

# WHAT OUR CURBSTONE OBSERVER HAS TO SAY

ON THE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL.

OUR NATIONAL SCHOOL.—By the last issue of the "True Witness," I notice that the full prospectus of the Catholic High School is given. As I am not in a position, during this month to carry on my observations from a curbstone, I must write—if I write at all—about something that has already been observed and that requires no one's actual presence in order to describe it. I know of no subject that is more timely, and that could interest more deeply your readers, than that of the Catholic High School. In common with hundreds of others I have noticed the completeness of the elaborate programme published in last week's "True Witness." In fact I have rarely read a more ably prepared notice of any institution. As it is half the battle to commence well, we should have great confidence in the future success of the school, if we are to judge from the good beginning that has been made. The building and all its appointments are up to date in every way, and the prospectus is on a par with the completeness of the material structure. There then only remains the carrying into practice of that prospectus, and the Irish Catholics of Montreal will be able to boast an institution that will do honor to them as a people and serve their younger generation as a shrine of knowledge and of education.

THE DUTY OF THE HOUR.—To my mind it now becomes the obvious duty of every Irish-Catholic family in the city to aid in the practical encouragement of the new school. It is the first distinctly Irish-Catholic school in Montreal; it is the only one with which no other section of the community has anything to do—neither with the management, in the teaching, or in any form. Moreover, it is an institution that will receive no aid from the school tax fund, nor from any other source of the kind. It must depend entirely upon the fees received, and upon the contributions

of the generosity of individuals may suggest. It is well that the public should be made aware of these facts, and they cannot be too frequently repeated. Considering that so much energy, labor, and money have already been expended upon the great undertaking, it is obviously the duty of each one, according to his means, to so aid in the successful carrying on of the school that its future good prospects may be solidly guaranteed.

FEES AND EXEMPTIONS.—If I am not greatly mistaken the fees charged, according to the prospectus, are the lowest in the city, for such schools. At all events I have taken upon myself to examine into this question as far as all the other schools go, and I have failed, so far, to discover anyone that has as low a rate of fees as has the new Irish-Catholic High School. There are some people who would have it a "free school"; but such persons are not aware perhaps, that the fees constitute almost the sole revenue of the institution. Besides it is as near a free school as it is at all possible to bring it, and retain any hope of success. It will be seen by the prospectus that any family sending more than two children will not be charged anything for the education of those additional boys. Only two children from each family are required to pay: a third, fourth, fifth or sixth child—or children—will be entirely free. This, to my mind is the closest we have ever yet come to a free-school, and I do not for a moment doubt that when means will permit, the number of paying children will be still further reduced. It depends entirely upon the measure of enthusiasm evinced by our own people whether the establishment will be a free school. It will make a small sacrifice the day will not long be delayed.

A SPLENDID FEATURE.—I have been informed by one of the Board of Governors that the Sisters of the Congregation de Notre Dame will have charge of the kindergarten and

the preparatory branches. Any one who has had the privilege of noticing the great success that these good Sisters have yearly obtained in their own school, must come to the conclusion that the governors have been most happy in the selection. The importance of these branches cannot be too frequently dwelt upon. They constitute the foundation; and when the foundation is solid there need never be any doubts about the superstructure. I suppose that all I now write will be much better told by others and that the public will hear of the immense advantages to be derived from the new High School; but it can do no harm to keep that public mind the school, for by so doing the cause of Irish-Catholic education may be materially aided.

OTHER PROJECTS HINTED.—No person can deny the absolute necessity of certain institutions being distinctly Irish-Catholic. This has been a note long sounded by the "True Witness," and I am sure that the vast majority of our people appreciate the contention. Even at present there are various important projects mooted, all of which are very much needed; but, before originating any other schemes, it seems to me that the one in hand should be carried to a successful issue. We have great need of certain classes of institutions in our midst, but we may not be able to get them for some time to come. It is now no easy matter to find a general refuge for our old, infirm, or sick. It will, also, be some time before the means can be secured to undertake such works. But, we have actually before our eyes one of those institutions so sorely needed, and it is yet in the cradle of its existence, and its future should be secured by the Irish-Catholics of Montreal. I hope, on my return to town, to find the Catholic High School open and flourishing, with classes full of children. It will be a great honor for the boys of to-day to say, when they have reached manhood, that they were amongst the first students.

## Catholic . . . High School,

. . . Belmont Park.

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This School will open its classes on the sixth day of September.  
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CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
MONTREAL.

NOTICE TO CERTIFIED TEACHERS.

The undersigned will receive applications for two vacancies as Teachers, Male in the English and Commercial department of the Catholic High School, Montreal. Only those holding certificates as having passed the qualifying examinations, and as to moral character, need apply. Applications, stating age, length of experience, and salary expected, etc., may be addressed until the 15th August next to:

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An action in separation as to property has been instituted this day upon the defendant.  
Montreal, 13th July, 1899.

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Attorneys for the Plaintiff.

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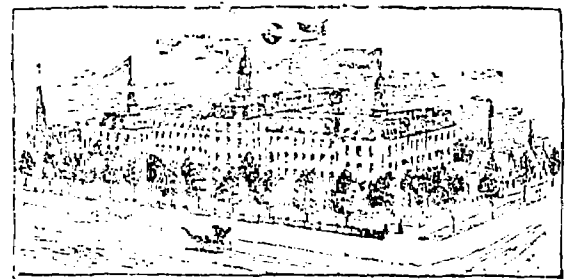
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## ARE SERVANT GIRLS GOSSIPERS?

As I do not write very often for newspapers, and am very lazy in matters of correspondence with friends, I trust the "True Witness" will excuse any faults of form, and kindly accept these few lines for the sake of the spirit contained in them. We women are often accused of being severe on our own sex, and I believe we are so; in fact I know that we are more often unjust than otherwise. I read a contribution to an American paper the other day, and the name signed was Marion Harland. I suppose the writer to be a woman, although Marion is a name used by men as well as women. The paper in question took the trouble to place at the top the word "copyrighted." It seems to me there was no necessity for that as no person is likely to steal, or copy the contribution. It deals with servants, especially maid-servants, and is too unfair to merit such a recognition. I do not know whether the "copyrighting" forbids people taking extracts or not, but I mean to take a couple in any case, if Marion Harland, or the publishers are not pleased, I give you my address, which you may forward to them.

THIS IS THE WAY the article begins:

"Two-thirds of the scandals that poison the social atmosphere steal out, like pestiferous fogs, through servants' gossip. We discuss 'the girl' in our bed chambers, and if so much stirred up by her works and ways as to forget what is due to our ladyhood, compare notes in the parlor as to these same works and ways. Being well-bred women, the traditions of our caste prevent us from making domestic grievances the staple of drawing-room conversation and the marrow of table-talk. The electroplated vulgarian never calls attention more emphatically to the absence of the 'Sterling' stamp upon her breeding than when she chatters habitually

of the virtues and the faults of her household staff.

After this comes a whole column in which all the faults and shortcomings of servants are exposed. Above all are we told of how servants get the upper hand of mistresses by hearing all their little secrets and retelling them in the kitchen. Here is another paragraph:

"Without taxing memory I can tell off on my fingers ten gentlemen in every other sense of the word whose intimate confidantes were landladies, who were strangers until they entered the employ of their respective mistresses."

"I have in my mind one of the best and most refined women I ever knew whose infatuation for her incompetent Martha was the laughing-stock of some of the surprise and grief of others. Martha disputed the dear soul's will, and again gave more advice than she took, and behind her back, ridiculed her unsparingly—as many of the mistress's friends were aware. The dupe would have resigned the affection and society of one and all of her, compasses sooner than part with Martha."

I HAVE NO DESIRE to excuse servants who take advantage of their surroundings to do injury to their employers, either in one way or the other, but I claim that the article quoted from is all one-sided. I can count, in my turn, a host of servants whose fidelity was almost heroic and whose lives were devoted solely to the interests of those with whom they were hired. And this is not the exception, but the rule. Take the vast number of Irish domestics, who were driven from their native land by famine, or persecution, and were obliged to accept menial positions in the new world; it is not rare to find amongst them examples of life-long devotion to masters and mistresses. I have now in my mind a score of families in which the same old servants have lived for twenty-five, thirty, and

AND WHAT APPLIES TO SERVANTS

in general also applies to all who earn wages from employers. Men who have a number of others under them—such as master-carters and the like—must unfrequently be obliged to let their employers know more of their private affairs than they would care to make public. Go to one of these employees and ask him to tell you what passed in the family circle during the few months, or the few years that he has been in the employ, and you might as well slap him in the face; your reception would likely be similar in both cases. In fact the fidelity of certain servants has become proverbial. I am inclined to think that there is no class of distinction that could be fairly established as far as faithful servants go; but I must protest against such a line upon the general character of now-a-days servants.—Mary Agnes S.

## NOTES FROM AMERICAN CENTRES.

LARGE BEQUESTS.—Generosity for God's holy house is by no means a dead virtue in Cincinnati. Some years ago Mr. Joseph Kilne donated \$16,000 for the grand altar at St. Francis de Sales church. Now comes a noble-minded member of St. Lawrence church and offers \$12,000 for a fine marble high altar. The pastor, Very Rev. Dr. Schoenhoff, made the gratifying announcement last Sunday, and expressed the wish that some other generous members would now come forward and present a new organ. The name of the donor of the new altar is to be kept a secret. St. Lawrence's is the handsomest new church in the Queen City, and has the most flourishing, steadily increasing congregation.

ROBBERS OUTWITTED.—There is little doubt that a bold plan to rob the Corpus Christi Monastery, in the borough of Bronx, New York, was foiled by the cool courage of the nuns and the timely arrival of mounted policemen, summoned from the station, two miles away, by an electric burglar alarm. Vestments trimmed with gold and of great value, made

by the nuns, are supposed to have tempted the thieves.

Sixty nuns are in the monastery, who make vestments of the most costly sort for the clergy all over the world. They frequently have many of these on hand, besides a stock of gold trimmings.

Several nuns were awakened at 2 o'clock on Saturday morning by noises in the shrubbery under their cell windows. They made out the forms of three men skulking in the bushes, and quickly and quietly alarmed all the Sisters in the building. A guard was set at every entrance to the building, and all the windows near the ground were securely fastened.

One Sister remembered that an electric burglar and fire alarm had been put in the building years ago and connected with the Morrisania police station, two miles away. A connection was made that set it ringing at the station. The sergeant at the desk never heard it before, and it took him some time to find out what it was. Then he ordered Mounted Policemen Fink and Cahill to ride to the monastery at their best speed. After a record-breaking ride the policemen

found two lay nuns with their white faces pressed against the gate of the monastery.

They said they had waited in the monastery until they thought the policeman must be near and they dashed down to the gate to admit them, and had seen no sign of intruders on their way.

Fink and Cahill found Maloney hiding in an out house and arrested him. The policemen also found a place where men had climbed over the walls into the grounds. It is supposed that the other men escaped when they knew they were being watched, while Maloney could not climb out.

When Maloney was arraigned in court none of the nuns appeared and he was discharged.

THE CITIZENS OF PHILADELPHIA will present to the city of Paris a statue of Benjamin Franklin during the exposition next year. It is proposed to raise the money and begin work as soon as possible, so that the statue can be shipped to Paris in time to unveil it during the exposition. It is intended to locate the statue at

Continued on Page Seven.