

Our Curbstone Observer

On Weather Prophets

THIS is a very interesting subject. For sometime back there has been considerable talk about the removal of the Observatory (and Old Probs. with it) from Toronto to Ottawa.

MY OBSERVATIONS.—I am as I stand on the curbstone, somewhat like the man on the observatory. He uses an instrument, and that instrument indicates for him the changes that will probably take place in the weather.

A WEATHER WISE PUBLIC.—If the reader will recall that day it will be remembered that it was damp, cloudy, and quite close—and with all that chill—in the morning.

MEANINGLESS REMARKS.—Of all the meaningless remarks, by way

of salutation, the most absurd to my mind is that "Fine day." No matter what kind of weather it may, you are pretty sure that seven or eight out of every ten you meet will inform you that it is a fine day.

UTILITY OF WEATHER TALK.—They say that all things in this world have their utility, and I suppose amongst them this habit of talking about the weather and of bringing it in, to fill up the gaps when there is nothing else to say.

LOOKING FOR NEWS.—We all know how general is the question "Have you any news to-day?"—or "What's the news,"—and the corresponding reply "no news at present," or some such remark affecting "news."

CARD OF THANKS.

The Sisters of Charity of St. Patrick's Orphan Asylum and St. Bridget's Home, wish to return their most sincere thanks to Mr. Bernard Tansey for the outing given the orphans and inmates of both institutions at the Shamrock Lacrosse Grounds on Wednesday, Aug. 5th.

(Signed) SISTERS OF CHARITY.

IRISH EMIGRATION.

An Anti-Emigration Society has been organized in Ireland. It aims at putting a stop to the flow of emigration. The Irish papers say there are work and opportunities enough now at home for all the young folk and that, therefore, there is no need for them to go to America.

The Religion of Governors.

(By An Occasional Contributor.)

For some time the Methodists of Australia and New Zealand had been working themselves into a white heat over the alleged burning of Bibles, by Catholic missionaries, in the Fiji Islands.

But the illogical position taken by those people, who argued that the Fiji people are all Protestants, or rather Methodists, at least the vast majority of them, was clearly demonstrated by the secular press that they had hoped would support their cause.

Much was made of the fact that Methodists were the first missionaries in the Fiji Islands. But they forget that the native population is rapidly vanishing.

"Sixty years ago the population was estimated by a Methodist missionary at 300,000. Fourteen years later the Methodists claimed that they had 300,000 converts in that colony. This looked well on paper.

This falling away of the native element in the Fiji group does not speak very well for the kind of civilization that accompanied the missionary efforts of these people.

same time diffusing the knowledge of Christianity. These efforts on their part are assisting in arresting the national decay which has set in with such virulence.

And yet these people, full of prejudice and real bigotry, over in Australia and New Zealand have the hardihood to wage war upon such civilizing and Christianizing influences, and for no other reason than that they are Catholic and not of the same character as the Methodist methods that have produced such baneful results.

FALSE TEACHERS

From time to time a very new and very powerful thought is to be found in an ordinary sermon, and that which might pass unnoticed by thousands comes into the mind of one man, and he, having the fitting opportunity to give it expression, performs a real act of apostolic merit in communicating the same to the world.

"Here was the first distinctive mark of false teachers—they came; they were not sent. They came by their own will; they were moved by their own ambition; they were carried along by their own light. It was not a question of being sent, and yet how all-important was that question to the divine mission.

This clear definition led naturally to an explanation of the fact that only those who have been sent to teach, and who can claim Apostolic succession have a right to teach. The false prophet takes it on himself to teach, and is only guided by his own light.

But the essential point of the sermon is that in which we are given a mark whereby we can know the false from the true teacher. When a man is "called" by the people to come and preach to them, or when he comes without being called, he may be considered a false teacher.

Notes From Australia.

THE CATHOLIC IRISH.—During the course of a recent lecture before West Perth Catholic Young Men's Society, Mr. Bourke, V.G., gave the following interesting statistics of Catholic progress in that country. He said:—

If you have followed what has been said about the humble and unpromising commencements of our race and religion in W.A., you will better appreciate what most of you know by personal experience, that is—How we stand to-day.

Yet a word in conclusion—notwithstanding all that has been done I beg you to remember that we are yet far indeed from the end of our labors. Quite otherwise; rather is it now that it is one's duty to set in earnest about buckling to for the work ahead.

A VETERAN PRIEST DEAD.—The death of the Ven. Archdeacon Slattery occurred on a recent Sunday at the age of 76, is announced from Geelong, Victoria.

ing availed itself of a more absurd of flimsy pretext.—R.I.P.

THE UNEMPLOYED.—A correspondent of the W. A. Record writes: The unemployed question has once again been prominently brought before the "powers that be."

Notes for Farmers.

ARTESIAN WELLS.—In writing on artesian wells in New South Wales, Orlando H. Baker, United States Consul at Sidney, says: "The first experiment made in boring artesian wells in New South Wales was in 1879 at Killara Station, in the western part of the State.

"At some of the wells the water is used for experimental farm irrigation. Lucern, corn, wheat, tobacco, sugar cane, date palm, bananas, and other tropical products have been grown on land thus irrigated.

Passing Notes And Gleanings

MR. KEATING'S MISTAKE.—"Irish World" says:—

Mr. John T. Keating, who went to Ireland ostensibly to the memory of Wolfe, whom a monument is being put up to, but whose real purpose was to see the United Irish League returned again to America.

OUR LITTLE ONES.—"Boston Heart Review" writes:—

"This has been conventional Aunt Bride's town, and so incidents she has witnessed of her alternately with indignation and sorrow. Lately out of short dress she ought to be at school, parading up and down the linked arms with half-dragons. In most instances know nothing about these even their names.

This correspondent's remark doubtless be read by large the clergy and laity. But ought them will enter into leg against such a sad state of affairs. In our city, cheap and dime shows, have wrought havoc of young lives, yet inert. Scores of boys and our parishes, are seen up streets, even during the school holiday, and yet we see no indifference. There is need for reform indeed, not Aunt Bride's town, but in many towns and cities on this coast.

THE MAGNANIMOUS.—"The Daily Star," in an article Pope Pius X., says:—

"With the delicate political office, even the highest, of his own church hesitates; and there is certain demand for the expression of opinion unless and until political activity should three tenths right. Much misreading of the situation would be if it were always remembered the people of Italy and a proportion of the people of whom the Papacy sees to be in some measure in are sincere and even enthusiastic Catholics."

CHURCH ATTENDANCE.—become a fad with non-newspapers, in recent years, timate the attendance at. Recently the "Daily News," Irish journal, made an estimate of the Catholic weekly of London comments upon some of the

Catholics have shown up, actively speaking, much better members of other churches mentioned in the summary "Daily News" census. Of population of London, just million are shown to be Catholics, of whom 93,572 are clerics; that is practically one-tenth of the population, or we fear Catholic total is excellent. even were London Catholic than one-twentieth of the population of the Metropolis, the figures show that religiously shown best in our Church. occasional occasions Catholic have shown the largest attendance notably at St. Peter's, St. Mary and St. Michael's, Con Road, when thousands were ed in the congregation. Cor the claim of the Established and the bounce of the Non-ists, their totals are meagre, mer having less than five thousand attendants at service Catholics, and the latter of times.

FIRST PILGRIMS.—An American contemporary says:—