, where vaccination has been so generally neglected,

this objection can hardly apply. Yet at Gloucester in 1892-3 there were, under ten years of age, 26 attacks among the vaccinated with 1 death, and 680 attacks among the unvaccinated with 279 deaths. Statistics for six towns collected by the English Royal Commission of 1889 showed fatality rates of 35.4 among the unvaccinated and 5.2 among the vaccinated.

"The third objection made to the hospital statistics, namely, that the deaths of the unvaccinated class are unfairly increased by the inclusion of doubtful cases and those who have been vaccinated but show no scars, can scarcely apply to the commission's analyses. It will not, at any rate, have much weight, except with those who, like Mr. Wallace, believe that 'in this matter of official and compulsory vaccination both doctors and Government officials, however highly placed, however eminent, however honorable, are yet utterly untrustworthy.'"

"A second important characteristic of the cases of smallpox in a once vaccinated population is that they are not only comparatively light, but that they affect the later periods of life; and this represents an important gain in the life capital of the community. During the epidemic of 1870-3, Bavaria, with compulsory vaccination, had 851 deaths under and 3,520 deaths over twenty years, while the Netherlands without compulsory vaccination had 14,048 deaths under twenty and 6,524 at higher ages. In the same great epidemic 71 per cent. of the deaths at Leicester, and 64 per cent. of the deaths at Gloucester occurred under ten years. In London the percentage falling in this age class was 37, and in Warrington, with still more thorough vaccination, it was 22.5."

"A single vaccination then greatly reduces the probability of an attack of smallpox, postpones it to a later period of life, and renders it less dangerous if it does ensue. To insure absolute protection revaccination is required; and its efficacy is well indicated by the experience of the Prussian army. In addition, one single bit of evidence may be adduced which is more striking, perhaps, than all the rest, the statistics of nurses in smallpox hospitals. These figures are of special interest because we have here a fairly large class of persons whose condition as to vaccination is accurately known, and who are uniformly exposed to the contagion of the disease; and the experience of two such communities is quoted by Dr. Edwards. 'During the epidemic of 1871 there were 110 persons engaged in the Homerton Fever Hospital in attendance on the smallpox sick; all these, with two exceptions, were revaccinated, and all but these two escaped smallpox. Of 734 nurses and attendants in the Metropolitan Asylums Board Hospitals, 79 were survivors from smallpox attack—they escaped infection; 645 were revaccinated on entrance—they all escaped; 10 were not revaccinated, and the whole 10 took smallpox.'"

"If statistics ever proved anything those quoted above prove the protective influence of vaccination. If any fact in science is certain, it is certain that a successful vaccination absolutely prevents smallpox for a period of some seven to ten years, that after that period it renders the disease less fatal, and that its complete protective effect may be renewed by revaccination. The conclusion is obvious, not only that the state should oblige primary vaccination, but, in the words of a minority of the British Royal Commission, that 'a second vaccination, at the age of twelve ought to be made compulsory.'"—New York Post.

### PRIEST AVERTS A PANIC.

While chanting the Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Pope Leo, Rev. James Timmins, rector of St. Michael's Church, Chester, Pa., discovered Monday morning that the candles on the altar had set fire to the draperies. Without hesitating a moment the priest continued the Mass, at the same time motioning to an altar boy to put out the fire. Patrick Brannan sprang to the altar and beat the flames out with his hands.

The church was crowded, and the coolness of the priest served to keep the congregation from rushing panic-stricken from the edifice.

### A NOTABLE CELEBRATION.

The parishioners of St. Patrick's Church, Bradford, England, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its erection recently. In honor of the auspicious event the Church was solemnly consecrated to the perpetual service of God by Cardinal Logue, Archbishop of Armagh and primate of all Ireland.

## Our Curbstone Observer ON CIGARETTES

THIS is not a subject that is calculated to interest every person, nor is it one upon which all people are agreed; no more is it my intention to enter upon the details, nor to preach a sermon against the abuse of cigarettes. Mr. Bickerdike, M.P., said, in support of his famous Bill, in the House of Commons, about all that could well be advanced in that regard, while Dr. Roddick, M.P., gave the country the benefit of the medical aspect of the question. I could not add anything to their arguments; moreover, I am not either a legislator or a physician; and it would be presumption on my part to pretend to any great degree of knowledge in the matter. My humble business is observation, and that from the ordinary curbstone, or the street corner. But if I know very little, either practically or otherwise, about cigarettes, I have seen a deal of cigarette-smoking in my time, and I have not failed to note how general and how common the habit is becoming. And as the habit grows and expands, the custom becomes established, and even develops into a fashion.

### ON THE STREET CORNER.

It is quite amusing to stand on the old curbstone and observe peculiarities in the people that go past. By long custom you come to distinguish between the exceptional peculiarity that you notice in an individual, and the common, or commoner peculiarity that belongs to a number of people. Sometimes you find that these peculiarities extend only to persons of a certain class, or grade in society, or a certain occupation. By dint of practice I have reduced my observations to a regular system. Suppose that I set out this morning to study the cigarette-smokers; I do not while away time paying attention to anything else. I do not examine their dress, nor their walk, nor their gestures, nor do I trouble myself with their modes of saluting or their passing remarks. I simply confine my observations to the persons, big or little, old or young, who are smoking cigarettes, and I do not allow my mind to wander away upon any other beat. Then I gradually divide them into categories, which is easily done, and make my mental calculations upon each set of them separately. Oh, it is great sport, this business of observation on a street corner.

### THE YOUNG SWELL.

He comes along in all his attractiveness of summer attire, and each one knows what that is, so I need not descend into particulars. He is going to his office, or to his club, or wherever his whim or his business (if he has any) takes him. Beneath his cowboy shaped panama, beneath his gold-rimmed glasses, beneath his Roman and aristocratic nose, beneath his carefully-nursed infantile mustache peeps the tiny roll of paper, with ashes hanging from end and the other end having, in the proper manner, and at the proper angle, from between the upper lip and the gums of the upper teeth. And he sweeps along apparent oblivious of the fact that he is carrying his cigarette. It seems to be a part of himself; it is not, from aught the observer can see lit. Decidedly no man could hold a good ordinary pipe or a decent cigar in his mouth for such a length of time without having it die out. It may be possible that he swallows the smoke; if so I would imagine that his health would not greatly improve. Suddenly a whiff of smoke rushes out on the air in an upward direction, followed by two small tails dividing east and west from the central column; just like the great comet, with the two tails, now diving at the sun. The smoke has issued from pursed-up, neatly-rounded lips, and as in the case of the Bull in the fable, the small tail-like jets came from the nostrils. Up went the hand and delicately and exactly between the extreme joints of the first and second fingers the reduced roll of paper was, in accordance with the accepted rule, lightly held. I glanced at those fingers. It was but a passing glance, but I knew by the whiteness of them that the swell was either a beginner, or, at least, not a

Had he been a long time

addicted to the habit the tips of the two fingers would have been of a pale yellow; were he a continental European foreigner they would have been black and orange. It is something to be proud of to have the whole of the thumb and first and second fingers of the right hand perfectly dyed with the nasty colorings of opiated tobacco. It is a beauty-mark, in the eyes of some people; so is tattooing amongst the men of Masailand, and war-painting amongst the braves of the Black-Foot. But if people are charmed with their own evidences of barbaric customs it is none of my business and I have no special right to complain.

### IN THE PARLOR.

I do not always stand on a curbstone. I have another suit of clothes at home in a box, and I am accustomed to don it whenever I have to spend an evening with ladies. And it sometimes—not often—happens that I am invited in that way, to take a hand at a game of whist, or to sit on a sofa and listen to music and song, while discussing the petty gossip of the week. On these occasions, even when I am divested of my every-day observation suit, I do not entirely divest myself of my observation faculties. I notice then how the cigarette-smoker seems to think that it is perfectly correct that he should keep his roll of white paper between his lips and gums while conversing with ladies. Were he a pipe or cigar-smoker he would excuse himself and go out for a whiff; but being only the smoker of the inoffensive cigarette he feels quite at ease in swallowing smoke, or performing the comet-trick even at a dining table. And what is still worse I find that ladies do not object to it, but "rather like" cigarette fumes. In fact, they have such a partiality for them that they even smoke them as do the male side of the human family. What a difference. A lady would be forever ashamed of herself if she were known to smoke cigars; and we all know the fearful disgrace it is considered to have a woman smoke a pipe. But these dainty, lovely creatures, even stain their taper fingers, and blacken their rosy lips, and pride themselves in their capacity to puff away smoke that they draw from "the dear, harmless" little cigarettes. It has become so general a custom that even small, fancy saucers, for the ashes of cigarettes are placed on the tables, and it is expected that they are there for use and that the visitors know for what use they are intended. What a lot of damage, socially, morally, educationally, and physically a little thing like a cigarette can cause. I am not at all so very pious and modest that I cannot enjoy seeing others enjoy themselves; but I am very sorry to see the tiny cigarette making so much headway in the world to-day. It is destroying our olden and decent manners. It turns the youth into a fop, and its everlasting presence is well calculated to turn him into an imbecile, while we have a sufficient number of examples of how it turns him into a criminal. The prison, the lunatic asylum, the suicide's grave are the refuges of many who have tampered too fondly with the alluring little adder. And the young lady who affects cigarette-smoking, places herself in a position that justifies a stranger in confounding her with females of a very different grade. Even the ragged urchin on the corner has a cigarette, if he has no pants to wear; soon the beggar will be found smoking a cigarette and declaring that he has not eaten for two days. The wonderful cigarette.

### IRELAND'S TEMPERANCE APPOSTLE.

The life of Father Matthew has lately been translated into the French language.

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## OUR

HASTY JUDGMENTS little story illustrating little people err in their pride is aroused when they are disappointed for is told by an exchange.

girls desire to be happy in this life they must generous and kindly spirit intercourse with companions

story is as follows:—

"How well your plants Father Ward, one of Jai coming up on the porch was seated with her aunt them. "How is your dog geranium getting along?"

"I haven't one of those wishing for one."

"One day about two went in to Miss Vale's—

"Yes, she has a beautiful promised to slip one for

"That is the part of I prizes me. Emily Garde and Miss Vale gave her white one. And she ask bring you a lovely dark anium."

Esther went away, and sd to her Aunt Rachel v

grey face, saying: "Did you hear that, chel?"

"I heard that Emily h given you the geranium. of town, isn't she?"

"Yes, for nearly two w auntie, there's more about day before she went brought me this white ger

ing me that it was from There is only one way to for it. Can there be cept that she wanted the geranium and—kept it, pu white one off on me? Ho and deceitful of her. I t to write and tell her exa

think of her."

"I had a friend," said chel, after a pause.

"When she and I went to school we lived in the sub

city. To go into it by tr great treat, and one that us but rarely. But when sister of Jessie's moved city the dear girl was ful about the lovely times

mean for us two. So one she came to me for a plan the next day in town. W go in by an early train, galleries, and everything

lightful that came in our "Be sure you're in ge was her parting injunction, it, expecting to be met at

tion by Jessie's bright face "But she was not there, waited, at first tranquilly, train time quickly came, in impatience. You may ima

feelings with which I say pull up, my wild look on e as it pulled out.

"I waited a little while, pecting her, and ready with

proaches for her lateness. I went home, my heart rag such anger and disappointn do not like to remember.

"It always seems to me, short pause she went on co tively, "that we cannot storm of evil feeling to have

ful way in our hearts and quite the same. We can re resolve against sinning ag the searing, scorching flam

leave its results. "I went home and wrote

wrote to my dearest friend pour of the anger which fi heart.

"All the summer my fat been cherishing a plan of t for a month's outing in the tains. Opportunity for his

away suddenly offered, and I tried preparations we left I next day. I begged one

school friends to write me were moving from one pleas to another and her first let

ted and never found me. H I opened with a little snif for her neglect. I read it

my heart beat slower."

"What was it, Aunt Rach

"She referred to a forme saying something like this: told you before of Jessie's seizure two weeks ago, and

it was, you will not be mu

prised to hear that they ha up all hope of her life."

"T more, speaking of the brai that was sapping the dear,

life, of her mother's despair

"Well, well, Janet, you n