

ing The Bread.

Old Letters.

(By a Regular Correspondent.)

I have got back again to my letters. This time I feel that I am going to reproduce something which, in the light of events in China and all the far East, during the past twenty years, will prove exceedingly instructive. I may add that the writer—the late Mr. J. M. Fleming—was a military engineer. It was he who, in 1878, built the famous break-water at Alderney, in the Channel Islands; he was stationed then at Southampton, where he had charge of the military and naval engineering corps. In 1879, at Christmas, he was sent to Hong Kong, in China, to superintend the building of a citadel. In 1881 he became ill from the effects of the climate, and had to take a vacation. In 1882 he was obliged to resign and return home. But he died at Singapore on board the troop-ship. I may add that, by marriage, he was an uncle of the writer. The letter I now publish speaks for itself. It will give an idea of the situation in the East that few Occidentals have ever possessed.

Hong Kong Club,
Hong Kong, China,
2nd May, 1881.

My Dear —
The mail steamer leaves for Frisco to-morrow, and I cannot resist the pleasure it gives me of conveying to you the hearty congratulations of your aunt and myself on your recent success and we hope for you a future of prosperity and happiness in the career you have selected.

(Here there is a blank.)

29th May, 1881.

I had got as far as the above on the 2nd, intending to send it next day, but was interrupted at the time, and unfortunately was in bed with fever on the 4th. I had not a very severe attack and came round in about a fortnight. Your aunt and myself then went for a week to the Portuguese settlement at Macow, which is about 60 miles due West of Hong Kong. Until the establishment of the latter place Macow was the only European or other part in China at which foreigners could land or any trade be carried on with the Celestials. The town is built on an island in the delta of the Great River from Canton. The settlement was established in the 16th century. The city is large, and the place, before the British settlement of Hong Kong was established was important and wealthy. There are many splendid Catholic churches there, as in former years all the great religious orders had churches and colleges in the place—the Jesuits, Franciscans, Dominicans, Augustinians, etc., etc.—where the priests were educated for the various missions throughout China and Japan. St. Francis Xavier resided there some time in the college building of his order. The reverse of all I have stated is now, I regret to say, the case. The city still exists, but no track is there of those men. There is a local college in a junk. From affluence and comfort, the poor people (Portuguese) are now in a state of indigence and actual misery. A wretched condition for people with European blood and habits; they cannot in any way compete with the Chinese in manual labor; the latter are so industrious and their wants are so few—no clothes to mention.

We keep five men servants, and at first it used to be rather startling to have a fine, able-bodied man, (the Chinese here are remarkably fine men, indeed superior to Europeans in that respect), with a mere apology of a rag round him, coolly come into our bed-room, while we were in bed, to arrange it; but now we have got so accustomed to it, (as one does in a very short time), that we no more regard their more than semi-nudity, than we would a dog or cat coming in without a shirt or trousers. The fact is that latitude determines what we call modesty in dress; there is no one mind in the least the naked coolies going about. But singular to say, the Chinese female, although she wears trousers, is without doubt the most modestly dressed woman in the world, and would die before she would expose herself as a fashionable European lady would.

But I am entirely depressing. Then for their wants they simply sleep on a board with a wooden pillow and without any clothes. They cook

some rice, and with a small piece of fish, and some vegetable, made very savory—as all Chinamen are born cooks—they live comfortably and cheaply. This brings me back to Macow. The place is in a complete state of decay; the rent of the houses, some very fine ones, is next to nothing. All the religious orders have left, their splendid churches are going to ruins, and I suppose the day is not far off when from more inanity the place will revert to the Chinese. A few European merchants and clerks only remain. This is very sad, but the establishment of Hong Kong has done it all.

A friend of mine, an English officer in the Chinese Customs, brought me for some trips on a gun-boat into the interior, where I had many opportunities of seeing the Chinamen in their home, at their various avocations. We went to see many of the tea plantations. Killed some snakes and lizards of a large size (there was, however, no necessity to go so far for them as we have a great variety in Hong Kong), dredged for shells, collected a few geological specimens and other things interesting to me.

I left you aunt behind me, and came back to Hong Kong, and now feel as well and as strong as ever, thank God. I hope I may remain so, as no doubt a frequent recurrence of the fever must weaken me more and more every time. (Poor fellow—that is just what happened, and in six months from the date of this letter he was dead on board the troop-ship at Singapore.)

Your aunt returned a few days, after thoroughly enjoying herself and is as well as possible. (She, too died; within a year of her husband's death she expired suddenly at the Convent of Mercy, Spittalfields, London.)

The weather is hot, and it is difficult to sleep at night. We sleep on mats, with as little clothing as possible, but well screened from that pest the Mosquito. The screen stops the wretched tormentor and at the same time impedes the very small amount of fresh air that one caught. All the houses here have verandahs from 12 to 16 feet all round; the rooms are large and very lofty, none being less than 15 feet high; the windows are large and they all open folding-wise, in the French fashion, down to the ground with jealousies on the outside. Those on the lower story are closed during the night, but the others are always open, so with the exception of a ceiling being overhead, we may be regarded as living and sleeping in the open air. The houses and everything in connection therewith are built very strongly to enable them to resist the dreaded typhoon which, during the whole of the S. W. Monsoon, which blows during the summer, indeed from one Equinox to another, is the cause of great anxiety to us. We must be very watchful to have everything prepared for its reception. A score of times during the summer we have to get out of bed at all hours, roll up bamboo blinds, in verandahs (we principally live in the verandahs), close the jealousies and windows, and make everything all trim and taut like a ship in a gale, when, after remaining stifled for some hours, the alarm proves false. This has simply to be repeated on the next occasion. No typhoon visited here since our arrival. A very dreadful one occurred in 1874 which along with destroying a large amount of goods, 10,000 persons lost their lives, principally the Chinese river population.

It is really surprising to see great numbers of families born, living and dying in the small boats called scampers, that are principally managed by the wives of the men. A man, his wife and from two to five or six children live and die in this small boat, about 120 feet long, and the numbers who lead this life are almost incredible; perhaps in Hong Kong 20,000, in Canton ten times as many, and so all over China.

Regarding the Chinese characters, it is altogether misrepresented or unknown; there is no doubt their natural intelligence fully equals any European nation, their industry exceeds any nation in the world; it is simply the vanity of Europeans, that causes them to cry down the Chinese; there may be many of their habits repugnant to us, as no doubt many of ours are to them; but this is simply the effect of education. (The following Mr. Fleming underlines doubly.)

When it pleases the Chinese they may and can have any portion of the world they wish for. Physically they are fully equal to any other people. They are a timid race, but not in any way cowards. All they require is discipline, and this they are peculiarly capable of acquiring. They are obedient and patient, and their wants are so few that they can live where much less number would starve. With all the apparent apathy of the people there is a keen watchfulness that is observed by very few Europeans—and when the

energies of such a nation are concentrated on any point they are likely to be successful and their numbers are practically inexhaustible. The sooner the self-styled civilized Powers can realize this fact the safer it will be for their future.

How one is dragged into digressions; nothing was further from my thoughts than writing an essay on the Chinese, and here I have been scribbling some pages while the "raison d'etre" of my letter is not touched on—that is the congratulations sent you by your aunt and myself.

I shall make every exertion to return to Europe via Canada; but should a troop-ship be leaving I cannot select my passage, I shall, however, have eight months leave on my return, and perhaps will devote some of it in paying you a visit.

Your affectionate uncle,

J. M. FLEMING.

A troop-ship did leave, and he left on it. The rest of the story I have told. He was destined to neither see Canada nor ever reach his own home. The readers will, I hope, pardon the length of this letter, but I think it will plead my excuse better than I could do myself.

West End Commercial School.

The closing exercises of the West End Commercial School, St. Martin street, took place Friday, June 19th, at 2 p.m. Rev. Father Donnelly, pastor of St. Anthony's, presided; and a great many of the parents and friends of the boys were present to enjoy the programme prepared for the occasion.

At the close of the entertainment, the members of the Leo Society (a society for the boys of the school), read an address, and presented two pretty vases to their president, Master William Sheedy, in appreciation of the good work done by him for the society during the year.

In replying to the address read to him by the pupils, Father Donnelly advised the boys to be faithful to their school, to grow up with it, and to work to make it a first-class institution. He congratulated Mr. Doherty, the principal, on the progress the boys had made, and he wished the school all success.

The prize list was as follows:—
THIRD FORM.—1st, William Sheedy and Gerald Burns, equal; 2nd, Felix McCormick and George Brown, equal; 3rd, Patrick McBride and Thomas Chappell, equal.

SECOND FORM.—1st, Thomas Hammill and Charles Burns, equal; 2nd, Joseph Doherty, John Taylor and Frank Power, equal; 3rd, Malcolm O'Hara and Thomas Fagan, equal; prizes, Edward Carey, James Ogilvy.

FIRST FORM.—1st, William Corbett; 2nd, Thomas McBride, Gerald Power and Henry Brophy, equal; 3rd, Edward Hanson.

SPECIAL PRIZES.—1st special, donated by Father Donnelly, awarded to William Sheedy, 3rd Form.
2nd special, donated by Father Donnelly, awarded to Geo. Brown, 3rd Form.

3rd special, donated by Mrs. Menzies, awarded to Charles Burns, 2nd Form.

Mr. John Doherty, Mr. R. Valiquette, Mrs. Scully and Mrs. Taylor also donated prizes, with a request that they be given as general prizes.

SENSATIONALISM OF SECULAR PRESS.

An exchange says: Father Nicholson, S.J., in his sermon at St. Ignatius', Stamford Hill, England, recently dealt, among other evil signs of the age, with the license which the secular press allowed to itself in dealing with events which are best left unreported, the scandalous doings of certain persons of high position, and the details of divorce cases. We fear there is a too wide a circle of readers who revel in these particulars to hope for any great reform in the matter, except when the fruits have become so rotten as to threaten the poisoning of the State. Then perhaps will be the day for a reform, whose successful carrying out must be a work of a long time. The sooner the secular press sets about cleaning itself from its drawback of filth, the earlier may we hope for a reasonable change in the public taste.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Ottawa, June 29.

With one day off (Dominion Day) this week and the absence of really hot weather, it is hard to say when the House will close—probably about the third week in July. The principal rumors about all the beginning of the week have concerned the appointment of Senator O'Brien's successor. At the time of writing no authorized statement had been made.

As far as the business of the country goes it would seem as if Mr. Blair's Railway Bill and a few special items in the estimates divided the time with the Redistribution Bill. The place was invaded on Monday last by over six hundred of Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick's constituents from Quebec County. They came with their satchels and umbrellas, and a determination to make merrily. They had the Charlebourg band with them and they visited every place of interest in the Capital. To say they had a good time is to put it very mildly.

Talking of the Redistribution Bill brings me to a remark made by Mr. Costigan at the banquet that he was tendered last week by the Irish people of Ottawa. He said that it might be the last time he would appear before them; meaning that he was not likely to be much longer in public life. Mr. Costigan has represented Victoria, N.B., for over forty-two years. A unique record for a member of Parliament. According to the schedule of the new Bill, as far as it has gone, Victoria is one of the constituencies that is to be effaced. If so he will probably step out of public life with the disappearance of the county that has always elected him, no matter under what circumstances. If the banquet were an affair specially designed by the Ottawa Irishmen the purse of \$1,500 presented as a token of esteem was surely a gift from Irishmen all over Canada. It is for this reason that I do not think it too much to ask you to publish the remarks of the recipient on that occasion. In part Mr. Costigan is thus reported:—

Referring to his political career, which started in 1861, Mr. Costigan said he had always been actuated by the highest motives. That he was no demagog, was proven, he continued, by the fact that in his constituency Irish Catholics were in a very small minority. He reviewed at length his political history, dealing in an interesting manner, with his early struggles in the political arena. He did this to show that he had gained his place in the Commons not as a matter of favor, but as a matter of hard work. Mr. Costigan admitted that in his early years, he was an opponent of Confederation. He was not, he said, a supporter of Sir John Macdonald when he entered the first Parliament after Confederation, but he afterwards became one. Speaking for nearly two hours he told in an interesting manner of the part, or rather parts he played in Canadian politics, throwing light on some points that were hitherto obscure. He strongly refuted the allegation that he was a place hunter or one who had sacrificed party for person. Passing on he said he had refused to join the party that "plotted to oust Mackenzie Bowell" as he put it. He told the proposer that while he might with liberty leave the government it was not his place to attempt to wreck it. He claimed that the worst blow Sir Mackenzie received was in the withdrawal of Mr. Anger, which was a secondary and minor split. Mr. Costigan was forced, he said, to leave the party owing to the duplicity of certain Conservatives and the juggling with the Remedial Bill.

Continuing, he said, appreciatively that he owed much of this success in public life to the support of his French friends. In conclusion he referred appreciatively to the honor done him at the banquet and in the presentation. While always looking after the interests of the Irish Catholic minority, he had never, he said, trespassed on the rights of others. At the same time, he pointed out that unless the minority looks after its own interests, it will be crushed to the wall. Words of gratitude to those that arranged the banquet closed the speech. It was frequently marked with applause.

Amongst those present at the banquet were: J. J. McNulty, J. J. Foley, S. Ebbs, P. Clarke, J. J. Lyons, J. Bennett, Larry O'Connell, William Kearns, president St. Patrick's Literary Society; E. J. Daly, J. Cain,

J. Cleary, George Goodwin, J. Gorman, Rev. Father Murphy, P. Dodd, J. J. Heney, P. Hart, M. Braddy, J. P. Dunne, W. Weir, R. Slattery, John O'Leary, P. Brankin, S. Davidson, T. Caldwell, W. C. McCarthy, J. E. Madigan, M. O'Leary, W. O'Brien, H. Higgerty, Ald. J. C. Enright, T. Smith, P. Graham, J. Lyons, M. F. Walsh, Harry Roche, W. H. Barry, A. Macfarlane, J. Byrnes, P. Tobin, Barry Hayes, P. Mungovan, ex-Ald. Farrell, J. McCormack, Clarke, J. D. Grace, E. P. Stanton, Wm. Lynch, W. Higgerty, D. Harris, Joseph Lyons, D'Arcy McGee, M. J. O'Connor; J. O'Connor and L. Nevins.

A queer incident in regard to the Catholic separate schools took place last week. On the Monday previous the Board fixed the 26th June for the closing of the schools, and a committee was charged to go visit each school a couple of days prior to closing to see what was needed for next year, and to get an idea of the progress made during the year just over. When the trustees made the rounds of the schools they found to their surprise and chagrin that the classes had all been dismissed and the lay teachers had gone away—each on some special mission. The report says:—

"In short the only classes continued up to the day set by the School Board were those conducted by the Grey Nuns and Christian Brothers."

It is quite probable that this may result in a stronger appreciation in the future of the fidelity of the Nuns and Brothers to their duties.

Hull has been going through a regular series of festive events of late. On Sunday evening the young ladies of Notre Dame parish gave a first entertainment with their tombola. The entertainments of the week are being held in the hall, and the banquets in a large marquee tent pitched close by. The banquets are as follows:—

Monday, the clergy, city council and public officials; Tuesday, the young men of the congregation; Wednesday, the fraternal societies; Thursday, the married men of the congregation; Friday, the merchants of the city; Saturday, all the parish.

The loan of the big marquee tent has been obtained from the Militia Department by Rev. Father Forget who has been untiring in his efforts to make the tombola a success. The proceeds will be devoted to paying for the boxes, furniture, scenery and electrical fittings of the hall which have cost \$2,500.

St. Patrick's Church is to have a grand new altar of Our Lady of Good Counsel. It will replace the old and rather plain altar of the Blessed Virgin in the north transept. About 100 miniature banks have been issued to collectors, who are authorized to collect subscriptions and it is intended to have sufficient funds to pay for the new altar before September. The solemn dedication is to take place on Tuesday, the 8th of September, the feast of the nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

His Grace Archbishop Langevin of St. Boniface, Man., officiated at the SS. Peter and Paul ordinations in Holy Family Church, Ottawa East, at 7 o'clock Monday morning.

Rev. Mr. Miraud, who accompanies His Grace, acted as master of ceremonies, and the following received orders:

Priesthood: Rev. Brothers H. E. Ouimet, H. Rivet, E. A. Latulipe and L. Boisseau.

Deaconate: Rev. Brothers J. Bte. Levesque and A. Jalbert.

Minor Orders: Messrs. A. Chaput, R. de Grandpre and J. Giguere.

The mention of Archbishop Langevin and his presence in Ottawa, which is likely only a coincidence, reminds us that the Catholics of Winnipeg, smarting under the unfair treatment they have received, appointed a prominent deputation to visit the Premier of Manitoba, last Saturday. He received them well, but said he could do nothing for them, as his hands were tied, by the agreement signed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Mr. Sifton, in 1896, and which was called "a final settlement" of the Manitoba school question. A meeting was then held on Sunday and a committee appointed to come to Ottawa, and urge the matter before the Dominion authorities. What this will mean is hard to say; it may be the opening up of the entire school question this session. If so the snow will fly before the House is prorogued. At all

events, whosoever said that the question was dead will find that it but awaited a serious resurrection.

The St. Jean Baptiste celebration in Hull last Sunday was the greatest of its kind ever held in the Transpottine city. Over 5,000 French-Canadians took part in the procession, which formed at Lafloche's hall at 9 o'clock in the morning, and marched by way of Lake, Charles, Bridge, Queen and Chaudiere streets, to the Church of the Holy Redeemer, in the Little Farm. Half the crowd could not get in. Very Rev. Canon Bouillon sang High Mass, and Rev. Father Portelance, O.M.I., of the Sacred Heart parish, Ottawa, preached an eloquent sermon on "Patriotism." After Mass the procession reformed and went by St. Etienne, St. Henri and Adelaide streets, to the baseball grounds.

DOMINION DAY

(By a Regular Contributor.)

On Wednesday last we celebrated the thirty-sixth anniversary of our Dominion's birth. On the 1st July, 1867, the Act was proclaimed in force which established the Confederate system under which we now live. The provinces then agreeing were combined in a grand federation, and the avenue was open for all other provinces and territories to enter into the same political and national association; just as soon as their desires were expressed, or their development warranted. This is then the commemoration of a wonderful epoch in Canadian history and has, therefore, become a national holiday.

If we look back over those thirty-six years we are astonished at the progress that has marked each succeeding decade. Possibly only a very few of those who were foremost in the country's affairs at that time are now alive; certainly the Fathers of Confederation, with a few rare exceptions, have vanished from the scene. But their work remains to tell to future generations what class of men they were. When we contemplate the increase in our population, the expansion of our cities, the opening up of new regions for the colonists, the systems of navigation over our great lakes, through our canals, and along our water-highways, the network of railways flung across the face of the entire country, the binding of Atlantic to Pacific by an iron band that is indissoluble, the establishment of an unimpeded highway from Europe to the far Orient, the extension of our works of exploration and settlement into the heart of the Laurentians over the rolling prairies, across the Rockies, up to the Arctic circle; when we study and meditate with all these facts before us, the mind is lost in wonderment and we began to ask ourselves if the history of the Canadian Confederation is a reality or merely another edition of the Arabian Nights adapted to modern conception and thought.

Then we see the blending of so many elements, religious, racial, provincial and otherwise, in one great entity, and high over their union the flag of peace floating. No wonder that the Canadian is so proud of his land and feels that all other lands are limited, are small in comparison. We have such magnificent distances, such unbounded possibilities, such untold hidden wealth, that it is almost like the dreams of Monte Cristo to conjure up visions of what the country will be when Canadians celebrate the Dominion's fiftieth birthday. And this is no idle boasting. The world has only commenced to properly awaken to the realization of Canadian importance. It is, therefore, with a sense of national pride, such as each race carries in its ancestors, that we commemorate that day. Our prayer is that Canada may be long saved from the countless ills of other lands to go on in her course of prosperity, ever climbing the slopes of national greatness, until she reaches the summit—a great Dominion Day that the world will join her celebrating.

ELECTRIC LIGHT FOR CATHEDRAL.

A new electric lighting system is being installed in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York. Each of the pillars will have sixty-four bulbs, and about one thousand lights will be placed about the altar, making about five thousand new lights in all.