Mental Advancement.

What's in a name? In the subject of this paper, quite a good deal. At the outset it might as well be stated that there is a serious difference about the name itself. Many excellent authorities would prefer to style the period about to be examined "The Middle Ages," rather than "The Dark Ages." A very convenient and oftentimes successful means of discrediting an institution or a system is to fasten upon it an ugly name. If the name remains and becomes firmly fixed in the popular mind it is not an easy task to remove the false impression that it conveys. History furnishes den burst of the tempest, it instantly abundant proofs of the truth of this arose again in all its pride and all its sestatement. Prejudice and passion have frequently gained their desired ends by such unworthy methods. It is needless ism." And this writer sums up by sayto cite instances, since they are of almost
daily occurrence. This method of attack
paper fought the battle of freedom and is a most deadly weapon in the skilful' hands of unscrupulous persons. It has Review.)
been used with an unenviable success in That the Church put forth strenuous been used with an unenviable success in many notable cases by the adversaries of the Catholic Church. Let us take this instance of "The Dark Ages." The first question that presents itself is this: Are those ages properly called dark? Rather is not the name due to prejudice? Again, one might fairly enquire, was the darkness absolute or merely relative? Before entering upon the main question, which is not as much as hinted at in the name, yet is uppermost in the minds of the Church lowers. It is searcely necessary to say that such as a such as su many,—the responsibility of the Church that such avocations are detrimental, if for the foul and evil deeds done in the darkness,—it may be well to dispose at once of the preliminary questions.

The scarcesy necessary to say that such avocations are detrimental, if not entirely fatal to the pursuit of knowledge, science, and art. Nor need we wonder if under those circumstances There need be no difficulty in admitting, though the name is chiefly due to religious rancor, that the centuries between the fall of the Western Empire (476) and the Renaissance were, relative to the the darkness are

NOT DIFFICULT TO DISCOVER. They may be summed up in the follow-

irruption of the barbarians from the North, and the invasion of the S raceus from the East; the introduction of the fendal system; the limited number of books; and the great, almost insurmountable difficulty of spreading thus: "And the aforesaid Lord has de-knowledge prior to the time that the art clared that he did not know how to sign of printing was invented. These were his name, owing to his being a noblethe main causes of the intellectual and man." moral darkness that settled over the face of Europe during this period. Were it not that the Church is charged with being responsible for the condition of European society during those ages' there would be little, if any, controversy on the propriety of the name. Historians of great weight, those who have written in an unfriendly spirit as well as those who were disposed to deal rather leniently with the record that is left us of the "Dark Ages," are agreed that the Catholic Church fought during those ages, against great odds, the buttle freedom and Christian civilization. Instead of censure, she is deserving of all praise; instead of adding to the darkness all her efforts were put forth to dispel the gloom. Never did the

Let us look for a moment at the state mappire. We shall be thus enabled to see the nature of the great work and its extent that the Church had on bands. We shall thus be enabled to understand, in some measure, how fierce and desperate was the fight that Christianity had to wage against barbarism.

mistorians for the true facts of history.

To establish the fact that the Church that the Church was then, as row, the earnest advocate and promoter of education among the masses, it is only necessary to refer the reader to the acts of various councils, the letters of the contract of the man as he entered a restaurant. "He has gone home to dinner, sir," replied the waiter.

Like a rotten colossus the mighty structure of pagan power and pagan civilization crumbled to pieces when the means disposed to be friendly or even the first symptoms appear. shock of barbarian invasion burst upon it. Chaos covered the face of Europe, and out of that chaos the Church had to mould a new and better order of things.
The material with which this vast work
was to be done was poor indeed. There
was a debris of a fallen empire, and the rough, untained hordes of Northmen. It was into that rude mass the Catholic Church breathed the spirt of her divine founder; the result was the modern nations of Europe. To be sure it was a slow and tedious process; a

### HARD AND STUBBORN

fight; difficulties were encountered on every side; the outlook at times was very dark and discouraging: it almost seemed as if the hour had come when the powers of darkness were to succeed; when vice was to take the place of virtue; sin and evil were everywhere to abound; that the Lord had forgotten His Charch; that the end of the world was at hand. But after long and patient Capital Prize, One Real Estate worth \$15,000.00 waiting the light of the new era began to appear; order came out of the chaos; and the triumph of the Church was compiete.

The course of the Church during this period is well compared by Archbishop Spaulding to that of the ark of old, riding triumphant amid a second deluge of waters, and bearing in her bosom the sacred seeds of civilization; which, when those dark waters should subside, she was again to scatter broadcast on the surface

of the earth. From the fifth to the eleventh century the Church labored unceasingly for the conversion of the new races. She saw them enter, nation by nation, within the pale of Christian civilization; her gentle spirit softened their lierceness and thirst for bloodshed; their savage, uncouth manners were improved; fraternal charity and the principles of the Chris-tian religion were instilled into their minds and hearts.

Here it will not be out of place to cite the language of non-Catholic writers as to the influence of the Church, and it was the only influence at work during those years. "Though seemingly enslaved, the Church," says a writer in the North American Review (July, 1845), "was in reality the life of Europe. She was the retuge of the distressed the friend of the slave, the helper of the injured, the only hope of learning. To ner chivalry owed its noble inspirations; to her art and agriculture looked for every improvement. The ruler from her learn-

faith and obedience. Let us not cing period in every country of Europe. to the superstition which teaches that Charlemagne founded public schools in the Church has always upheld the cause of tyrants. Through the Middle Ages, The schools and colleges of Ireland were of tyrants. Through the Middle Ages, she was the only friend and advocate of the people and

THE RIGHTS OF MAN."

this period, writes:—"From the fifth to the minth century, the barbarian element of force and violent movement were predominant, because horde followed horde. as wave follows wave, and one race of the conquerors had scarcely established itself in a country when it was forced to take up his residence in the monasmake room for another. But amid all these changes and conversions, the Church remained firm and unshaken of science into the darkest and most relike a gallant ship in the stormy ocean, it rode proudly over the billows, and, though it sometimes bowed before a sudarose again in all its pride and all its security. maintained the struggle against barbarcivilization." (The Foreign Quarterly

trade and commerce were almost un-known. The nobility of that period de-spised the very idea. It was rare to find a noble who was able to write his name. Just as in this age wealth and the desire ages that preceded the one event and of riches occupy an undue share of men's those that succeeded the other, dark or menlightened. The causes that led to a harbarous people predominate in the Middle Ages. As a consequence, ignorance and nobility, as then understood, were combined

IN THE SAME PERSON.

We need not be surprised if men went so far as to even boast of their want of learning. Deeds and legal instruments of this period are found which terminate his name, owing to his being a noble-

Surely it must have been an herculean task for the Church, and no other power was capable of doing it, to mould and change a state of society like this. It required centuries to do it. But the work was accomplished in the end. It ill becomes us who live in a more enlightened and progressive age to grow impatient of the slow process, or to be too ready to censure the Church which was, in truth, t'us savior of society during the darkest period of the Dark Ages. We are too prone to judge the past by the present; not to make sufficient allowance, nor properly estimate the circumstances of the time. And we commit a greater follow still if we were to accept as the truth to suffer from exposure than the police, the prejudiced opinions of writers who But as an example of how they get rid about the beauties of color, as to take cation of St. Jacobs Oil, which cured for granted the assertions of prejudiced historians for the true feature historians. For the true feature historians. popes urging the clergy to devote all atsumption if cold in the head and catarrh tention to the instruction of youth. This were not neglected. Nasal Balm is a is admitted by Hallam, who is by no certain cure and should be applied when fair in his judgments of things Catholic.

ed some rude justice; the rule, learned | ninth and tenth centuries—the darkest so well known, at this time, for their learning and picty as to merit for her

THE PROUD TITLE

And another Protestant reviewer, of of the "Insula doctorum et sauctorum." Veregil, who became bishop of Salzburg; Shell, abbet of Kildare; Dungal, lecturer at Pavia, and others no less noted, were Irish scholars trained in native schools. The famous John Scotus Erigena, an Irishman, left the great school of Clonard to take up his residence in the monasof science into the darkest and most re-

mote corners of Europe in those days.

Nor were France and Germany without their schools. Flourishing seats of earning were to be found in the former gain in all its pride and all its se-For four centuries it alone ined the struggle against barbar-of Bec were widely known. It was over this school of Bee that Lanfranc and his more illustrious pupil, Anselm, presided. IS needed Both became archbishops of Canterbury. In Germany there were prosperous schools at Lieges, Fulda, Hildesheim,

for the cultivation of the arts and virtues of peace, she established the "Truce of God." It was in those dark ages gothic architecture made its first appearance; and it was then the foundations of some of the most splendid gothic churches of Europe were laid, a living refutation of the charge that the Catholic Church was the ally of medieval darkness. Missionaries were sent forth in those same dark ages to spread the truth of the gospel among the inhabitants of northern Europe.

Now, if all this was done, -making full illowance for the great difficulties that stood in the way,—it constitutes a record of which the Church need not be ashamed.

Lord Tennyson, in a fitful mood, calls ur own times dark :

For these are the new dark ages of the . intidel press.

Most persons refuse to accept the quali-fying word as applicable to this present quite as black as they are painted in the popular mind; and that the Church Catholic was then, as it is now, and always shall be, the light of the world? This is the verdict of history rightly in-

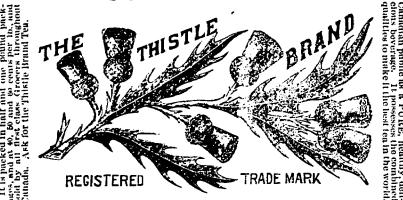
A Chief of Police.

There is no body of men more liable forth to dispel the gloom. Never did the Church so signally vindicate her claims to be the light of the world and the savior of society than at this vory period.

But as an example of now the get in of their maladies, the following is cited: Green Island, N.Y., U.S.A., Feb. 11, 1889; the Catholic Church. As well might one give credence to a blind man discoursing puriod. But as an example of how they get rid

Schools were in existence in the eighth. Tall talk-High words.

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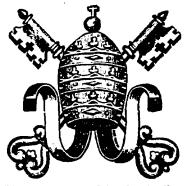


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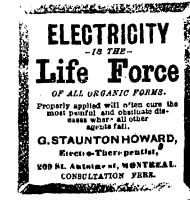
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Eighth Montnly Drawing, February 11th. \$52,740.00 Prizes, value,

LIST OF PRIZES.

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Deswings take place on the second Wednesday of every month at 10% e'clock A.M., at tead Office, 81 S., James Street, Montreal Canada. It is offered to redeem all Prizes in each, less a commission of Five per cent. Winners'

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The series of fifty numbers on each side of the numbers drawing the three largest prizes will ### The series of lifty numbers on each side of side o

APPROXIMATION PHIZES

MODE OF DRAWING.

Note.—The 1,993 Prizes of \$5.00 are determined by the two terminal figures of the Numbers drawing respectively the two capital Prizes of \$15.000 and \$5.000. For example: If the number drawing the \$15.000 prize ends with 20, then all other tickets where the numbers ends with 20 will be entitled to a \$5.00 prize. Similarly, if, for example, the number drawing the \$5.000 prize end with 33, then all other tickets where the number ends with 33 will be satisfied to a \$5.00 prize.

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