



EDITORIAL NOTES.

In our issue of the week before last we gave an account of a visit to the Lachine convent and of the exhibit prepared by the Sisters for the Columbian Exhibition.

THERE are journalists in every sphere of life; their ranks have been filled from all the professions and their phalanx has sent men into the highest posts in Church and State.

"FACTS are stubborn things;" but facts are always irrefutable. We all remember with what intense pleasure we read that graphic story by Dickens, "Facts."

If there is any pitiable object in the world, it is to be found in the "ex" priest, kneeling in the aisle on his knees, with his hands clasped in prayer, and his eyes fixed on the ground.

Sic transit! Not many years ago Hyacinthe was one of the most renowned preachers of France. The vaults of Notre Dame rang with his eloquent sermons, his powerful explanations of Catholic Truth.

kind of notoriety. He set up his own church, he took unto himself a wife, and he became a deadly enemy of his former Faith. Lately Mrs. Hyacinthe-Loyson tramped through the United States in search of funds to support her husband's church.

EDMUND YATES has been busy of late. The account of the Queen's departure for Italy; details of life on the Royal Yacht; enumeration of volumes taken to read during the trip; sketches of the preparations at the Florentine Villa; and all the minutiae with which the court gossip is so well supplied, must have taken up considerable of his precious time.

The Duke of Norfolk heads the list of donors with an offering of \$20,000, and next comes the Emperor Francis Joseph with \$4,000. The Archbishop of Prague and Primate of Hungary gave \$20,000 each, as they can afford very well to do, considering that each prelate has a revenue of over \$200,000 a year.

We have no objection to Mr. Yates making an accurate estimate of all that the Catholic world has seen proper to place at the disposal of the Holy Father on the occasion of his jubilee. It is the idea that Yates seeks to convey that we think very unjustifiable. He is over anxious to have the public think that the Pope's mission is one of wealth-gathering.

Africa, that will look to the Holy Father for support from these funds that the Catholic faithful have placed in his hands. He is merely the custodian of all that wealth, for the benefit of the Church and of the heathen to be converted.

In the different items of news which the Star of Saturday furnishes, from England, Ireland and Scotland, we find this very exceptional item:

A crusade against profanity in the public streets is being carried on with vigor in a number of English towns. A laborer at Wisbech was convicted a week or so ago of publicly using four profane oaths, and fined a shilling for each oath and thirteen shillings costs.

There are many old laws which should have long since been repealed; but there are also many forgotten statutes that would be useful were they disinterred and put into force. Of the latter, this one against profane oaths is certainly to be commended. We require such a law as that in Canada. We have enactments against liquor abuses, immorality, robbery, and all those crimes against the public peace; but we have none that touches upon the crimes against God, such as blasphemy, obscene language, cursing and swearing.

On this tax question we find there is much to be said. Amongst other things we would remark that the authorities seem very anxious to pile on costs as well as taxes. We know the case of a retail merchant, living out Notre Dame street west, who, when informed that he had to pay the tax, went to the City Hall; there he was asked for two dollars extra.

ceived) that he protested against. On returning home he found the letter awaiting him. This seems a queer mixture. Firstly, we understood that one dollar was the fee for a lawyer's letter, and not two dollars; secondly, we thought that it took less than two days for a letter to be carried from the central post office to the west end of Chaboulliez Square; thirdly, we learned that these legal (?) costs would be refunded; fourthly, we wonder how the whole business is carried on.

THE Toronto Star has the following very pointed paragraph. There is a great amount of truth in it and it suggests many reflections on Irish landlordism that if made practical use of would tend to open the eyes of Anti-Home Rulers:

"Let Ireland fight out its own destiny. We read upon this side of Ulster rising up, musket in hand, to battle against the innovation, and our hearts beat because there is something heroic in such an attitude. But between the lines we read that in the hamlets of Ireland, in what is called the 'Gallant North,' from the 'hard rocks of Lisbellaw' to anywhere there are thousands who live only to pay rent that 'my lord,' or 'the Col.' or 'the Capt.' may live in luxury, contemptuous of and an offense to those who contribute to his fortune. The law is now about to step in and give them the relief they have long looked for, and God forbid that any decent man acquainted with their condition should try and incite them to rebellion, merely that a few landlords and parasites in Parliament may profit by it."

A NEW species of religious enthusiast has made an appearance in New York where he is striving to obtain proselytes to the religion of the Turks. His name is Muhammed Alexander Webb; his mission seems to be a real web of extraordinary contradictions. Not long ago, while preaching his Crescent creed, he invited his hearers to read the Koran and then read the Bible; if any one of them did not find the Koran superior to the Bible he would eat the Koran. Speaking of the outcome of this great challenge, the "Michigan Catholic" says: "They told Muhammed A. Webb that they did not think the Koran was any where the equal of the Bible, and presented their Korans to Muhammed to perform his part of the oral contract. Whether it was that Muhammed's digestive apparatus was not toned up to a Koran menu, or because his challenge was simply what is known in sporting terminology as a bluff, we do not know, but the fact remains that the Korans presented are still untasted by Muhammed." The truth is that the Koran is a dry and meaningless volume. Leaving aside the question of the inspiration in the Bible, there is high literary merit in the volume of Christian Scriptures; it is a book of prophecy authenticated by past and present fulfilment; it is a book of poetry lofty beyond the range of human power to imitate; it is a book of history such as no man has ever attempted to equal. But the Koran is simply a huge volume of maxims, more or less meaningless; a book of immoral teachings such as shock all sentiment of civilization; a book of the Sword and of Mahomet. Mr. Webb may succeed in gathering in a few dollars from the curious or the foolish; but his converts, we are certain will not be a menace to the stability of Christianity.