

#### XLVI., NO. 17. VOL.

### MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1896.

# Is it a Plea for a System of Godless Schools?

THE Montreal Herald, following | Washington in his famous farewell the lead of the defunct and un- address, "to the influence of refined edusavory Canada-Revue, and of cation on minds of peculiar structure, its successor, Le Reveil, has for reason and experience both forbid us to the past six months been publishing a number of editorial articles in which, under the pretense of endeavoring to bring about an improvement in the present system of education in the governments," says Cardinal Gibbons in Province of Quebec, it has been making that monumental work of his, "Our ludicrous efforts to increase its very mited circulation by ignorantly att tcking the Catholic Church, sometimes openly, but more frequently by vulgar morality, no morality without religion, inuendo. The idea that the writer of no religion without God." What the these extraordinarily-composed articles, who is a comparative stranger in Canada, has been trying to convey, in his very original style, is that the Catholic people of the Province of Quebec are sunk in abysmal ignorance, and, by implication, that the Church is responsible for it. In one of his earliest lucubrations he told us that the Sultan of Turkey was a most benevolent and enlightened ruler as compared with those who control the educational system in Quebec. In one of his latest efforts-that which was published on Uctober 29-be makes this characteristic statement in reference to our benighted province :

"In Estland or in the wandering hordes by the White Sea, such a state of things may be found; but in the rest of Europe we know no place which affords a parallel."

After perusing a lot of rhapsodical balderdash of which this quotation is only a very tame sample, as we shall show later on, and which no other newspaper in Canada but the Montreal Herald would insert, we rub our eyes and look around us in this metropolitan city of Montreal, and we ask: Whence, leading in all the walks of life-in tem of Godless instruction, for when the e, in jurisprudence, in statesdid they get their early education? and good? Where did their latent talents find the which motived those efforts to push the early training to which they owe that sublime devotion to the interests of religion which finds tangible and eloquent expression in tions of charity and benevolence which minister to the needs of His creatures, in schools and colleges which greet illiterate and priest-ridden Quebec. cation" has for its object the spread of the They must have been educated in that knowledge of the fact that Our Saviour home of culture, the province of Ontario, or in that Cymric principality and that we should do likewise! What whence the Herald's "doctor" hails. The present premier of Canada must assuredly have received his primary this? A fine authority this, on educainstruction elsewhere than in the dark and unlettered province of his birth. The ignorance of the Herald's writer is shown by the fact that he does not understand the meaning of the word education at all. He imagines, as his articles prove, that education means simply mental training ; whereas education as the derivation of the word plainly demonstrates, signifies the drawing out, or development, of all of man's faculties, mental, moral and spiritual. Webster tells us that to educate is "to instil into the mind principles of art, science, article, entitled "What Free Education morals, religion, and behavior." Mental training may make a man become a clever thief, embezzler, forger, swindler, or "confidence man." It can never make a good Christian of him. And every Christian must believe that it is better to be good than clever. As the Sovereign Pontiff says : "He who, in the education of youth, neglects the will and concentrates all his energies on the culture of the intellect, succeeds in turning tions in use in the Old Country will be education into a dangerous weapon in the hands fof the evil disposed. The land and Wales was given by the Educajoins with the wicked, propensities father and mother has a right to free

expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle." "Every philosopher and statesman who has discussed the subject of human Christian Inheritance," has acknowledged that there can be no stable society without justice, no justice without Montreal Herald and its educational writer desire, if they desire anything beyond personal profit, is to eliminate the principle of religion from the educational system of this province; to replace our present schools by Godless schools, in which man's dual relationship to time and eternity shall be altogether ignored.

But the vast majority of the people of this province, who are Catholic to the core, will not permit any insignificant clique of non Catholics, self-seeking or otherwise, to banish religion from their schools. While they recognize to the full the usefulness, efficiency, and necessity of secular instruction, they are unalterably attached to the principle of true and sound education, of which religious teaching is an essential element. They snow that in every country where the schools have been secularized by the State, crime has increased-the sanctity of the marriage tie has been violated; divorces have increased; immorality, intemperance, breaches of private and public trust, have become more prevalent than formerly; suicides have been more frequent; and private and public virtue has deteriorated. They know that such then, come those Catholics whom we see | must necessarily be the result of a sys-

ments; education is the right of the people, and in the school all must be regarded as equal. There is no loophole by which any autocrat, who loves to read history backwards, can defraud even the poorest of his right. The department fears no man. neither has it any favors to ask," &c., &c.

The comparisons he makes, and the statistics he figures out from the last census, and which he calls the "Herald's tables," are ridiculous where they are not pointless. He harps upon the nigh percentage of illiteracy to be found in the Province of Quebec amongst children under the age of ten, not knowing that this is a province in which there are more numerous families, and consequently more young children in proportion to adults, than in any of the other provinces; and that therefore a comparison with those other provinces is ridiculous. How many of these "children under ten" were, when the census was taken in 1891, over one or two or three? Here is a comparison given with an air of triumph which is highly amusing:

" In the town of Hull, England, there were \$512 children on the schools registers, with an average attendance of 920, in the year 1870. In 1894 there were 40.530, with an average attendance of 35,311. In twenty five years the average attendance has increased nearly six times. No more striking example can be found of the marvellous strides made, in matters educational, since the passing of the Act of 1870. In many ways Hull is an excellent place to use in comparison with our own city ; it stands by the side of a great river, is a busy centre of a large forwarding trade, etc. In Montreal, according to the reports of the Protestant and Roman Catholic Com missioners, there are 22.989, with an average attendance of 18,701. So much for our ancient system. It's high time to awake from our slumbers."

Now, what do these figures demonstrate? Simply that in twenty-five years the number of children of school age in Hull, England, had increased nearly five times, and the average attendance at school had increased nearly six times, this slightly larger ratio of attendance being due to the enforcement of the law rendering attendance at school compulsory. Montreal, with its average attendance of 18,701 out of 22,989 school children, and with no law making attendance at school compulsory, compares very favorably indeed with the England city, with its attendance of 35,311 out of authorized to read a portion of the Scrip-40,530, and with its compulsory attendance law. In Montreal, where there is no compulsory law, nine out of every eleven children on the school register attend; in Hull, where there is such a law, fourteen out of every sixteen on the register attend. It is not an unwarrantable assumption that, were there no compulsory school attendance law in Hull, the average attendance there would be lower than that in Montreal. So much for our ancient system. What, now, becomes of the Herald "doctor's" assertion that "no more striking example can be found of the marvellous strides made, in matters educational, since 1870?" No more striking example of rank nonsense in the editorial columns of a daily newspaper can be found than this comparison of his. To the comparison sought to be instituted between the percentage of illiteracy in England and Wales and that in the Province of Quebec, somewhat analagous considerations apply. In addition to the factor supplied by the compulsory school attendance law in force in those countries, there are those of length of settlement, extent of area in proportion to population, and, above all, climatic conditions in winter. To neglect to take these important factors into account is to evince either ignorance or bad faith, or both. The Province of Quebec has, as the census and other statistics show, made great progress in matters educational during the past twenty-five years and is maintaining a steady pace of advancement. If its system of primary instruc tion still leaves anything to be desired, it is certainly not the fault of the authorities of the Catholic Church. On and presumably left him this little this point it will suffice to quote our money to be applied for its benefit. It contemporary, Le Monde, which takes a deep and an intelligent interest in the subject. "It is time," it said recently, "to recommend a little modesty to those who claim, in good faith or not, that they are the first to desire and demand more sacrifices in favor of education for our young Catholics. All our bishops, turn by turn, have insisted upon the great importance of education. The pastoral solicitude of in favour of unity, which has been read our spiritual guides has never for an in. | with sincere pleasureton all sides. The stant lost sight of the interests of the sine qua non to reunion in Mr. Harringohildren, by far the mist interesting English parties. To this no true Irish

votion to the direction of the bishops, and, as we have said, and repeat, it is to them, and to them alone, that we owe the fine colleges, boarding schools and convents, which cover our province, and in which our young people obtain a good and solid education. If our primary schools still leave anything to be desired to day, it is because-we say it again-we have counted too much on the clergy to do all; it is because we have not followed with sufficient generosity the lessons of devotion which they have given us; it is because we did not make the necessary sacrifices to secure good schools, which would be an honor to our religion and to our nationality.' Le Monde then reproduces the appeal made in 1884, by Bishop Latleche, in favor of efficient schools, and concludes by saying : "It can thus be seen th t the Church has always fulfilled its dutyin demanding that parents give their children an education suitable to their social condition, to the development of their physical, moral and intellectual faculties."

#### ENGLISH PROTESTANTS

Interview the Outario Government Regarding Religious Instruction in the Schools

A despatch from Toronto says :—A deputation, composed of members of the clergy and laity of the English Church, waited on the Provincial Government last week and urged that the subject of religious instruction be placed on the curriculum of the pu-lic school.

The contention of the deputation was that the Bible should be made a regular text book in the schools; that portions of it be read regularly every day and explained to the children, and verses committed to memory by the children. They desired, too, that this should become part of the regular routine of the school day and that it should be made obligatory on the teacher to see that it was carried out. This religious instruction the deputation desired shall be given by the ministers of the Gospel or by their representatives, and that each minister shall, during the time set aside by the regulation they are seeking to have included in the school system, have charge of and shall instruct the children of his own communion. As it is now. clergymen are privileged, if the school trustees to allow, to give half an hour's instruction each day atter the regular school hours are over, and the teacher is

That nothing can be gained without a thoroughly united and thoroughly independent party is patent to all. Day by day the cause of Ireland recedes into the background, and all because of the absence of such a party. Mr. Harrington's article is most encouraging, and clears the way to speedy reunion. The 'Free-man" alone questions whether it is seriously meant, and accuses the hon. member of not having the courage of his convictions. Whatever else Mr. Harrington may be fairly charged with it is not this. Indeed, to many it would ap pear that the very antitheses is the strongest trait of his character. When unity is again established the cause of Ireland will advance rapidly. D lay will certainly be detrimental.

#### A NARROW ESCAPE.

Mrs. Dickenson Recovered as the Caske Was Being Closed.

#### (Catholic Standard and Times ]

Father Dominick, of the Catholic Church at Mount Angel, Marion County, Oregon, brought the first news of the remarkable escape Mrs. Dickenson, of that place, had of being buried alive, says the Portland Oregonian.

Friday, Octoher 23, Mrs. Dickenson, a woman well known in that community. after suffering from a severe illness, was upposed to have died,

The woman was a member of the Catholic Church, and as her supposed dissolution approached the last rites of Dominick, and to all present she apparently died in the full froition of Christian hope. Announcement of the funeral had been made for Sunday, Oc tober 25 to take place at the Catholic Church at Mount Argel. Friends of the woman were assembled at the church. Father Dominick in his full robes and the acolytes in cassock and surplice were on hand waiting patiently for the arrival of the funeral cortege escorting the body of the dead workan to the church.

There seemed some unseemly delay in the proceedings and the priest sent a messenger to the Dickenson home urging haste. There was abundant good reason for the delay.

After the home services the undertaker was caused by the effort to replace the the casket, at any rate it proved suffison unddenly came to life, awakening, as mourning was quickly transformed into a household of joy.

## PRICE FIVE CENTS.

#### A CLEVER IRISHWOMAN.

Miss Mary Ryan, of Cork, Captured the Prize.

Providence Visitor.

Success has crowned the academical career of a young Cork lady, Miss Mary Ryan, a pupil of St. Angela's, Patrick Hill, who has distinguished herself in the carrying off at the recent examinations of the Royal University of the Studentship in Modern Languages. Tois Studentship, which is value for £000, is one of the most prized in the gift of the Senate, and the percentage necessary to secure the coveted distinction is extremely high. Both in Intermediate and University tie curricult the record of the young lady has been singularly suc-cessful In the Intermediate examinations she's gived the following distinctions: Juni r Grad-220 Exhibition, first place in an Ireland, beating all previous recercis, gold medal, medals for Latin, Natural Poilosophy and Drawing, Middle Grade -- 630 Exhibition, first place in all Ireland, gold medal, medals in Latin and Natural Philosophy. Senior Grade-150 Exhibition, second place in all Ireland, taking first place in Latin and Music. In the Royal University her success was still more remarkable. First Arts- First Class Exhibition, £5, honors in French, Latin, English and Physics ; first place in French in all Ireland. Second Arts--First Class Exhibition, £3 honors: Latin, English, Irish, Natural Philosophy, Logic. B. A. Modern Lanher Church were administered by Father [guages--First Class Exhibition, £4, Irish class: Honors in all subjects, beating all previous records.

#### BELFAST CATHOLICS ORGANIZE

#### A Scheme to Secura Representation on Public Boards.

The Dublin correspondent of the Liverpool Catholic Times says :----

A magnificent assemblage of the Catholic citizens of Belfast filled St. Mary's Hall to overflowing on Sunday to hear the report of the Committee of the Catholic Representation Association and to consider a scheme intended in charge, in placing the lid on the to secure representation for Catholic incasket, had his attention attracted to the | terests on all the public bourds of the body in a peculiar way. Whether it city. A meeting of equal importance to the Catholics of the northern metrolid, or in some manner by a s ight jar of polis never before assembled. For long agen they have been deprived of all cient to break the spell, for Mrs. Dicken- civic rights. They were good enough to pay taxes, but to take any part in the it were, from a trance, and the house of municipal government of the city they were untit in the estimation of the enlightened Orangemen who formed the The woman was speedily removed majority. The Catholic Emuncipation Act was almost a dead letter to them. All this is now about to be changed. By the tact and ability with which they ceeded in securing the co-operation of members of Parliament of all shades of opinion, and as the Most Rev. Dr. Henry, who presided at Sunday's meeting said. although they have not obtained the full measure of representation to which heard the benedictions paid to her at least been recognized by Parliament memory, and, utterly helpless, learned as having civic rights. The city is now divided into lifteen wards, two of which have been delimited with a view to securing Catholic representation. To retain these two wards and to make their influence felt in the remaining thirteen is the duty of the Catholics of Belfast. The Most Rev. Dr. Henry on Sunday laid before the meeting a scheme for developing and organizing the Catholic vote. His Lordship's proposal met with a hearty acceptance. Aided by the Catholic Representation Association, the indefatigable efforts of Bishop Henry to promote Catholic interests cannot fail to succeed, so that in the near future the "Outlanders" of Belfast may be admitted to equal rights and privileges with their fellow-citizens.

youth are taught that the sole aim of manship, in the learned professions of human life is worldly success, what moall descriptions, in commerce? Where | ti e have they to be virtuous and honest

The Herald's "education" articles stimulation and encouragement neces- bristle with absurdities. When a man sary to their development? Where were is well "educated," the sapient "doctor" they fired with the noble ambition tell us, he becomes perfect : his life is one of beauty and delight; he is a model of themselves onward and upward which law and order; his joys are the pure joys have placed them in the positions they of the intellect; and so forth. Secular occupy to day? Where did they receive instruction changes his whole nature, forsooth! The necessary proneness to evil which is a concomitant of humanity no longer exists. For him the millen nium has arrived. "One ignorant man," magnificent temples raised to the honor he tells us, "brings a whole nation to of the Almighty, in countless institu- the wall." Then we shall have to change a time-honored maxim, and say that ignorance, not knowledge, is power. Again he tells us that "free and compulsory"the eye at every turn? Surely not in this has a paradoxical flavor in it - "eduearned His bread by the sweat of His brow 'in the name of—"free and compulsory education"-are we to understand by tion! In another article the public is solemnly and emphatically assured that for every child in the land "education must be as free as the air;" that is his right. Now, it is absurd to say that education must be, or could ever be, "as free as the air." The air costs nothing; education costs a good deal, and somebody must pay for it. That somebody is the tax payer. But although, as will be seen from the foregoing, his own notion of "free education" is exceedingly hazy, he has actually written a separate

Means." In this he says : "Some people do not fully grasp what free education means; others have got an idea, felt if not expressed, that to accept it is in some way to take a favor from some person or persons. This last notion, dead long ago in most places, is the result of the ridiculous argument that 'education is more appreciated by the community when a fee is charged than when it is free.' In order to make found of the greatest service. Free edureasoning of the intellect sometimes tion Act of 1891. Under that act 'every of the will, and gives them a education, without payment of the power which, baffles all resistance. tween the age of three and fifteen. \* \* "Whitever may be conceded," said There's no uncertainty about these state always responded with the greatest de- which there is practical unanimity. pany of Chicago.

tures, but to do so "without note or comment" This last clause, "without note or comment," it is also sought to have eliminated.

Atter hearing the speeches of several m mbers of the deputation, Premier Hardy, on behalf of the Government, assured the visitors that the matter would be taken into the consideration of the Government.

#### The Pope and the Irish Race Convention.

Two of the Canadian delegates to the recent Irish Race Convention-namely Lieutenant-Colonel McShane and Rev William Foley, D.D., Halifax, have just returned from Rome, where they have had the great privilege of an audience with the Holy Father, who manifested the greatest interest in their mission to Ireland and in the proceedings of the Convention. His Holiness inquired particularly regarding the spirit of peace and unanimity evinced by the great assemblage, and on being assured on this head of the remarkable success of the historic gathering displayed the warmest satisfaction at such a result The Pope gave evidence in the most unmistakable manner of the importance he attached to the Convention and its results.

#### Chairman Dillon's Appeal.

The London Universe says :-- " The appeal to Irishmen to respond to John Dillon's call for funds to the Irish cause has resulted in £250 on the first day. But of this sum £100 was contributed by Mr. William O'Brien, the amount of a legacy which had been left him by an exiled countryman named Mooney, who died recently in Samoa, where Robert Louis Stevenson established his household in the far south seas. This Irish man abroad had never lost his faith in the land of his youth, or his hope in its future. He never knew Mr. O'Brien or had met him, but he admired his love for the motherland, and believed in it, was intended as a tribute of admiration for Mr. O'Brien's services to the national cause."

#### National Reunion.

The desire for a genuine reunion of the Irish National forces, is daily growing stronger, and everything points to its accomplishment at an early date. "United Ireland," of which Mr. T. Harrington, M.P., is proprietor, contains in its last issue a vigorous and outspoken article ton's opinion is independence of all

rom the narrow contines of the casket, within which she parrowly escaped heing immured alive, and to day is enjoying comparatively good health, with presented their case, they last year sucevery prospect of living for years to come.

The fortunate escape of Mrs. Dickenson from the horrible fate of being buried alive is most remarkable. Had she remained in a contatose state but a few minutes longer, fully consei us but ] they are entitled by their numbers and unable to speak or move, she would have | influence, the Catholics of Belfast have

with horror that she was to be consigned alive to the grave.

#### Preached Against a Theatre.

The Rev. Francis Ludeke, assistant rector of St Vincent de Paul's Church in North Sixth street. Williamsburgh, began on Sunday a crusade on the alleged immorality in a low theatre near his church. He spoke of the obscene pictures and posters placed upon the bill boards and in show windows, and declared that it was an outrage that such an exhibition of immorality was allowed to exist. He warned his congregation against attending any of the performances, and urged upon those who had children to keep a careful watch over them.

The priest said that from his own observation mostly boys and young men comprised the audiences of the theatre he referred to. The priest told a reporter that he was astonished that the police had not made any effort to put a stop to the distribution of obscene lithographs and to the immoral performances in that theatre.

Rt. Rev. Patrick Duggan, bishop of Clonfert, Ireland, who died recently has been succeeded by Most Rev. Dr. Heal, author of "Irish Saints and Scholars." and the history of Maynooth College, which was published on the occasion of the centenary celebration.

The theory that Mr. Parnell is still living has again cropped up. A gentlenan who is writing a biography of the brother Mr. Wi late leader went to Ireland sometime TRUE WITNESS. ago to interview the relatives, and found they were in the belief that Mr. Parnell is not dead.

David Blakely, manager of Sousa's Carnegie Music Hall building, New York, last week. Apoplexy was the cause of his death. Mr. Biakely was alone at office on an errand. When she returned fifteen minutes later Mr. Blakely was lying on the floor dead. He was passing from one room to another when he fell.

#### Resolutions of Condolence.

At the regular monthly meeting of St Gabriel's T.A & B Society, it was moved by Mr. Patrick Polan, seconded by Mr. James Burns, and unanimously adopted :

Whereas,-it has pleased Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, to remove from this earth our beloved brother Mr. William Murphy, be it therefore

Resolved,-That the members of St. Gabriel's T. A & B. Society tender their sympathy and condolence to the wife and family of our late brother Mr. Wm. Murphy, and pray that God may grant them courage in their sad bereavement ; and be it further

Resolved,-That these resolutions be inserted in the Minutes and that a copy be sent to the wife and family of our late brother Mr. William Murphy and to the

(Signed), WILLIAM FORD, Sec.

The native tongue is rapidly decaying. in Ireland, and a recent traveller, a Mr. Band. died suddenly in his office, in the | Dixon, says it will be extinct, except on the ocean's fringe, in fifteen years. Un-less teachers are compelled to know Irish well, and fair lees are given to ally the time, his typewriter having left the classes, and their enthusiasm raised; itwill be impossible to bring back the quickly-fading vernacular. Father Hickey, of the diocese of Waterford, has been appointed to the Celtic chair at, Mr. Blakely was 65 years old, and be Maynooth in place of Father O'Growney, sides managing Souta's Ban | he was the | who resigned through ill health. The portion of their flock. Our clergy has Nationalist can object. It is a point on President of the Blakely Printing Com- beloved ancien tongue should be cherished by every true Irishman.