

sion. Because of the great success of this European experiment, American Catholic educators are now considering a somewhat similar, though more elaborate, plan for this continent, namely, a permanent travelling educational society.

In a recent number of the "Ave Maria" there is a description of the land whence came St. Vincent de Paul. St. Vincent was born at Puoy, a small town near that desolate region, termed "Les Landes," which occupies nearly a third of the western side of France. The writer points out that in all probability it was the desolation and poverty of this region that caused the good saint to devote his life to deeds of charity in the dreary and squalid sections of the big cities. The occupants of "Les Landes" are an old-fashioned people. Among many old customs one of the most interesting is the manner of betrothal. (Attention, fellows!) The young man goes in the middle of the night, accompanied by his friends, to the house of the girl he wishes to wed. He is received with great cordiality. A meal is prepared and all eat and drink till morning. Not a word is said of the object of the visit. At day break the young lady presents the aspirant for her hand with a basket of fruit. If nuts are found among the fruit it means refusal, if none are found it means acceptance. Customs are different in this country. When a young gentleman is handed fruit by the lady of his choice, especially fruit of a golden-yellow shade, it means absolute, unconditional refusal.

In the October number of the "Canadian Messenger" an appeal is made for the financial assistance of that excellent institution, the Catholic Church Extension Society of Canada. Through the activities of this society the Gospel is being carried to the limits of our great Canadian West and far into our Northland. Churches are being built, schools opened and many brought back to the fold. One of the greatest difficulties of the Society is the securing of priest and teachers for the various nationalities found among the immigrants. The appeal for funds to support this Society is one that should meet with generous response.

The "Scientific American" gives an account of the great improvements being made in the New York State Barge Canal. The vast sums being spent are some indication of the great fight the States are making to gain the bulk of the Great Lakes trade, and, incidently the bulk of the export trade with Europe. It is high time for the Georgian Bay Canal.