

While we have no very brilliant results to record we have no great disasters to bemoan. We have long ceased to look for the former under Mr. Crooks's Administration of the Department, and have learned to rest content if his discretion guides him to avoid the latter.

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THE SPIRIT OF EDUCATION, by M. l'Abbé Amable Bésau, Curé de Saint-Louis-Des-Français, à Moscou, Précédemment Chapelain de L'Ambassade de France, à Saint-Petersburg, Camérier d'Honneur de S. S. Pie IX. Translated by Mrs. E. M. McCarthy. Syracuse, N.Y.: C. W. Bardeau, 1881.

A GLANCE at the table of contents will give a good idea of the scope of the work. Chap. I. What Education is; II. What Infancy is; III. Early years; IV. Youth; V. The Intelligence; VI. Education of the Heart; VII. Education of the Will; VIII. Physiology of Education; IX. Education of the Manners; X. Conversation; XI. The art of Speaking Well; XII. Exterior Graces; XIII. The Character; XIV. Work. On the whole this is a very readable little book, and, from an abbé's stand-point quite liberal in its tendency. It is highly commended by their Eminences the Bishops of Metz and Beauvais, and thus, the work is, of course, strictly orthodox. That the abbé is no mere pedant, although for many years an instructor, we gather from p. 257, where with reference to conversation he says, "One must not assume the air of attaching too high a price to his words, and never leaving any to escape without parsimony, and only at rare intervals. The same may be said of the affected moderation that certain persons have who desire to use care in the formation of their phrase. It is much better to speak incorrectly and speak a little faster, in following the natural species (bent?) of talent, temper of mind,

and character. A style too exact is not at all adapted to conversation, where a certain *abandon* should always reign, without too much negligence, but accompanied with just thoughts, and great propriety." It would have been well had the translator allowed herself a little more latitude in her choice of words, corresponding to the original. Her desire to follow M. l'Abbé as closely as possible has compelled her more than once to make a literary *faux pas*. Take, for example, this sentence from Fénelon, as quoted by M. Bésau, and rendered into English by Mrs. McCarthy: "The result is that those so celebrated at the age of five years fall into obscurity and when arrived at *antiquity* are despised."

We have noticed but one typographical error in the volume. On p. 135 we read of an "Angelic clergyman." Perhaps some might say that the insertion of an *e* in such a place is neither here nor there.

"The Spirit of Education" deserves a wide circulation, and may be read with much pleasure by all, but more especially by our Roman Catholic parents, teachers and trustees. Mrs. McCarthy deserves the thanks of her American co-religionists, for placing this little treatise within easy reach.

NOTES ON RELATIVE MOTION, by Professor Loudon, University College, Toronto.

THESE notes were first published in the *American Journal of Mathematics* and now are reprinted in pamphlet form for convenience of reference. For the consideration of many propositions in Rigid Dynamics, it is necessary to refer the motion to axes not fixed in space but in the body. The principal results in relative motion are in these notes collected and proved in a manner well adapted for beginners, the proofs being simple, uniform and satisfactory.