

THE MILITARY COLLEGE AND THE PERMANENT CORPS.

When an educational institution has proved its public value, its friends are not unlikely to persuade themselves that it should monopolize the supply of the service or profession for which it trains. This has been the case with the admirers of the Royal Military College at Kingston, who are, as is remarked in the *Militia Gazette*, a little "too apt when advocating the claims of the graduates to preferment to commissions in the Permanent Corps, to overlook the fact that Militia Officers are also entitled to some consideration." "There are many men," the *Gazette* continues, "in the Militia service who have not had the opportunity of attending the college, but who are eminently qualified for positions in the Permanent service. It is no disparagement of the college to say that it is quite possible for an officer, not a graduate, but who has educated himself by practical experience and by courses at the schools, to prove a more desirable acquisition to the Permanent Corps than a graduate who has had none but college experience." Qualification should, no doubt, count first, but an efficient and deserving applicant should not be debarred because he has not in his early days been able to avail himself of the Military College course.

There can be no doubt that, at all events for some years, till the Militia at large has itself become permeated with graduates, this principle should be fully recognized. To do the authorities justice, it has, in fact, been recognized in the past to a fair extent, and we presume the *Gazette* is deprecating a tendency of recent growth. It is a pertinent fact that two Commandants of the new Infantry Schools, who also combine with that function the duties of D.A.G.'s of their Districts, are Militia officers pure and simple, i.e., Col. Otter, of Toronto, and Col. Smith, of London; and we are not sure if this is not also the case with Col. D'Orsonnens, Commandant of the Infantry School at St. John's, (Que.) We think there are also several subordinate officers of the schools who are Militia officers, not being graduates of the college.

IRELAND AND THE VATICAN.

The *Herald* of last Friday gives the text in full of the Papal Decree in reference to the Plan of Campaign and the system of Boycotting. The natural impulse of the Nationalists is to impugn the right of the Pontiff to influence their political course of action. Nevertheless, we cannot but think it will be found to be a powerful factor in restoring Ireland to peace and prosperity. In the first moment of anger at an unwelcome expression of opinion from a quarter not to be lightly disregarded, the imputation has been cast with the usual hasty recklessness, that the Pope has been influenced by British Catholic Peers and others of high standing; but a very little consideration of the personal character of Leo 13, taken together with the fixed principles of the Catholic church, entirely precludes such an idea. Besides, although the mission of Mgr. Persico may have originated with the Pope, to whose statesmanlike mind a thorough understanding of the question was a necessity, he does not deal with the report of the legate on his sole personal responsibility, but summons the College of Cardinals to deliberate on it, and only issues his decree on their consensus. We have a very large sympathy with the Irish cause and with Irish aspirations, but we have not hesitated to express our condemnation of lawless methods, and of the social tyranny and supercession of the liberty of the subject involved in them. We are therefore unable to perceive anything in the Vatican rescript which does not appear to be Christian morality, which the Conclave expresses, with a forcible simplicity worthy of so august a body, by the words "Christian Charity and Justice."

We have long ago expressed the opinion, that if violence were frowned down by the Irish leaders, their cause would have ten friends where it now has one. We have at the same time been painfully impressed that it was not till the Irish people had made themselves formidable that they could command the attention which is their just due. Yet, making the fullest allowance for that unpleasant fact, the cause would have been more universally espoused in England to-day, had it not been discredited in mens' minds by association with crime.

There are, it appears to us, indications that violent methods have, to some extent, ceased to commend themselves so strongly as formerly to those disposed to use them. It can scarcely be doubted, that the Papal decree, however it may be fretted under, will tend to decrease the spurious attraction of truculent modes of warfare. If there be any truth, on the other hand, in the rumors of a Conservative inclination to meet the Irish wishes to some extent so soon as indications appear of a reversion to normal social conditions, there might, between one good and conciliatory influence and another, spring up a reasonable hope of concession, and the ultimate adjustment, within a measurable time, of the differences which have so long distracted and paralyzed the industries of a noble country.

MONKEY'S BRAINS.

The monkey has but scant cause for self-gratulation in the fact that of all the lower animals it approaches nearest to man in the conformation of its brain and skull. The modern school of physiologists, which looks upon the scientific torture of animals with the indifference with which the engineer regards applied mechanics, finds the brains of monkeys the most convenient material for testing problems of human brain physiology.

Whatever the horrors enacted on the continent—and they are well nigh beyond the powers of pen or tongue to describe—with victims of other species, England enjoys an unenviable pre-eminence in the vivisection of the monkey.

It has, of course, been claimed by Dr. Ferrier, the high priest of this particular sacrificial cult, and by those who follow as closely in his wake as

the law will allow, that the experiments on those hapless caricatures of man have enabled them to discover exactly where diseases of the brain are situated, but these claims have been sharply criticised by three eminent Germans, two Italians, and lastly by Dr. Schaefer, in England.

To render criticism valid, it is, of course, necessary to test the experiments impugned by further operations, so that there is a constant provisor against any finality of torture.

One set of experiments was devoted to the discovery of the precise fold or convolution of the brain, which is the seat of the function of sight, and Professor Ferrier confidently located it in what is called the "angular gyrus," and Dr. Schaefer's test operations are thus described:—"In one monkey," says Dr. Schaefer, "a small, active and intelligent *Rhœsus*, we destroyed, as completely as we could by the *actual cautery*, the grey matter of one angular gyrus. We tested the sight after complete recovery from the anæsthetic, but could discover no defect of vision, nor any loss of movement of the eyelids. When the eye of the same side was closed by plaster, the animal continued to see perfectly well with the eye of the other side, nor could we discover any diminution in the visual field."

In another experiment the gyrus was *completely scraped out*, with the result of only a temporary disturbance of vision. Yet others were undertaken to test the German (Munk's) theory, that the seat of the power of vision lay in the "occipital lobes." These being *removed on both sides*, total blindness did result, a blindness of one half of each eye resulting from removal of one side only. Dr. Schaefer does not appear to have adopted Dr. Ferrier's playful methods of ascertaining whether the animals were actually blind, namely, terrifying them and chasing them about a room till they ran "full tilt" against walls and table-legs. But in one case being "brought into a strange room, it ran against every obstacle." Generally, other means were adopted, as flashing lights upon the animal when in a dark room, and observing how it found its way by groping and smelling.

Unfortunately for these "active and intelligent," but most hapless martyrs to science, it is astonishing how much mutilation the brain of a monkey will endure without entailing death. The result seems to be a condition resembling idiocy, which was well marked for a few days, but afterwards passed off." But who can tell what agonies of pain the poor creature endures from first to last?

ANGLING.

Now that our lakes are being freed from their icy fetters, (very slowly it must be confessed,) that our swollen streams are hurrying on their courses to the sea, the angler begins to feel his heart stir within him. Longings that will not be quelled draw him to rod and line. The fly-book now becomes the most interesting volume perused; canned provisions and other edibles, not to mention drinkables, are packed into hampers; tobacco and pipes, great coats, water-proof boots, and what not, are stowed in the trap at the door, and with a hurried farewell, he is off to his favorite haunt. As he bowls along the muddy roads, leaving care behind him, "who so happy as he?" No exercise is more healthy, or more delightful, and one need not travel far from Halifax to find numerous lakes and streams, where, if the weather is propitious, a good catch of trout may be relied upon. A number of salmon have already been caught by some of our anglers at Nine Mile River, but a trip to Queen's County, or to the extreme Eastward of Halifax County is generally necessary, if the sport is to be relied upon. A little later in the season a jaunt to Cape Breton will reward the fisherman, not only with splendid salmon and trout, but will also introduce him to the matchless beauties of the Bras d'Or Lakes, or the rugged scenery of the Margaree. For ourselves, we ask nothing better than a day spent upon some of the innumerable lakes that in Nova Scotia are found everywhere. If on foot, one may have some sport and much hard exercise by a walk to Spruce Hill Lake, from where the city of Halifax draws a large share of its water supply. Near by are a number of small lakes, where, if the fish will not rise on the larger lake, a fine catch may be expected. Taking Halifax as a centre, good fishing may be found along all the runs that empty into the harbor in the neighborhood of Herring Cove, Ketch Harbour, and Sambro. A drive to Wilson's, only six miles, will introduce the angler not alone to some small lakes, where there is often good sport, but to one of the most comfortable hostleries in the neighborhood of the city. Further out the same road comes the Nine Mile River, then Johnston's, where the expert angler will find in the three or four lakes in the neighborhood abundant material for his skill, and where he will also have in the person of his host the attendance of one of the most thorough boatmen and fishermen in the Province. Still further out on the same road is Hubley's Lake, famous for large catches of fine fish. A day is often sufficient time to drive out, fish these lakes, and return the same night to the city. Still, it is always preferable to drive out the evening before. Other good lakes are out the Sambro Road, at Drysdale's, and Umlah's on the Prospect Road. In fact, go where you will, there are sure to be lakes that at some time in the season will furnish fair sport. Eastward from the city there is Cole Harbor, Salmon River (Walker's,) Spider Lake, Lake Major, and a host of other good localities. We should like to dilate upon the delights of a day's fishing, but space forbids. The fragrance of the spruce and pine forests, the pure air, the sparkling water, the excitement of capturing the fish, the luncheon on some little island, the mirth and fun, all must be participated in to be understood, and certainly no other spot can furnish more opportunities for this enjoyment than can the immediate neighborhood of Halifax.

There are rumors that clear proofs have been received of the existence of French and Russian intrigues against Italy.