

Mr Robert O'Reilly, Superintendent and Inspector of the Ottawa Separate Schools is enjoying a well-earned holiday at the sea-side. To his services and those of his able Assistant Mr. Gorman, rendered gratuitously by both, our schools owe much of their steady progress and present recognized efficiency.

The Ottawa Public School Trustees are unanimously of opinion that their schools are superior to the Provincial Model School in this city. And we are ready to "go even" that our schools are equal to theirs. Who shall decide?

The serious charges made by an ex-Professor of the Ottawa Collegiate Institute against the administration of that school should be inquired into.

A Public-School teacher in New York City says the *Freeman's Journal* writes a letter to the press, in which he corroborates the charges which Catholics have all along made against the public-school system—charges which are easily proven, and which show that the admirers of our present absurd system are simply blinded by educational "spread-eaglesism." It is a huge machine, run by men who, when not stupid and ignorant, are, as a rule, designing and interested. Let any Catholic who pretends to weigh the educational question in the light of pure reason—of sitting in judgment on the Church's edictum about Catholic education—examine the other side from a "reasonable" point of view. Let him take a list of the men who direct the public schools in his district, and ask himself whether any man on that list is so far beyond reproach, so wise, so good, so experienced, that he can unhesitatingly commit his child to the care of this man. And, if by chance he should find such a man, let him consider whether the influence of this rare guardian of public-school education can counter-balance the influence of the other men on the board. The list of studies are arranged, classes graded, and all the scholastic details planned by men whose education and ability are the slightest. Teachers and pupils are ruined mentally and physically by the irrevocable public school code of education. Last week an unfortunate boy died in New York from the effects of this cramming system. His parents were amazed when he died, though they had not been blind to the desperate attempts he made to follow a useless course of studies prescribed by a "board." Another unfortunate child—a girl named Lizzie Maguire, whose parents, if her name be an index of their religion, are doubly and horribly wretched—attempted to commit suicide because she could not reach in her studies the average proposed by the intelligent board! The school-teacher who writes to the *Times* says:

"Let any one visit a family, however, in which there is a daughter or a son preparing for seeking admission to either of the colleges, and he will agree that some change in the system is desirable. Children who have spent a day in mental labor which taxes to the utmost the physical powers of their adult teachers are required to spend one, two, three, yes, sometimes four, hours at home in preparing lessons for the next day's recitations. Hardly is the sigh of relief breathed at the termination of one day's toil before the shadow of the next day's labor falls across the child's path. There is no real rest with duty unperformed. I propose to make an effort to remove that shadow from the lives of the children of this city. It is time that something be done. The present system cultivates memory at the expense of all the other faculties. Our children become, through the discipline they are subjected to in the public schools, good (?), obedient clerks, trust-worthy (?), subordinates, but that is all. They are all alike—originality is suppressed—'By their fruits shall ye know them.' Where are the poets, the painters, the sculptors, the literary geniuses, the statesmen, the inventors, the great men and women, among the thousands who have graduated from our city schools? If they exist, their modesty must equal their merit, for no man knows them."

Let the Catholic—and there are many Catholics of this kind—who holds that all opposition to the public-school system is "extreme," "reactionary," and "bigoted," consider the mild testimony of this teacher, Mr. Edward Boyer, who believes in a public-school system, but not in the present public-school system. It may help to convince Catholics that the average public school is not superior to the average parochial school, poor as it may be. The public-school system has the effect of a narcotic on the brightest minds. And the mass of testimony accumulating against it ought to convince Catholics that, even in a worldly point of view, it offers no advantage to a child. Catholics who talk of the efficiency of the public schools when they are admonished in regard

to their duty as educators, have no knowledge of what they talk about—no appreciation of their awful responsibilities as parents.

The closing exercises of Loretto convent, Stratford, took place on Wednesday afternoon, July 6. There were quite a number of the parents and friends of the pupils present, as well as His Lordship Bishop Walsh, who takes a deep interest in the welfare of the institution. Before the exercises commenced, the visitors had an opportunity of inspecting the neat handiwork of the young ladies in the spacious parlors, and were much pleased at the display of talent and good taste. The attendance of young ladies during the last session has been so large and applications for admission to the classes for the September term so numerous, that it has been found necessary to build a large addition to the present school. It is situated in the rear, and contains on the second story a large hall, in which the distribution of prizes took place. The room was very tastefully decorated with evergreens and flowers, and a stage was erected at the lower end.

Among those present were His Lordship Bishop Walsh, and Very Rev. Mgr. Bruyere, V. G., London; Rev. Dr. Kilroy, Rev. Mr. Mungovan, Windsor, and Rev. P. Brennan, St. Mary's.

At the close of the distribution His Lordship Bishop Walsh briefly addressed the young ladies, congratulating them on the evident advancement they had made in useful and ornamental accomplishments.

The Order of Christian Brothers of the Christian Schools at present numbers 3,000 servant and 12,000 teaching brothers, having under their charge hundreds of thousands of pupils in Europe, Asia, Africa and America. There are 1,000 members of the Order in the United States and Canada, giving instruction in the principal cities to some 70,000 pupils in 171 parish schools, 15 academies and 10 colleges.

A few days ago we (*Eric Lake Shore Visitor*) paid a visit to the thriving town of North East. We called at St. Mary's College, the new institution of the Redemptorists. The fathers have made many changes in the interior arrangements of the great building and soon will open for the work of the ministry. But perhaps the most noticeable change of all is that made on the exterior. On the two towers, with which the building is ornamented, have been erected two beautiful crosses, which shine brilliantly in their rich gilding. The establishment overlooks the town from an eminence and as the traveler enters the depot either from the east or west he is at once drawn to the conclusion that it must be a thoroughly Catholic place, since the cross, the emblem of true Catholicity, looks down so proudly from the large and commanding institution. The "Lake Shore Seminary" formerly a sectarian school, is now a Catholic College, and the cross is the sign which makes the announcement to the stranger. There is only one thing now about the building that would tell the inquirer what it once was. That is the corner-stone. On that stone can still be read the former name of the institution and perhaps within it are the records of the society under whose auspices it was laid. Whether the name by which the institution was first known will be cut from the stone, we were not told, but think it would be as well to allow it to remain as the stone is large and nicely cut. That the Lake Shore Seminary, as a sectarian school was a sad failure is very evident. Thousands of dollars had been spent in the erection and fitting up, and good salaries were no doubt paid the professors. It could not meet the claims against it and fell into the hands of the Redemptorists at a mere nominal figure. Many even now think that the Catholics will wind up as disastrously as did the sect under whose control it first opened. They however, who think so, know but very little about the energy of the community which now owns the building. It is to be used by students of the Redemptorist order exclusively, and, therefore, will not depend on the generosity of the public for its support. The people of North East will also find to their great astonishment that a Catholic student is a different creature from the majority of the students that attend sectarian colleges. He is not allowed to do as he pleases. No night walking, or visiting saloons. No dancing, no gambling. He is forced to be at least in appearance a gentleman and his conduct must be exemplary. Thus the new college will be a blessing to the town, and the people will have reason to feel that they have not lost anything by the change. It was a sudden and unexpected change, but perhaps one made for the better.