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The Minister of Customs.

The Hon. McKenzie Bowell is one of the
most fortunate men of our time. He is a man
to be envied no matter what may happen him
between this and the end of his career, for of
him it may be said that without natural or
acquired eloquence, with a voice like that of
a screech-owl sounding the language of Mrs.
Malaprop, without ability and without a
capacity for governing, he has managed to
lift himself into one of the nicest seats on the
treasury bench. The Hon. Mr. Dowell did not
even make a brilliant editor. "Why then,"
will the startled reader demand, "why is he
a cabinet minister? Who placed him
there, or what?" Well, he was in fact ap-
pointed Minister of Customs as a mark of
respect to the Orange order by one who has
been himself an Orangeman, if he is not so
still. He was taken into the cabinet as a re-
presentative Orangeman, just as the Hon. John
O'Connor was recognized as a representative
Irishman, or the Hon. Mr. Masson a repre-
sentative French Canadian, the only difference
being that the venerable Premier thought the
peculiar institution of more importance than
either the Province of Quebec or the seven
hundred thousand Irish Catholics in Canada,
and so gave him the most important post.
When we grumbled against the manner in
which the demand for Irish Catholic repre-
sentation was met, after the formation of the
present Government, some of our contempo-
raries asked, with a sneer, "where are your
men?" Good heavens! as if any day in the
week we could not, with our eyes shut, pick
out a hundred men with more ability than
the ex Grand Master of the Universe; men,
too, who would have more respect for them-
selves, and the high position they were called
upon to fill, than to preside at a meeting of
an illegal and a disloyal society. The Hon.
Minister of Customs is too well acquainted
with the baleful results that follow the
meeting of the Order of which he is so dis-
tinguished an ornament not to have been
aware that trouble would result from the
meeting in Ottawa; and it has resulted, and
the revolver has been freely used in the capi-
tal of the Dominion, right under the windows
of the office of the Minister of Customs.
Were it not for the fact of Mr. McKenzie
Bowell being a Minister of the Crown, there
would have been no bloodshed in Ottawa, for
the Council of the Universe would have met
elsewhere. It was in compliment to him the
assemblage took place in the capital of the
Dominion. Is this, then, a man fit to be en-
trusted with one of the most important por-
folios in the gift of the Crown? We sup-
ported the Conservatives on the 17th of Sep-
tember last, and will support them again if it
is necessary for the good of Canada, but yet
it is very hard to endorse a party which so
glaringly flaunts the Orange flag in our very
faces on all possible occasions.

Reconstruction of the Cabinet.

The belief that a reconstruction of the
Dominion Cabinet will take place at no dis-
tant day is gaining ground, though, singu-
larly enough, the Ministerial papers, which
were among the first to start the report, are
now loud and eager in their expressions
of denial. Surely, there is no great harm
in the change of a Minister or two! Cab-
inets have been reconstructed before
without damage to the Government of the
day, and the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie made so
many and such rapid changes in the person,

nel of his cabinet, as almost to dazzle people,
so much so, indeed, that when he retired
from office in October last, he did not take
half the original thirteen away with him, the
residue having been nicely provided for.
That part of the report which chiefly con-
cerns us is the substitution for the Hon. John
O'Connor of Mr. Daly, of Halifax. Mr. O'Con-
nor is growing old in the harness; if he be ele-
vated to the bench it is only what he deserves,
and, doubtless, no one would be more re-
joiced at the transfer than the honorable gen-
tleman himself. But surely a more suitable
successor could be found than Mr. Daly, and
one more acceptable to the Irish Catholics,
except, of course, that Sir John does not re-
cognize their right to Cabinet representation
at all. In that case we have no more to say,
and shall only wait for the next political
mutation, which may be nearer
band than a good many people imagine.
There is one gentleman, however, who
as the leader of the Quebec Conservatives,
should have a voice in the matter, and who,
if we remember aright, pledged himself to a
deputation of Irish Catholics shortly after the
formation of the present Ministry that their
interests should not be neglected as regards
full and ample representation; and as he at
least is everywhere recognized as a thorough
gentleman and an honest man, we take upon
ourselves the liberty of doubting the truth of
the reported changes in so far as names are
concerned. We refer to the Hon. Mr. Masson,
Minister of Militia.

English Precedent.

While admiring the energy and zeal for
the good of the Province displayed by the
Hon. Mr. Joly during his short tenure of
power, it cannot be denied that it was only
by the putting in practice of those virtues he
could at all make a show in favor of his
party, and that from the outset they carried
him beyond the limits of the constitution.
Too far east is west, and it sometimes also
happens that too much zeal degenerates into
rashness and indiscretion, attributes near
akin, apparently, but, in reality, very far
apart. In the debate on the railroad in the
House last night, Mr. Joly said:—"The Gov-
ernment fully recognized the rights of Par-
liament, and in all that had been done had
followed the English precedents, that when an
expenditure was absolutely necessary in the
public interest it should be undertaken
without the authority of Parliament." This
declaration of the Premier was in answer to
the attack of a previous speaker on his
policy. But does not Mr. Joly make a grievous
mistake in falling back on English prece-
dents when defending himself for having,
unauthorized by Parliament, expended large
sums of money? There is no comparison be-
tween the poor Provincial Treasury of Quebec
and the mighty exchequer of Imperial Eng-
land. And then England is a great nation,
always either at war, or on the eve of a war,
or preparing for war, and it is absolutely
necessary that she should occasionally spend a
few millions without obtaining the sanction
of Parliament for the time being. Mr. Joly
should also remember that Lord Beaconsfield
thought it necessary last year to call an extra
session of Parliament to vote the six millions
required to prepare for a war with Russia, and
that \$30,000,000 to England is no more than
\$30,000 to us. If there was only a question
of a railroad at stake, it is doubtful if there
would have been such haste or such action
taken at all, so that Imperial precedents will
not stand in this instance. But, allowing that
the expenditure of the money was a matter of
vital importance to the Province of Quebec,
and could no longer be delayed, does the Hon.
Mr. Joly or his friends imagine for one
moment that any English Premier, whig, Tory,
or radical, would dare spend one shilling
without having a majority at his back? Would
he spend a large sum even with a
majority of twenty or thirty, but would he so
outrage the constitution and the respectability
of his own party as to do so, having only the
Speaker's poor casting vote to carry him
through? Certainly not, and hence it
would be well for the friends of our Provin-
cial Premier to look to it that in future he
will not allow zeal to outrun discretion.

The Budget.

Several days have now elapsed since Mr.
Langelier introduced his financial statement
before the Legislature of the Province, and
the debate still continues with unabated
vigor, displaying, we are happy to say, no
small amount of ability on the part of the
representatives of the people. We regret that
up to the present time our Montreal members
have not thought proper to make known their
views on the situation, and more particularly
that Alderman Nelson, the representative of
the Centre Division of this city, who is sup-
posed to be well posted on financial matters,
has, so far, remained a silent spectator of the
fray. As independent observers of the situa-
tion, we have carefully followed the course of
the debate from the opening remarks of the
Hon. Treasurer Langelier up to the present
time. In his speech on the budget the Hon.
Treasurer strove hard to show that since the
advent to power of the Joly Government every
effort had been made to carry out the
pledges of economy and retrenchment which
they made to the people of this Province on
assuming office. On the other hand, the re-
ply of the Hon. Mr. Church, late Treasurer
under Mr. DeBoucherville, was, no doubt, a
very powerful effort, and can scarcely be said
to have been replied to by the rather cavalier
speech of the hon. leader of the Government.
But the most practical speech of the whole
debate, from our point of view, and that
which is most likely to strike the minds of
the people, for its force, simplicity, and candor,
together with, at least, an apparent
absence of party spirit, was that of the
Hon. Mr. Robertson, member for Sherbrooke.

Mr. Robertson's criticism of the financial statement
was extremely severe. He went on to
show that the alleged economies of the hon-
orable Treasurer and his alleged savings to
the Province had no actual existence. In
fact, he plainly stated that the manner of
keeping the public accounts under the present
regime was, if not actually dishonest, at least
calculated to mislead the public and leave
them under a false impression as to the true
state of our finances. He wound up that
part of his speech by stating that the hon-
orable Treasurer had introduced "a new and
"complete system of book-keeping specially
"adapted to the multiplying of accounts." The
honorable gentleman then took up the various
items of public receipts and expenditures,
and argued that "had the Treasurer
"added to his expenditure for general pur-
"poses, which he should have done, the
"amount paid for interest and sinking fund,
"\$727,097, there would only have been the
"difference of \$26,487 in favor of the past
"year, instead of what the statements and
"accounts furnished by the Treasurer—
"at first sight, and to persons unacquainted
"with the subject—was made to appear the
"sum of \$753,784." And even that small
saving had been accomplished by what might
be termed injudicious economy, affecting the
efficiency of the public service. These re-
marks, coming from a gentleman in the position
of Mr. Robertson, who was not
considered a very fast friend of the late Pro-
vincial Government, will carry great weight
in the country. It is to be hoped that
before the close of the debate the
Hon. Mr. Langelier will take the opportunity
of meeting Mr. Robertson on the ground he
has chosen, and show that his book-keeping
is not at all events calculated to mislead the
public. For our part we sincerely hope that
whatever party may hold the purse-strings
that the financial condition of the province
may be made to appear, and actually be not
quite so gloomy, as either Rouges nor Bleus
whilst in opposition would attempt to paint
it.

The Informers and the Grocers.

Our Provincial Government requires to be
reminded from time to time of an abuse
which exists in our midst, and which is grow-
ing and increasing every day. We refer to
the manner of fining grocers for contravening
the revenue laws and the demoralization at-
tending it, notwithstanding the repeated com-
plaints of the grocers themselves as well as of
outside parties who, though having no special
interest in revenue or license affairs one way
or the other, yet desire to see fair play,
and, above all, unsullied courts of
justice. As every one is aware, the system at
present obtaining of bringing grocers to jus-
tice under the license law is an immoral one,
and while our Local Government is as cog-
nizant of it as the intelligent public generally
they pretend to see no way towards an im-
provement. The Revenue department has in
its employ two or more informers, men almost
without exception of the most disreputable
character and antecedents, frequently jail and
penitentiary birds, but always of no standing
in society. These informers take an oath
with about the same unconcern as they do
the drink they expect to bring a fine, and
swear falsely as readily as they tell the
truth. After awhile they convict themselves
of perjury, and are either sent to prison or
else obtain such a wretchedly hard name for
swearing as to necessitate their being re-
legated to the obscurity from which a lax
system has dragged them, their usefulness,
even as prosecutors of grocers, having gone.
This description of a whiskey informer may
appear a hard one, but the great majority of
people will acknowledge its truth and justice.
Now, the question arises, why should the
evidence of such witnesses be received in
revenue cases where the business existence
of struggling tradesmen is involved when
the ordinary civil tribunals refuse it? It
is a notorious fact that when they have
gone into the courts with cases other than
revenue, the statement that "complainant is
an informer," immediately places the magis-
trate on his guard, and if the man succeeds in
establishing his charge it is because he has
been backed by respectable testimony. But
it may be asked how is government to check
the evil of selling without a license? Would
you have law-breakers cheat the revenue, and
go scot free? By no means, nor shall we at-
tempt to deny that rum-selling by the glass
is daily and nightly carried on with impunity,
not only to the detriment of the revenue, but,
what is worse, to the ruin of whole families,
physically as well as morally. The spy sys-
tem, however, does not cure the evil, but,
on the contrary, intensifies it, for the grocer
sells liquor on the "sly" will have little
hesitation in giving the informer an oath for
an oath, or, if his own conscience is too deli-
cate for that kind of thing, he can always
manage, for the consideration of a dollar or
two, to procure witnesses who have no con-
science at all, and who can astonish and dis-
gust even the legalized informer with his
volubility and recklessness in swearing.
This leaves the field altogether in the posses-
sion of the unscrupulous, and such is the hor-
ror entertained by respectable men of appear-
ing either for or against in revenue cases that
it has actually occurred that a grocer, who
knew he could establish his innocence by
summoning a certain Justice of the peace as
a witness, refrained from doing so in consid-
eration for his feelings. There is one remedy
for all this, which is to take example by the
sister Province of Ontario and appoint men of
standing in society to the position of in-
spectors of groceries and saloons, pay them
good salaries, and the result will be that
while the revenue does not suffer the morals
of at least a part of the community will be
placed out of danger. We humbly submit
these suggestions to the Provincial Govern-
ment of Quebec.

England's Commercial Depression.

It is a fact, the importance of which is
every day growing more and more apparent,
and assuming a more gloomy aspect every
hour, that the trade of England is departing
from her and with it her prosperity. Ameri-
can writers and orators have rung the changes
on this fact during the past few years,
especially the past few months, and rejoiced
over it, for America gains almost in proportion
to Britain's loss, and the English themselves
after struggling long and manfully against
the disagreeable truth are at length beginning
to confess it. The first prominent British
statesman to acknowledge the fact, and look
it squarely in the face was Lord Derby. He
was too sensible a man to try and explain it
away, but could suggest only one melancholy
remedy—EMIGRATION. For a long time Eng-
land manufactured for the world, and carried
those manufactures over the seas, the ever in-
creasing profits filling her treasury and sup-
plying wealth to her children. But this
thing could not last. A time must come
when either other nations, as civilized and
as advanced as England, would manufacture
for themselves, and perhaps even compete
with her on her own domain, or else that she
herself would have so filled the warehouses of
the earth that they would have to cry stop,
we have enough. That time has come. A
great manufacturing nation has sprung up on
this side of the Atlantic Ocean which under-
sells Great Britain, and France and Germany
are manufacturing for themselves and for
other European countries as well. When a
man has ceased making profits by his busi-
ness he must either shut up shop or draw
upon his capital. So in some respects it
is with a nation, and it is exactly what Eng-
land is doing now. She is annually
importing from three to four hundred million
dollars worth more than she is importing,
and hence it is a question merely of how long
will her pile last. But this is not all, nor the
worst of it. Formerly England imported only
a comparatively small amount of provisions,
while now the great wheat growing States of
Illinois, Minnesota, and the valley of the
Mississippi, settled and opened up with such
marvellous rapidity within the past twenty
years or so, have obtained such facilities for
transporting their produce over the
land and over the sea, that they are in a
position to sell wheat in London cheaper, and
of as good quality, than the Lincolnshire
farmer. As regards the
cattle trade, the same statement may be made
—it is growing each day to the benefit of the
American and Canadian, and to the detriment
of the Englishman. The result may be seen
in the present land agitation in England and
Ireland, and may be heard in the cry which
has gone up from Mayo for a reduction of
rents. But, in truth, a reduction of rents
will only afford a temporary respite; they
will have to be reduced and reduced,
until lands will scarcely be worth hav-
ing by either farmer or landlord, when the
one cannot afford heavy rents, and the
other, as a consequence, heavy taxes. The
British farmer is handicapped from his birth
by heavy rents. He cannot compete with
the man of Illinois or Minnesota, who has
plenty of the soil on which to operate, and is
his own landlord. It will then happen that
the farmers will throw up their lands and emi-
grate, or else seize (or purchase) them and
dispossess the landlords, in either case cre-
ating a great social revolution. Thus it may
yet come to pass that the great country which
defied an armada and Napoleon's camp at
Boulogne, and the navies of Europe, both
on account of the valor of her sons and her
insular position, may fall, as she has risen,
on the waves of commerce.

The Anglo-Saxon.

In these days of newspapers, telegraphy,
and rapid means of communication generally
let an idea be once hammered into the minds
of the masses, no matter how absurd it may
be, and there it remains fixed, if not for ever,
at least for a long period of time. It took
the authority of Voltaire and Carlyle to con-
vince the multitude that a French officer at
Fontenoy did not say "the French guards
never fire first." Victor Hugo was less
fortunate in trying to disabuse the public
mind of the ridiculous saying attributed to
Camborne at Waterloo, "the guards die but
never surrender," while in truth that
General made use of a more forcible, if less
heroic phrase. When a lady, long after the
famous battle had been won and lost, asked
the great Duke of Wellington if he had ever
made use of the command "up guards and at
them," he only smiled and gave his shoulders
a negative shake. Leaving warlike quotations
aside, the truth or falsehood of which
does not count for much after all, there are
fictions yet obtaining belief of a more serious
nature, and one of them is that the people of
this continent are of the Anglo-Saxon race.
In so far as Canada is especially concerned,
its inhabitants have just reason to complain
of this sentimental grievance. It is not easy
to pick up a newspaper or pamphlet of any
pretensions which does not blazon the fact
that we are Anglo-Saxons, and as for our
orators in and out of Parliament, they
so continually din it into the ears
of their hearers as to make it monotonous.
As a matter of course every Governor-
General in his inaugural and valedictory
address must, on no account, omit telling us
we are Anglo-Saxons, and also as a matter of
course that we ought to be proud of the
knowledge. Our late brilliant ruler, the
Earl of Dufferin, rang the changes on it in
and out of season, and our present Governor-
General is no exception, which is all the
more singular on his part, as His Lordship's
family is one of the most purely Celtic
in the British Empire. Nevertheless Canada
is not Anglo-Saxon. Perhaps a good many

people take it for granted that the expression
is not a generic one, but in a loose sort of
way includes all men of the white or Cau-
casian race. If that be the case it would be
better to say so. It is to be feared, however,
that writers and speakers generally are suf-
ficiently posted in ethnology to know what
they are talking about and use the celebrated
compound word in a dominant, and therefore
offensive, sense. Historian writers know
better, and they draw a broad distinction be-
tween Celt and Saxon, two entirely
different, and formerly hostile races of
men. The Canadian people is made up
of those two races, the Celtic greatly prepon-
derating. Estimating roughly, it may be
stated that in this Dominion there are in
round numbers about four millions, of which
1,200,000 are of French descent, 600,000
English, 1,500,000 Irish, 900,000 Scotch, and
200,000 belong to other nationalities having
as much Celtic as Saxon or Gothic blood in
their veins. Now, allowing that five-sixths of
the French are Celts, one-sixth of the English,
two-thirds of the Irish and two-thirds of the
Scotch, which is a fair calculation enough,
we find that the Celts number 2,834,000, leav-
ing the Anglo-Saxon element 1,166,000, and
this including the 200,000 inhabitants of
other nationalities which we throw in for
the benefit of the weaker race, or, as the news-
paper writers say, the great Anglo-Saxon.
But leaving numbers altogether out of the
question, and coming to names, is it not no-
torious that the Celtic predominate? Who
is the Premier of Canada but the Celtic Mac-
donald, and the leader of the Opposition but
the Celtic Mackenzie? Who stands next to Sir
John as the most prominent man of his Minis-
try but the Celtic Masson, and who is the
second leader of the Opposition but the still
Celtic Blake? Run your eye along the
columns of a Canadian directory, and observe
the comparatively few numbers of Saxon
names, and then enquire in astonishment
why it is that we are eternally and continually
told we are the great Anglo-Saxon race.
That the Saxon is a regal and conquering
people cannot be doubted, but then, so is the
Celt, or to come nearer the truth, both ele-
ments united go to form a mighty people.
The Saxon possesses solidity and pertinacity,
and the Celt marshalling, genius and
energy. It is philosophically true that
naces which preserve themselves pure degene-
rate after a time, while those which mix and
continually receive fresh acquisitions, are
those which go forth and conquer. It is to
be hoped, then, that our orators will cease
speaking of the Anglo-Saxon race in future or
substitute in its stead the Canadian, and that
His Excellency the Governor-General will set
them a good example. It is, to say the least
of it, a poor compliment to our chivalrous
French Canadian fellow-citizens to be always
reminding them that the Anglo-Saxon is pre-
dominant in Canada, a statement which implies
that they are the subject race, and which be-
sides is a pure fiction.

Provincial Finances.

The debate on the provincial budget still
drags along and with no immediate prospect
of being brought to a speedy close. The
Hon. Treasurer seems to us to have got him-
self into a very uncomfortable position by his
attempt to gerrymander the public accounts
in such a way as to impress the people of the
Province favorably to the working of the Ad-
ministration. We pointed out a few days
ago that the Hon. ex-Treasurer Robertson had
severely criticized the statements of the Hon.
Mr. Langelier, and had left matters in such a
position that it became imperative on the
Treasurer to rise and explain, or at least de-
monstrate that he had not doctored the figures
in such a way as to "mystify the account." Since
then Mr. Langelier has attempted a jus-
tification, but we are sorry to say, with very
poor success, and now we have the Hon. Mr.
Robertson, before the adjournment of the
debate, promising us a new edition of his
strictures, which will drive the nail clearly
home. Probably no member of the House is
in a better position than the member for Sher-
brooke to give an authentic analysis of the
financial condition of the Province, and his
next utterances will be awaited with anxiety
by those who take an interest in our
affairs. On the other hand, it is well
known that the Joly Government on assum-
ing office assured the people that no new
taxes would be required to carry on the gov-
ernment of the country, and that the demands
for such made by the late Administration were
entirely unnecessary. In the face of this
declaration we have the Hon. Treasurer, in
answer to Mr. Matieu, stating that very
likely the Government will have to effect a
new loan. This system of loans upon loans
looks very like robbing Peter to pay Paul.
Far better that the people of this Province
should at once understand their true position.
The Government may as well make up their
minds to face the music without delay. Loans
merely put off the evil day which must come
sooner or later, and the more loans we make
the greater will be the crash when that day
arrives.

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A FEW OF BROWN'S VERMIFUGE
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Aged rarely suffers from them, but youth often
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this want.

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drives off the chill, and thereby prevents the
fever. Its first application insures confidence,
and the disease is eradicated. Ask any drug-
gist, and he will endorse this.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the True Witness and Post.

DEAR SIR,—In my last letter (for the pub-
lication of which I beg to thank you) I stated
that the policy of Irish Catholics in going en
masse with one or other of our contending
political parties, was open to debate, but I
think sir, your own trite and well expressed
opinions are opposed to such a policy, and to
my mind, reason and common sense en-
dorse your views. There was at least an ap-
parently strong and defensible plea for sup-
porting the conservative party in the recent
federal elections; but I fail to see any even
plausible reason why Irish Catholics should
support the conservative party in the local
parliament.

There is, sir, a strong feeling among our
people in favor of doing away with our pro-
vincial governments, and forming a legisla-
tive union. I am sure this is but the forced
utterance of irritation, and entirely foreign to
the natural and national instincts of the Irish.
I am confident there is not an honest Irish-
man in Quebec province who would, for place
or pelf, lower himself to the extent of walk-
ing in the footprints of some Canadian Castre-
ough. This apparent desire for a legislative
union is caused by the disgraceful ostracism
and injustice with which the Irish Catholics
have been treated in this province. Deprived
of even a decent show of representation, and
shut out from every position of emolument, it
was but to be expected of a people naturally
prone to revolt against so degrading a status.

They imagine that from a government at
Ottawa, where English speaking nationalities
would be in a majority, the Irish of this
province would receive more justice. Per-
haps so; but does the history of our people in
Ontario warrant such a belief? A moment's
calm consideration is sufficient to expose this
delusive dream. But what necessity for this
having to choose between our present position
and the adoption of a policy that would be a
contradiction to all our national sentiments
and traditions respecting the rights of our
motherland to autonomy and independenc-
e. We have not yet been driven to this alterna-
tive. The party that has been in power at
Quebec for many years past has been conserva-
tive. This is the party that has denied us
the commonest rights of fair play, and yet
this is the very party that Irishmen, as a
body, are expected to support.

Why not give the liberals a trial before
imitating Castreough, and taking the first
step towards morally cutting our throats? So
far the liberal party has shown itself dis-
posed to see justice done to all races. Why
not give that party a chance before condemn-
ing it as hostile to our nationality? Let our
demands be laid before Mr. Joly, and I am
sure they will be fairly treated. To be loyal
to party is all very well in its way, but for a
man blindly and unreasonably to obey the
ukase of a party autocrat is to reduce himself
to the level of a buffalo that, head to the
ground, gallops after the strongest bull.

How much more undignified, then, is the
conduct of the Irishman who thinks he is
bound, through good and ill, to support a
party that has hitherto looked upon him as
unworthy of consideration. Give the liberals
a trial, and then, if they do not prove far
more favorable to our demands as a nation-
ality than the conservatives have been, it will
be time to condemn them—then, and not till
then.

LIBERTAS.

Quebec, August 2, 1879.

Higher Education for Our Irish Catho-
lic Youth.

To the Editor of the True Witness and Post.

DEAR SIR,—During the last week of June
and the first of July the Irish Catholic parents
of Montreal, and the friends of education are
annually called upon to attend the closing
exercises of the scholastic year. Their pres-
ence in the academic halls is solicited to
honour and encourage the efforts of the youth-
ful aspirants after knowledge, and to meet the
results of their intellectual labour with an
approving smile of admiration. That those
results have proved satisfactory this year, and
in some cases brilliant, and that the many
schools and academies have done
adequate justice to the great cause of instruc-
tion must be generally acknowledged, on the
strength of the examinations and other per-
formances, which usually accompany the
distribution of prizes.

But of those many fountains of learning, at
which our Irish Catholic youth have been
satisfying their thirst of knowledge, none has
so fully and so effectively supplied their eager
minds with such a constant stream of scientific
light as St. Ann's school. This was clearly
evinced last Thursday and Wednesday week
at the public examinations, when youths from
twelve to fourteen answered questions and
solved problems, the minuteness and per-
plexity of which were no stumbling blocks to
their witty readiness and acute understanding.
In fact, this school, under the able and pro-
gressive directorship of Brother Arnold, is to
the culture of the intellect what the hot-house
is to the culture of the plants.

It would be simply marvellous in the eyes
of our grandfathers, and it is sweetly gratifying
to ourselves to see such youthful intellects
wade to bear such copious fruits, and their
knowledge and information to extend so
widely over the most difficult and useful
of the arts and sciences.

But it is here, Irish Catholic parents, that
those sons whose talents are your pride, and
whose challenge the admiration of your
fellow-citizens, begin to experience a fate
which they do not deserve, and which is
directly detrimental to the high standing of
our people. It is now that the brilliancy of
their intelligence has reflected its test, but it
is also now that that brilliancy is destined to
darken and to fall into obscurity. You will
ask, how can this happen? I will answer
you from within the limits of my experience—
"those boys, whose prospects are apparently
so bright, have up to the present received but
the instruction of the school. It may have
been various, extensive and solid, and be-
tween equal to the commercial or other re-
quirements of every day life, but it rarely, if
ever, suffices to form the foundation of a
greatness and utility which society has a
right to expect from their intellectual cap-
acity.

If my readers reflected upon this and
studied the course of the lives of these young
men who quitted school, crowned with
laurels and laden with honors, they would
use but little argument to convince them of
this sad truth. How many of them could we
not point at and say, "He was once smart
and full of promise, but he is now dull and