

Mr. R. Dissette, of the Empire Hotel, Toronto, was visiting in this city early this week, and returned to his home by Thursday's train.

The "commencement" (not a misnomer this time) or opening exercises of St. Mary's Academy will take place next Monday evening at 7:30.

Two unwise young Catholics who had got married by a Protestant minister, made their peace with the Church and their public apology last Sunday afternoon at the French service in St. Mary's.

During Father Cherrier's absence at Eli, where he blessed the cornerstone of the new church, Father Drummond preached last Sunday at High Mass in the Immaculate Conception Church on the use of the Rosary, showing how it contained the best vocal prayers lifted to a higher level by meditation on the principal scenes of Our Lord's life, that life which transforms the world.

The street car tracks are already laid from Norwood to the Grey Nun Mother House and the work is advancing rapidly.

Mr. Menu is the new postmaster of St. Boniface. He has not yet received permission to pay money orders or postal notes.

Rev. Father Chaumont, of St. Laurent, was here on Tuesday.

BLESSING OF A CORNER STONE.

The Catholics of Eli, on the C.P.R., must feel proud of the progress which has marked that locality during the last decade. It had been considered a great achievement when some years ago an enterprising settler, Mr. Dufresne, assisted by the Rev. Father Cherrier, succeeded in establishing a school at Eli; but how much greater an achievement to the glory of God and our holy religion will not the church now under way of erection, prove to be when completed. The blessing of the corner-stone of that new edifice took place last Sunday, and, in the absence of His Grace, was presided over by the Rev. Father Cherrier, who preached both in French and English. The Rev. Father highly complimented the Rev. Father Campeau, the priest in charge, and congratulated the parishioners on their zeal and energy. The fact that another church in the same parish had had its corner-stone blessed some two weeks ago, and a convent-school is practically completed there also, more than proves what good will can accomplish where there is union of forces under one directing head. The Rev. Father Campeau, who is only a few years at St. Eustache, to which Eli for the time being is united, has succeeded beyond all expectation in these various religious enterprises for the simple reason that his parishioners have understood and appreciated his untiring zeal and devotedness. The collections taken at mass and at the blessing of the corner-stones both at St. Eustache and Eli brought in the most gratifying results. May the good people of St. Eustache and Eli persevere in their generosity and obedience to their pastor and before long two fine churches will stand as lasting monuments of their spirit of faith and piety.

In the evening of the same day there was a reception of quite a number of members of the Society of St. Ann in the parish church of St. Eustache. The Rev. Father Cherrier preached an impressive sermon on the duties of the Christian wife and mother.

The Rev. Father Campeau must feel proud of the success of his labors at St. Eustache, and we are sure that often his heart must open to gratefulness to God who thus blesses him in his pastoral work, and to the dear Father Martin, who, during the many years of his stay as parish priest at St. Eustache, has so well prepared the way to his successor.

PROMINENT FAMILIES.

The "old county families" which we meet in English novels, are mostly missing in the United States. In recompense there are the "prominent families." To be prominent in a dead level of 80,

000,000 is a difficult art. Yet the "Summer Social Register" for this summer gives "the country, foreign and yachting addresses" of "the prominent families" of New York, Washington, Philadelphia, Chicago, Baltimore, Buffalo and St. Louis. There are 7,518 prominent families and only 676 yachts. While the number of yachts shows a gratifying gain since last year, it is still deplorably small. Not even every tenth prominent family owns a yacht. Can a family be considered really and truly prominent if it has no yacht or regular yachting address? The census of prominent families has been padded shamefully. The next edition of the "Summer Social Register" should distinguish between yachting families and prominent families.—Everybody's Magazine.

ARCHBISHOP RYAN'S LATEST JOKE.

Here is the latest witticism attributed to Archbishop Ryan, of Philadelphia:

It appears that Bishop Messmer, Bishop Dunne and Bishop Glennon were on the list for the coadjutorship to the Archbishop of St. Louis. Bishop Messmer and Bishop Dunne wear beards. When finally Bishop Glennon received the appointment, Archbishop Ryan wrote congratulating him, and concluded his letter with: "Let me tell you that you got the appointment by a close shave."

"NIL DESPERANDUM."

No, never! Every cloud has a lining; and He who wove it knows when to turn it out. So, after every night, however long or dark, there shall yet come a golden morning. Your noblest powers are never developed in prosperity. Any bark may glide in smooth water, with a favoring gale; but that is a brave, skilful oarsman who rows up stream, against the current, with adverse winds, and no cheering voice to wish him "God speed." Keep your head above the wave; let neither sullen despair, nor weak vacillation drag you under. Heed not the poisoned arrow of sneaking treachery that whizzes past you from the shore. Judas sold himself when he sold his Master; and for him there dawned no resurrection morning! 'Tis glorious to battle on with a brave heart, while covering pusillanimity turns trembling back. Dream not of the word "surrender!" When one frail human reed after another breaks, or bends beneath you, lean on the "Rock of Ages." The Great Architect passes you through the furnace but to purify. The fire may scorch, but it shall never consume you. He will yet label you "fine gold."

The narrow path may be thorny to your tender feet; but the "promised land" lies beyond! The clusters of hope may be seen with the eye of faith; your hand shall yet grasp them; your eyes revel, from the mountain top, over the green pastures and still waters of peace. You shall yet unbuckle your dusty armor, while soft breezes shall fan your victor temples. "Nil desperandum!"—Catholic Citizen.

A MARK OF VULGARITY.

Vulgarity marks the man who is given to backbiting and unreflecting slander, to the glad propagation of scandalous stories respecting people of whom he can know nothing. It gives a certain sense of superiority to be able to thus besmirch the ermine of those who are set in high places and whose moral influence depends on their fame. If they are of such base material, what may not be pardoned to the confessedly coarser clay? And are not the lesser fry in their own small way superior to these grander fellows? So think vulgar-minded retailers of scandalous stories. Those, too, who belittle their friends and acquaintances come into the same category.—Selected.

THE OLDEST BISHOP IN CHRISTENDOM.

The prelates of Irish blood are remarkably long lived. The great Archbishop of Tuam, John Mac-Hale, was the oldest bishop at the Vatican Council, and was for many years the oldest bishop in the Universal church. Once again, since

the death of the well beloved Holy Father Leo XIII., it seems that the honor of being the eldest bishop in Christendom belongs to an Irishman. He is the Most Reverend Daniel Murphy, Archbishop of Hobart, Tasmania.

Dr. Murphy was born in Cork on June 18, 1815, the very day that saw the overthrow of Napoleon at Waterloo. He made his studies at Ma nouth and was ordained priest on June 9, 1838. Going as a missionary to Hindoostan, he became Coadjutor to the Vicar-Apostolic of Madras in 1846, the year in which Leo XIII. was made archbishop of Perugia. Subsequently he was appointed bishop of Hyderabad, India, and was transferred to Tasmania in 1866. Thus the venerable octogenarian was a prelate in Australasia before Boyle O'Reilly was taken thither as a convict, and before Gavan Duffy became Prime Minister of Victoria.

The Archbishop of Hobart is still strong and vigorous and as active as he was thirty years ago. The latest Australian exchanges inform us that he was doing arduous missionary labors on the wild west coast of Tasmania on the occasion of his eighty-eighth birthday, though he has had as Coadjutor, since 1893, the Most Reverend Patrick Delaney, formerly professor in All Hallows' College, Dublin.

A splendid record is that of this Irish missionary. A priest for 65 years, a bishop for 57, what magnificent work he must have done for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. It is to be hoped that Pius X. will elevate him to the Cardinalate.—San Francisco Leader

ANOTHER AMERICAN CARDINAL.

The assumption of many Catholics that another cardinal's hat will soon come to this country, may prove as unwarranted as that any of the prelates named as the destined recipient shall be so honored. Of course, nobody, whether cleric or layman, has any positive information upon the latter subject that he is free to reveal. The other day an esteemed contemporary printed a special from New York affirming that some one had stated with much positiveness that "so many days" will not elapse before His Grace, Archbishop Farley, will be made a prince of the Church. The statement is necessarily an opinion, with no element of fact, as clearly implied in the sundry reasons accompanying it in proof of its truth. That Archbishop Ryan, or Archbishop Ireland or Archbishop Williams has been selected for the honor can be supported by very cogent reasons also.

In regard to the belief that a second American cardinal is about to be created, does it not assume too much to think that, whatever were the reasons for which Leo XIII. did not appoint a successor in the sacred college to Cardinal McCloskey, these reasons were removed by Pope Leo's death? If these reasons were wholly the "certain delicate questions" that hindered Pope Leo from establishing a cardinalate in New York, as alleged in the dispatch quoted, it seems a remarkable coincidence that they have ceased to be a hindrance so soon after the interment of him whom they hindered. If, however, the coincidence was of the accidental character and that such reasons as influenced Pope Leo are now no longer operative, it is still probable that Pius X. will deem it due to his predecessor in St. Peter's chair, not to seem precipitate in reversing what appears to have been Leo's policy concerning the matter, and defer the anticipated action for a year or two.—Boston Republic.

THE DARK AGES.

A correspondent of the Holy Cross Magazine (Anglican), after describing a visit to Dorchester, England, where a beautiful abbey church, founded by St. Birinus, is being restored at great personal sacrifice by the Anglican vicar, is moved to say:—

"This (Dark Ages) is one of the most vicious and misleading terms that has ever been applied to any period of history. I use the words advisedly. Our whole conception of the Middle Ages is distorted on account of this word 'dark.' We think that the people were sunk in superstition and idolatry, whereas the missionary spirit never shone so

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brightly since the days of the Apostles as it did then. These same 'Dark Ages' produced some of the greatest thinkers, whose writings are still read with profit and pleasure; produced buildings which are still the wonder and delight of the beholder. And, what is more significant, they produced saints—men who, like the blessed Apostle, were in journeyings often, who gave up everything to carry the Gospel to the heathen. There were no missionary societies behind their backs to guarantee their living. . . . We are told that the old monkish missionaries were mistaken, but they did the work for the kingdom in a manner which we can but feebly imitate."

THE DRUG HABIT.

We think that most people who have given the matter any thought will agree with the "Medical Record" when it declares that the means of obtaining powerful drugs is at the present time too easy.

The drugs used are many and various, and not difficult to procure. A large number of them are sold over the counter of a druggist's store, as ordinary articles of commerce, among which are the bromides, and other drugs which have a similar action. Such sedative agents have an insidious effect, for while on the one hand they diminish pain and decrease irritability, on the other hand they lessen the vigor of the organism, alter the quality of the blood for the worse, and tend to shorten life.

There is no doubt but that the opinion among the members of the medical profession throughout the world is identical upon this point, says the "Record," "that laws with respect to the sale of such drugs should be made far stricter than they now are, and further, should be stringently enforced. Drunkenness is probably decreasing, but the drug habit, which is more harmful in every way, is making rapid strides."—Boston Review.

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