

is so engrossed with his own business he never thinks what these apparently innocent applications of the railway company mean until the deal is consummated. Then he wakes up to find the city has got the worst of the bargain, as they are certainly going to get in this Canadian Northern deal, unless the citizens wake up and take a hand in the settlement of this vexed question and assist the aldermen in every way possible to come to a settlement that will be of mutual benefit to both sides."

DICTIONARY PRONUNCIATION.

While reprinting with pleasure the following interesting article contributed by "The Blacksmith" to the Guelph Mercury of April 9, we do not feel prepared to endorse all its opinions. For instance the writer seems to suppose that there is one standard dictionary, whereas there are in reality many dictionaries accepted as standards in different parts of the English-speaking world. The safe course seems to lie between two extremes, Professor Lounsbury's view that the best of pronouncing dictionaries is "merely the expression of an opinion," and "The Blacksmith's" view that "most people will pin their faith to the dictionary." A good dictionary represents not merely the author's opinion, but widespread usage in that author's country. On the other hand the fact that most people will pin their faith to the dictionary does not prevent competent observers from sifting, for themselves, the good grain from the chaff of the usage of well bred people.

Quoth "The Blacksmith:"

"Should the dictionary be recognized as mandatory or merely as the expression of an opinion? Professor Lounsbury, of Yale, inclines to the latter, or, rather, he has a very decided leaning in that direction. In his book, 'The Standard of Pronunciation in English,' he shows very clearly how, during the past hundred years, the pronunciation of many words has changed profoundly, often in defiance of the dictionaries, following some hidden, irresistible impulse. Still, whilst in a measured degree we are willing to admit that custom is frequently stronger than etymology, changes in the pronunciation of words are so slow as hardly to be noticeable, and as dictionaries are easily capable of an early revision—say once in a decade—is it not infinitely preferable to have one widely accepted authority rather than trust ourselves to the indiscriminate abuse of language by irresponsible and unlettered tongues? Professor Lounsbury's contention of course, is that language is fluid; that it is like a great stream, whose currents are constantly changing; that it has no more fixity than a budding willow on a hot May morning; that what the dictionaries recognize as right today, may be only the pronunciation of pedants tomorrow. Language is fluid, so much is admitted, but it is a sluggish stream whose movement is scarcely perceptible, and one would think that a revision of the dictionary in each decade would be all that is necessary. We know that many words have been changed in the pronunciation thereof, during the past century and a half, but how many words have been changed during the past twenty years? and how much less numerous the changes are likely to be in the coming years of universal education. We know that our fashionable grand mothers pronounced gold as goold, and chair as cheer. Kendrick, a lexicographer, who published a dictionary in 1775, was severely arraigned by the reviewers for accenting July on the latter syllable, and yet Kendrick is sustained by the custom of today. In 1782 the European Magazine was started, and an irate subscriber protested against the accent in European, being laid on the penultimate syllable, as it is today. He claimed that the accent should be on the o. A hundred years ago China was pronounced Chayny. Perry's dictionary in 1775 claimed that the polite pronunciation of girl was garl or gal, and Perry is only sustained in his contention by the London costermonger of the present year of grace. Sheridan, in his dictionary, arguing from the analogy of "sugar" and "sure," pronounced suicide and superstition as if they were pronounced shoocide and shooperstition. Do you suppose that his grandson, the late Marquis of Dufferin, ever pronounced these words thus? Milton was quite in touch with the polite pronunciation of his day when he accented the word blasphemous on the second syllable. Today it is only pronounced so by the unlettered. Bile for boil, jine for join, ile for oil, pison for poison, were once endorsed by the lettered ones. Pope frequently rhymed join with design, dine, divine, line, etc. Balcony used to be used with the accent on the second syllable. That little word "Yes," which we all find so easy to say whenever we shouldn't, has had a curious history. Nearly all the 18th century orthoepists pronounced yes as if it were spelled yis. Did not Walker take some pains to assure his readers that while it was a mark of incorrectness to give to "yet" the sound of "yit," the best and most established usage gave to "yes" the sound of "yis." London is another word with a curious orthoepic history. "In my youth," wrote Rogers, who was born in 1763, "everybody said 'Lonnnon' and not 'London.' Charles James Fox said 'Lonnnon' to the last. The general tendency of early pronunciation to disappear before the influence of written speech is very marked. I think Golf used to be pronounced with the l silent in Scotland; but a larger Scotland has learned the game and has taken its pronunciation from the written rather than the spoken word. But when all has been said and written on the subject, I think most people will still pin their faith to the dictionary—it saves so many people from thinking for themselves."

COLLEGE NOTES.

The icy bonds of winter have at length relaxed. Spring, hopeful spring is here. The boys of St. Boniface welcome it. It not only brings green fields but it brings dry fields and dry playgrounds. While Nature quietly performs her good work the boys are busily employed forming teams for the coming season. While football and baseball have a great number of devotees, handball is not neglected. It too has its lovers.

The Junior Militia is doing excellent work. On Tuesday evening last the Company was inspected by Father Dugas, President of the College, and Father Plante, College bursar. They expressed themselves as delighted with the good work shown, and congratulated the company heartily. Their instructor, Rev. Father d'Orsonnens, deserves very great credit for his zealous work in bringing the Militia companies to their present state of efficiency. In the near future a military tournament will be held at which valuable prizes will be given for drill and marksmanship.

Quite a commotion was caused in the recreation halls a few days ago by some student wag giving out that the closing would take place at an earlier date than usual. The news was heralded with loud huzzas, but it was not long until it was contradicted, and then—talk of long faces, one would think the boys were all married men who had lost their mother-in-laws.

An elocutionary contest will take place some time before the end of the scholastic year. Valuable prizes will be offered for the best declamations in both English and French.

The University students began their examinations on Monday last. If constant application assures success, then success is theirs.

A. J. McD.

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A BEAUTIFUL CHARITY.

"In an eastern city that we know, a wealthy Catholic gentleman has founded a home where released prisoners may live in peace and comfort till they obtain honest employment. The charity is not abused; for those who elect to follow crime as a vocation find it a dull place, while to men of good will it is the very mercy of God. The founder takes a personal interest in his guests, conducts some simple religious exercises for them every day, supplies them with help full reading, and advises them in the difficulties they meet with in the attempt to stand upright after their fall. Only those who know the conditions fronting a penitent prisoner after his release from jail can have any idea of the good effected by this institution.

It is a beautiful charity, a noble use to make of wealth. It ought to be duplicated in every prison-city in the world."—Ave Marie.

MADE A BAD JOB.

"If St. Patrick was a Protestant he made a bad job of his mission in Ireland. Who either now, or at any time, would ever think of Ireland in connection with Protestantism or of the average Irishman as anything but a Catholic."—New York Freeman's Journal.

MISSIONARIES TO THIBET.

It is remarkable that in connection with the mission to Thibet, the name of a famous French missionary, Albe Huc, who penetrated into that mysterious land, has up to the present scarcely been mentioned. This intrepid priest of the Vincentian congregation, set out in 1844 for the forbidden city of Lhassa, which up to that no European had ever been known to enter and return alive. After two years toilsome journeying, he and his companion, Pere Gabet, succeeded in their intention, and they actually opened a mission in that awful center of Oriental fanaticism. They were soon expelled, however, and after wandering through China and Tartary these two fearless men returned again to France in 1852 to give the world the story of their travels. It proved so marvelous that its veracity was doubted for a time.

But other travellers, as years went on fully corroborated the extraordinary tale. Just half a century has passed since Hue's death, but so jealously have these nations protected themselves from the prying curiosity of Western visitors that the abbe's great book still remains the only reliable authority as to the internal conditions of the east nor has any European since been known to gain admission to the Grand Lama's capital."—Catholic Citizen.

ST PATRICK AS A SECTARIAN

Saint Patrick was a Methodist? The Methodists have two eyes, two hands, two feet and one nose. So had St. Patrick. Therefore St. Patrick was a Methodist.

St. Patrick was a Baptist? The Baptists believe in Baptism; St. Patrick believed in baptism. Therefore, St. Patrick was a Baptist.

St. Patrick was a Presbyterian? The Presbyterians believe in some sort of a priesthood. St. Patrick believed in some sort of a priesthood; St. Patrick was a Presbyterian.

St. Patrick was an Episcopalian? St. Patrick believed in Bishops; he was one. Therefore St. Patrick was an Episcopalian.

Episcopalians believe in Bishops. St. Patrick was an American? Americans are good fellows, all round good fellows, you know. St. Patrick was an all round good man. St. Patrick was an American."—The New World.

What is Dyspepsia?

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