OUR IRISH LETTER.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE CATHOLIC REGISTER

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE CAMBOLE RESPONDENCE OF THE CAMBOLE RESPONDENCE OF THE CAMBOLE RESPONDENCE OF THE CAMBOLE RESPONDENCE OF THE CAMBOLE RESPONDENCE OF THE something indescribably pathoto in the sight of a young nun surrounded by a group of trustful sightless faces. Although they are cheerfully industrious overy inevenent of those blind girls is tinged with sadness. It is only when one comes face to face with a healthy. tinged with sachness. It is only when one comes face to face with a healthy, protty child, and notes how utterly the exuberance of childhood has been extinguished by the loss of sight, that one realizes how void is the utmost perfection of feature without the changeful expression of clear oyes. Silence scenus a natural sequence to blindness. The sense of hearing becomes a center that the girls converse in whispers. Even the children's play is hushed, subdued, and the slightest unexpected voice startles a roomital. The incus is open to visitore covey day, and the girls seem to only the greatest theory in the control of the clear that the girls seem to only the greatest them walking in little groups about the recreation ground, or sitting in the rearmith of the class-rooms, always unitting, their fingers nover idle, their woices rarely andible.

The Sisters have brought the act of

Intitug, their integers never ide, their voices rarely audible.

The Sisters have brought the art of educating the blind to a high perfection. They read fluently, are skilled musticians, and grow proficient in many individual to the profice of the profice of the profit of the profi

Description of St. Mary's surroundings makes one doubly sensible of its iumates privation. The grounds are most artistically laid out. Magnificent trees stind the lawns, the gardens are one glorious riot of color and the conservatories radiant with the most exquisite blooms. In the distance the Dublin mountains reflect every changeful cloud-andow, from the faintest opat to the deepest turquoise. The convent chapped is an ideal sanctuary, so simple, yet so chastely artistic, sweet with the breath of many flowers, instinct with the devotional incense of perfect love. The billed are keenly susceptible to the influences of religion. The muns tell you that their picty is so simple, their faith so child-like that their prayers soom to ploreo God's own heart, so invariably are their potitions granted. There is so little of the worldly world about thom, that it might have been at little one such as they that Christ set the midst of His disciples as a type of "such is the Kingdom of heaven." The beauty of St. Mary's surroundings also no doubly soulide of its lumates are most

the midst of His disciples as a type of "such is the Kiugdom of heaven."

Surely every one of us has known the heroine of that beautiful poom "The Stater of Charity." We may not have known the particular lady of fashion and wealth whom Dalson Williams wrote of, but some time or another we must have some across one who might have been own siler to hor. When we went to see the Asylum the sister who brought as through the cleas-rooms seus our thoughts hurrying backwards years and years. Then it was a vision of glimmering white silk standing in a halo of light at the nursory threshold, while two small children sat up in bed to gase in wordless admiration at this beautiful fairy with the soft Cark hair and shining eyes. When the vision ideap, eared; two little busy brains kept long wakeful wondering when the time would come for thom to go to balls. Now the sweet face is lovelier than over, years have given it yet another charm, a wondrous, womanly sympathy with human sorrow. Yet another charm, a wondrous, womanly sympathy with human sorrow. Yet as seems more angel than weman with these poor timid little ones nestling their sightless faces in the dark folds of her robe, clinging he her as to the only ray of brightness which penetrates the Carkness of their maimed lives. It. it not a mircale of divine charrity that these Sisters, who after all are only frail, delicately nurtured women, can be always obserful; sympathetic, gentle of voice, and motherly of bearing in the midst of a daily routine which brings them conststoy for the monotony of it! The utter blank of a mind to find the surface of divine charries of their maimed lives. It. it not a mircale of divine charries of their maimed lives. It is not a mircale of divine charries of their maimed lives. It is not a mircale of divine charries of their maimed lives. It is not a mircale of divine charries of their maimed lives. It is not a mircale of divine charries of their maimed lives. It is not a mircale of divine charries of their maimed lives. It is not a mircale o

stead to become the handmald of the lowllost. From having her lightest wish anticipated, she turns to a life of self-repression, sacrificing all her dating fominine inconsequence to a daily study of the ideosyncrasics of querulous hu-manity.

soft repression, secrificing all her dataty foundation inconsequence to a daily study of the ithosynerasies of querulous humanity.

The blind girls are all ages. Some seem protty old, others searcely past their infancy. The very great majority come from city slums, or equally wroted their infancy. The very great majority come from city slums, or equally wroted with the greater number loss their sight in infancy from neglect. Often when they are brought to St. Mary's they have to be placed for months in the Infirmary, before they can be admitted to the bedy of the house. With poor mothers it seems to be a general practice to to a blind child into a chair to keep it out of harm.' In fine weather the tiny prisoner is carried out to sit in the sum, when writer comes it is placed beside the fire. Unfortunately the lower class in Ireland understand very little about cleanliness or samitation, and as a result the little limbs grow feeble from want of healthful corrects, and the tender flesh often becomes covered with leathesom oulcors. The Sixter of Charity stretches out loving arms to these superfluous pain-quivering atoms of humanity. In 'The Vision of Sir Lannifal', Russell Lowell multiplied to the hind.

Who give homeful this slums tech threathest, this bungerla netgletor, and it. "The Vision of Sir Lannifal', Russell Lowell multiplied to the hind.

Who give homeful this slums tech threathest, this bungerla netgletor, and it."

Thought have bungerla netgletor, and it. "Then, too, when a woman becomes innered to privation, her finer feelings are apt to be blunted. It is very easy to talk of neatherly love and care, when a fine lady has no other occupation than to de holo loving, and can alford a lired girl to do the unonial part of the caring; but a wife and mother, "a married maid-of-all-works," who is completed to house, food, delthe a husband and an overincreasing family on a filled of hole of the care of the caring; but a wife and mother, but have and an overincreasing family on a filled to house food, delthe a

pican executants, creumstances when pican executants, creumstances when ignorance and poverty combine to stille the tenderer there of the notherhood.

Every November the blind immates of St. Mary's Asylum give a public concert in the Leinster Hail. The institution commonds theel so highly to Christians of overy denomination, that the andicace which assembles annually to welcome these sometimes of the committees which assembles annually to welcome these gentle musicians represents every chase and creed in Dublin. Music is really the only sentient pleasure that life offers the blind. "A concord of sweet sounds" seems part of their reveloping. Their orcheatra is divinely melodious, every note so true, overy hords on harmonious. Fanos, violins, harp all blend together in a perfection of symphony. Their slaging has a charm all its own—all the said, gentle of symphony. The said of symphony of their throcens souls finds yearning of their throcens sould find yearning of their throcens and ground souling the soul through the proposed through the proposed through the proposed that the fill glare of a brilliantly lighted hall, bowing it response to the river, of the skirl of elifin feet where the wild howers bloom, and the grounwood and the fall of elifin feet where the wild howers bloom, and the grounwood and the skirl of elifin feet where the wild howers bloom, and the grounwood and the skirl of elifin feet where the wild howers bloom, and the grounwood and the fall of elifin feet where the wild howers bloom, and the grounwood and the skirl of elifin feet where the wild howers bloom, and the grounwood and the fall of elifin feet where th

We get such a perpetual surfait of potential profits of in Iroland, that often it is a most uncongenial teak to each the daily papers. An extensive knowledge of invective, is an indispensable qualification for an Irish journalist of to-day. It is immaterial if his education be restricted in every usine respect. Is it I Zangwill who says, lady-novelists have souls above orthography? It is hardly too much to say that an average Irish journalist looks on grammar in general as an adjunct to his profession to bused or abused at his own discretion. A big majority of those who nabitually read Irish papers, must have remarked that educated presemen in Ireland are fast becoming scarce as the golden eagle. That many of the leading men on the English and American press are Irish, does not affect the home side of the question in the least. There is no mistaking the tendency which national politics have developed of late towards with the massaw the second of the control of the co plurase—levelled down their tone to and the taste of the roughest class of readers, even out acciety journals are tainted with politics—although indeed they are so choke full of anobbery that there is little room for anything else. Our leading religious weekly publication. The Irish Casholic, in venuom out-Healys Mr. Tim Healy. If you desire a true to, the other wise all-pervading presonalities, you are driven to read The Irish Field. It is a very bulkly journal—although the price is only one penny—yet from cover to cover there is not a single sentence from which you would infer that there is not a single sentence from which you would infer that there is such a thing as political distinctions in Ireland. It advocates every imaginable form of sport, racing, hunting, fiching, coursing, cricks, football, golf, and some dozen other forms of outdoor pastiness more or less popular. Many of these sports are closely allied with the prosperity of Irish agriculture. The improvement in the broeding of Jorsee opens up a most profusible sources. Acon the second of the proventions to the farmers. Cold has contracted the products of the religious formulas both farmers. Cold has contracted the profusible sources of the religious contracts even to the wild west of Clarm. Crickes is part of the national education. Anybody who has the physical and social development of our boys at heart must warmly approve of the

gonial insistence with which Phe Field maintains the neutrality of sport. The whole paper gives one the idea of being written by gentlemen for gentlemen-not hat what there is plenty in it which ought to interest ladies. The Dublin and London correspondence are full of pleasant, social gossip about all sorts and conditions of things, crisp paragraphs written without any straining after offect by penmen who possess a keen sonse of humour. Such a refreshing tone of bondommic pervades the different articles that for the nonce you almost delude yourself into the belief that the lion and the lamb lie down cogether in Ireland. It should prove a most valuable auxilary to the Tourist Dovelopment Association. I would wish that a few copies of it would be watted across to Canada just to give you an idea that all Irish journalists do not graduate at Billingsgate.

It is very much to be deplored that Mr. Justin McCarthy has declined to join the Recess Committee proposed by the Hon. Horace Plunkett, M.P. Mr. McCarthy hases his reliased on the supposition that the success of the Committee would interfere with Home Rule. He could hardly have hit on a more farfetched occuse, as the fundamental principle of Mr. Plunkett's organization is, that only non-political measures are to be discussed. Moreover as the Recess Committee was to be composed of Nationalists and Unionists in the proportion of three to sone, it puzzles one a bit to find how its proceedings could possibly joognation lione Rule. When one reliects on the over increasing depression of trade and agriculture, which is rapidly depopulating the country, it does seem hard lines has our leading politication of trade and agriculture, which is rapidly depopulating the country, it does seem hard lines has our leading politicas of the provide of trade and agriculture, which is rapidly depopulating the country, it does seem hard lines has our leading politicas association which has for its object the opening up of now markets for farm produce, the prounding of self-like of train produce, the prounding of self-like of the manufacture, and the providing of facilities of transit for first produce in general. Irish railway companies often display a positive antipathy to doveloping the resources of the country, and if the conference disording of security every practical advantages both to farmers and morehants. Mr. McCarthy has lived so long in Egland, and his visits to Iroland have been so few and far between - and as brief as possible at that—that one cannot expect him to know much about out domestic difficulties. Formerly there used to be a great outery about absented landlords, strange that now-a-days we should acquisece, as a matter of course, in intrusting the most vital national affairs to the manual properties of home intrusting the most vital national affairs to the manual properties of home interests of home interests of

Dublin so licty is busy fetting our two new doctor-knights—Sir Christopher Nixon and Sir Thornley Stoker. Both are very eminent medical men, and in conforring this distinction on them Hor Majesty but endorses the high opinion which their professional brethren and their countrymen have long entertained of their ability and skill.

their countrymen have long entertained of their ability and skill.

On Oct. 22th I went to see the conforring of the Royal University of Ireland degrees. The ceromonial was held in the large hall of the old exhibition buildings, Earlafort terrace. White awaiting the arrival of the Vice Chancellor all the graduates and candidate graduates assembled on the veranda in full academic robes. They made an interesting picture, three or four rows sitting on the steps and the others in loose groups behind. The number of ladder was most remarkable, but I cannot say that their distinguished literary attainment made them extra attainment made them extra attainment made them extra attainment. In truth their appearance might be summed up in Mrs. Lynn Linton's description of George Eliot in her early days, "badly dressed; had an unwashed, unbrushed, unkempt look alongester." Academic robes hang more or less gracefully from men's shoulders, but gift graduates are already so amply gowned that when they don the property of the state of the common of the looks were property of the common of the looks were property of the common of the looks when they be come to the common of the looks when they be done to be a supply the state of the property of the common of the loss of attractiveness in a woman ?" I saked, "how much brains does it take to make up to you or any other man for the loss of attractiveness in a woman?" I suked, "how much brains does it take to make up to you or any other man for the loss of attractiveness in a woman?" I suked, "how much brains does it take to make up to you or any other man for the loss of attractiveness in a woman?" I suked, "how much brains does it take to make up to you or any other man for the loss of attractiveness in a woman?" I suked, "how much brains does it take to make up to you or any other man for the loss of attractiveness in a woman?" I suked, "how much brains does it take to make up to you or any other man for the loss of attractiveness in a woman?" I such a subtiveness in a woman?" I s

urged men to study truth, beauty and goodness, and the true consummation of a democracy of letters eight be a "universal brotherhood of man." CHARLES DALTON.

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