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Board meets third Friday of each month, at 1863 Notre Dame Street, 8 p. m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1900

CURIOUS CRITICISM ABOUT CONVENTS.

There are certain people who find some particular reason for judging harshly, or who base their opinions upon some isolated incident, and then sweep everything before them in a general condemnation. This is unfortunately the case with many Catholic writers...

In the "Midland Review," of March 8, we have a fair sample of this unwise and often seriously dangerous journalism. The article is entitled: "On Ideals not yet attained," and signed by "Jean Perrins Insulanus."

"We have numberless convents and colleges whose primary end should be to give to us Catholic mothers and gentle sisters, but it seems many of them have utterly failed. Avoiding personalities, let us judge from cold actuality, while we hold a minute with our lens focussed upon them."

Aply remarks our mutual friend, Miss M. T. Elder: "Oh never will our heavenly home-life be established here so long as our teachings and our preachings and our reachings continue as now so determinedly anti-home! So long as education, as it is understood, is everything and home-life nothing, so long will notoriety, artificiality, dangerous excitement, be preferred to the quiet joys of ones' fireside, the proven loves of ones' flesh and blood."

In the first place we have not "numberless" convents and colleges as above described; we have not "numberless" institutions of any kind; and the "many" we have may comprise a "few" exceptions, such as the writer describes; but we have not yet seen or heard of them. If Jean Perrins Insulanus would read the context of Bishop Spalding's lecture, he would find that the prelate asserts exactly the opposite of which his two sentences are made to support. As to Miss Elder, she is a professional fault-finder as far as her own sex is concerned; and even in this case her remarks do not apply to "numberless" convents and colleges, any more than non-Catholic schools, or any other institutions. She writes very elegantly, but no person would ever dream of basing a system of education upon Miss Elder's extravagant theories.

The writer thus proceeds: "We have been quoting, but have also learned through personal, actual knowledge that certain qualities of convent education, given in some of our Catholic convents, is detrimental to true, simple, unaffected, Catholic womanhood."

High time it was for him to stop quoting; but he comes down from his "numberless" to "some of our Catholic convents." Here is his evidence concerning these institutions: "Any observer will remark with

surprise, a lack of respect for priests and holy things, flippant talk, censorious criticisms of church-affairs, little esteem for certain devotions — say, very often serious doubts in matters of faith. What a charge! but really, a statement based on actual knowledge, when you are asked time and again by divers convent pupils, "I can't believe this mystery," "how?"—etc. This shows her faith is wavering, yet she is 16 and has received her first Communion!"

Some of these girlish vagaries are to be found in every school, convent or otherwise, where young girls are instructed; others of them are common to all young minds, and eventually they are replaced by solid ideas, just as the hobby horse of the boy is replaced by the real pony of the youth. After a lot more such matter the writer says:—

"The preceding may seem somewhat radical and pessimistic; the observation may not be borne out in some convents; but who will contradict and apologize for all of them?"

No doubt the observation is not borne out in some (or any) convents. He wants some one to contradict and apologize for all of them. Does he mean his assertions or the convents? If the latter, no person wants to contradict them, and there is nothing to apologize for; if the former, it would be loss of time to contradict them, and impossible to apologize for them.

People look round at a nice head of hair on the street, so rare has that beautiful ornament become at the present day. Why is this? It certainly is not LUBY'S Parisian Hair Renewer, which is an almost intangible remedy against premature grey hair. Only 50 cents a bottle

ABOUT LIBRARIES.

"The only proper way to manage a circulating library so as to avoid all unnecessary delay and friction in the bringing together of book and reader, is to run it upon the open-shelf system," said J. Norris Wing, the librarian of the "New York Free Circulating Library," in answer to a query as to how he liked the change that had been made in the library under his charge. The "New York Free Circulating Library" in round numbers has 135,000 volumes on its shelves, and their total circulation for the last library year was 1,241,000. It operates eleven branches, distributed over the territory of Manhattan.

From 1880, when the first branch was opened, up to about eighteen months ago, the public was excluded from the places where the books were kept, and when the proposition was made to give the readers free access to all books in the library many of the attendants shook their heads. The experiment was tried, however, first in one and then in another branch, and the innovation has proved so satisfactory that to-day the open shelf system is in operation in every one of them. The difficulties that had to be overcome were many, lack of space and unsuitable shelf arrangements being the most formidable ones, but the arrangements are now such that the system can be said to have demonstrated its superiority over all other library systems. It simply means that any member of the library, if he wishes to borrow a book goes directly to the proper shelf, makes his own selection, has it charged to him and goes away.

It will be seen at a glance that this method offers a great many advantages to the reader: There is no

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longer any need for his spending his time in looking over the catalogue for the proper number of the book he wants, no more filling out call slips, and no waiting till the librarian returns after a weary search to inform him that the book is out. All shelves are marked plainly, showing what sort of books they contain, and the subdivisions hold the volumes in alphabetical order of their authors.

One walks to the shelf, sees at a glance whether the book is there or not, and if necessary chooses something else. The saving of time in itself is quite welcome to the average reader, but it is by no means the greatest benefit he derives from the system. It allows him to handle books, look at them, browse in them and judge for himself whether he would care to read a certain book. To many people it is nothing short of a revelation that other books have been written besides popular novels, and many a girl has learned to read history, literature and scientific works who came to the library to get the novels by "The Duchess," and would never have asked for anything else.

To the librarians also the open shelf system has been a boon in more than one way. It has saved them a great deal of physical fatigue, the running about in looking for books, and the carrying them from all parts of the building to the delivery desk, and the reduction in the amount of purely physical labor has made them more alert to exercise their influence in another direction. They now come into close personal contact with the readers, they are being constantly asked whether they would recommend one book or another, and the irritation consequent upon crowds clamoring outside the railing is gone. One of the women librarians said:—

"Now we are fresh when our day's work is done. Moreover, we know that we can and do help the people who use the library to an extent not one of us thought possible under the old system. Before we mostly only carried books; now we advise about books."

There are, however, two serious drawbacks that go with the open shelf system. First of all, the books suffer much more. They are handled by many hands, and the wear and tear is much greater than under the old system.

The second difficulty lies in the seemingly utter impossibility of preventing the stealing of books. It seems to be almost to be expected that books will be stolen from any library; and the opportunities for thefts naturally increase by operating the library upon the open-shelf system. Still the experience of the "Free Circulating Library," with a clientele of all ages, races and conditions of people is, that, as a whole, these thefts are not of such importance as to offset the benefits of the system, and one of the librarians in charge of a branch remarked:—

"I do not know how many books were stolen elsewhere, but in my branch the thefts do not amount to anything worth speaking about, and even if they'd steal much more, I would still prefer the open shelf."

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GOOD WILL.

Judge Andrews, in the New York Supreme Court, in denying an application for a receivership, laid down the law regarding good will. In the case before the court this asset was valued at from \$60,000 to \$500,000. Justice Andrews said "good will consists in the right to use the old name and to occupy the old place of business, to use the old trademark and label, and generally to have the tendency of old customers to continue trading with the successors of an established firm."

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PUBLIC NOTICE

is hereby given that application will be made to the Parliament of Canada, at the next session thereof, for an act to incorporate a religious community. The said corporation to be called "The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer."

The persons to be incorporated are: The Rev. Alphonse Lemieux, the Rev. Edward Strubbe, the Rev. Louis Savard, the Rev. Edmund Flynn, and the Rev. Peter Vermeire, and such others as shall hereafter become members under the rules of the corporation.

The said Corporation to have perpetual succession and a common seal, to be altered at will; said corporation also to have the right to appear before the Courts; said corporation also to have the right to possess, acquire, moveable and immovable property, and to sell, alienate, hypothecate, assign, lease, transfer, exchange or otherwise dispose of the same for the benefit of the said Corporation.

The head office of the corporation shall be in the city and district of Montreal. The objects of the corporation are as follows:

- (1) The maintenance of public worship.
(2) The religious education of the people and especially that of the poor and abandoned, particularly by holding missions in cities, towns, villages and parishes.
(3) Taking spiritual charge temporarily of small congregations which cannot afford to support a priest.
(4) Giving moral education particularly to poor and orphan children.
(5) Helping in missions and in education within the limits of their duties.
(6) The maintenance of public cemeteries connected with buildings devoted to public worship, and the construction and maintenance of halls attached to or belonging to the buildings under their care, for the public purposes of such buildings respectively.
(7) Giving aid and assistance in the promotion of Immigration.
(8) All other works depending upon these above mentioned and all other works in any way connected with the objects above set forth.

QUINN, MORRISON & LYNCH, Attorneys for Applicants. Montreal, 25th January, 1900.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, DISTRICT OF MONTREAL, No. 1797.

SUPERIOR COURT. DAME ENITH GOLLER, Plaintiff, vs. CASSEL RACHAYLOVITCH, Defendant, and REUBEN RACHAYLOVITCH, Mis en cause.

An action in separation as to property and as to bed and board has been taken to-day in this cause. Montreal, January 16th, 1900.

JOS. BARNARD, Attorney for Plaintiff.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, District of Montreal. SUPERIOR COURT—No. 2481.

An action in separation as to property has this day been instituted by Dame Marie Adeline Victoria Bouthillier, of the Parish of St. Antoine de Longueuil, District of Montreal, against her husband, George Vincent, of the same place. Montreal, 12th February, 1900.

GEOFFRION & MONET, Attorneys for Plaintiff.

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