

THE TRUE WITNESS

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE
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WEDNESDAY.....JULY 30, 1890.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

WEDNESDAY, July 30, St. Aiden Sennen M.M.
THURSDAY, July 31, St. Ignace Loyola Conf.
FRIDAY, Aug. 1, St. Peter's chains.
SATURDAY, Aug. 2, St. Alphonsus Ligouri, Doctor.
SUNDAY, Aug. 3, tenth after Pentecost. Finding St. Stephen's relics.
MONDAY, Aug. 4, St. Dominic Conf.
TUESDAY, Aug. 5, St. Oswald King and Mart.

RACE, Chagrin, Mortification and Despair. For brief definitions of these words see dictionary. For elaborations see the comments of the Mercier organ in Quebec on the Montmorency election.

The Quebec Telegraph states that Mr. Blaisé will be the leader of the Opposition in the Legislature. The position as matters stand is, in view of the fact that Mr. Robertson is not able to accept it, almost by right certainly by courtesy. But we trust that Mr. Flynn will yet be able to take the lead.

The House Committee have come to the conclusion that the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway, &c., were military projects hostile to the United States. It is too bad that the ferocious Canadian lamb should never cease, rampaging, to muddy the water on the unending and mild mannered American lumps.

The fight for Catholic rights in educational matters is not confined to any particular community. Everywhere the enemies of the Church seek to undermine her influence by oppressive measures relating to education. Even in far away New Zealand the battle is going on. The Tablet published there says in a recent issue:—

The Catholics of New Zealand provide, at their own expense, an excellent education for their own children. Yet such is the sense of justice and policy in the New Zealand Legislature that it compels these Catholics, after having made provision for their own children, to contribute largely towards the free and godless education of other children! This is tyranny, oppression and plunder.

There are only five Central American Republics at war with each other, the Argentine Republic enjoying the blessings of a typical South American revolution. Obill with something similar impending and distrust and uncertainty pervading the whole Southern continent. Lord Canning's mischievous meddling which led to the growth of the scrubby horde of debased governments which afflict a magnificent country, is producing fruits which he probably never dreamt of. The ultimate result of the doings of the deteriorated and deteriorating Latin races which scourge South America is an unpleasant subject to reflect on. However the contemplation of the ugly picture ought to make Canadians thank heaven for their own liberties, stalwart constitution and slow but sure progress.

To redeem the City of New York from the municipal degradation into which it has fallen may seem an impossibility. The sending a few corrupt politicians into Sing Sing and a few more into exile seems rather to have scooped the snake than to have killed it. The fugitives have returned unscathed, and it will only be a logical termination of the whole affair to see the convicts restored to their previous high and honorable positions in society. It cannot be forgotten that the infamous Tammany ring was lately able to defeat an honorable Mayor and to substitute one of the people that body so de lights to honor. Much may be accomplished by a good Mayor, however, and it will be well for New York if the efforts to elect Mr. Henry Clews are successful. His position is such as will render him proof against all temptation. As a leading financier, it will be in his interest to promote honest dealing and to maintain inviolate the good name of the City of New York, the commercial capital of the United States. If elected it is to be hoped he will do more and endeavor to clear out of their dens the horde of banditti who have so long made the name of New York, in its civic administration, a hissing and a by-word.

The Montmorency Election.

The election of a member for the House of Commons in the County of Montmorency resulted in the return of Mr. Desjardins, Conservative, over his opponent, Mr. Ervot, by a majority of forty-four votes.

Montmorency.

The election in the County of Montmorency for a member of the Dominion Parliament must have been a surprise to the advocates of unrestricted reciprocity, and a set back to those who imagined that sectional and fanatical appeals to prejudice were sufficient to sway the people in any constituency in this Province. Mr. Langlois, M.P., who had represented that electoral district since the last general election, resigned to become a member of the Local Legislature, with the prospect of a portfolio, which he has since secured. He suc-

ceeded in ousting Mr. Desjardins, the former member, defeating him by over two hundred of a majority. It was looked upon as a foregone conclusion that the federal seat, vacated by Mr. Langlois, would be filled by another follower of Hon. Mr. Laurier. This result was anticipated, all the more, when it was announced that Mr. Desjardins, just defeated for the Local House, was to be the standard-bearer of the National Policy party in the Division. Mr. Ervot, a wealthy merchant, with large family connections and business interests in the constituency, was put forward as the candidate of the Opposition. His platform, advocated by the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Laurier, was unrestricted reciprocity, and he was aided by the most fanatical appeals through the Mercier organs—appeals which, if persisted in much longer, will make of this Province anything but an enviable place for lovers of peace and good will to live in, and an object of scorn and contempt for outsiders. The campaign was a regular pitched battle between the two parties in this part of the Dominion, and the defeated Desjardins of yesterday is the triumphant Desjardins of to-day. The new member has a brilliant and useful record behind him as a member of the Local Legislature of Quebec, and he will be an acquisition of more than ordinary value to the Parliament of the Dominion.

Behring Sea Difficulty.

The correspondence between the Imperial and the United States Governments on the Behring Sea dispute, has been laid before the public. As yet the documents, in complete form, have not reached the Canadian press, but sufficient has been forwarded through the telegraphic despatches to show that there is serious difference of opinion between the high contending parties. Mr. Blaisé, the American Secretary of State, has shown his usual skill in making the best of a bad case. His position is utterly untenable on the real issues, but he seeks by avoiding the question, and appealing to Russian pretension, which the United States always protested against, to bolster up the contentions now put forth by his Government. The case is one which can only be settled now by arbitration. An impartial tribunal would make quick work of the "closed sea" doctrine, and justice to both parties be done. Perhaps what the United States, or, we should say, the huge monopoly that wishes to have sole control of the seal fisheries, does not want is justice. The New York World thus sums up the position of affairs on this burning question:

The correspondence on the Behring Sea difficulty has one very serious defect. There is no common ground on which the correspondents stand. Mr. Blaisé has made the most of a bad case, and Lord Salisbury has been doing what he can for a power which he does not really represent. Our own Government is bound by absurd Congressional action, while Great Britain's power in Canadian matters is wholly theoretical.

Mr. Blaisé inherited a bad case, which Mr. Bayard managed by carefully abstaining from doing anything disagreeable so long as negotiations were pending. The case of the United States is based upon a claim of Russia which was disputed by our own Government and is asserted in a statute, and in a law which has many of the features of a very rich.

Both the Cleveland and Harrison administrations have had to face this statute and this contract while recognizing the fact that the claim to jurisdiction to this open sea is untenable. Mr. Bayard maintained friendly negotiations with Great Britain because the administration which he represented was an intelligent comprehension of the truth of the situation. British sealers were seized diplomatically, but were not treated as pirates. But Mr. Blaisé had a much more difficult problem. While he was trying to arrange matters peaceably he found that the President was antagonizing his efforts, and that he was wanted by an order of the Secretary of the Treasury which the British Government is compelled to resent; for Lord Salisbury could not maintain any negotiation whatever unless he held a seizure of a British sealer by an American cruiser to be an illegal interference with British subjects who were pursuing a legitimate enterprise.

Mr. Blaisé, having nothing very substantial to contend for, has done his best and has made about every claim possible except one that was suggested by a very silly organ—viz., that the United States twenty years ago "bought the seals" which are now swimming in the vasty deep. At the same time the weakness of the British position is very apparent. It comes to no conclusion except to give the consent of the province. If Congress should repeal the law on which the seal-catching monopoly is based, and Canada should set up in business for itself, an agreement might be reached.

Exactly so. If Canada would only cut adrift from the Mother Country an agreement might be reached, but then it might not, and, in that case, where would Canada find herself? The United States has not proved itself so friendly to this country, that we should place ourselves at the mercy of its Government quite so unceremoniously. If the great republic to the South desires to gain the affections of the Canadian people, and everyone that knows anything is aware that the great object of American statesmanship is to compass the annexation of this Dominion, they had better change their tactics. Threats of retaliation for merely imaginary offences on the part of Canada, hostile tariffs, illegal seizures of Canadian vessels in Behring Sea, petty attempts to cripple the railway systems, and much more that we might enumerate, may not only worry us but cause us pecuniary loss; such a line of conduct is not likely, however, to stamp out Canadian patriotism or to coax us into the arms of Uncle Sam. Mr. Blaisé's white about the Imperial Government paying too much attention to the claims of Canada, will strengthen the hands of those who, in this country, have always maintained that we, while enjoying the blessings of Home Rule, are still valued as a most important factor of the Imperial family, one for which a blow will be struck in case of need. We feel that our rights are perfectly safe, and that all will be well in due time. Meanwhile, it is proper to note the temper of the people on the other side of the lines. Ex-Secretary Bayard was interviewed a few days ago on the subject of the recently published correspondence, and among other things he said:

"I am pleased to see that the matter has reverted to the condition in which I left it on my retirement from the State Department. Mr. Blaisé is entirely right when he says that Lord Salisbury accepted and agreed to the conditions proposed by the United States. I am not disposed to criticize my own Government in a controversy with a foreign power. Even though I may hold opinions differing from those of the Administration, the fact that I was severely criticized does not furnish me with a rule of action in such matters. In concluding the conversation, the Ex-Secretary said: "I sincerely trust my countrymen will not let the serious difficulty in which the matter is involved."

country, for the purpose of securing a miserable party advantage, would do well to meditate upon the observations of Mr. Bayard, who is not disposed to criticize his own Government in a controversy with a foreign power, even though he holds views different from those of the Administration. It may be said, to the credit of the people of the United States, that they stand up for their own country first, last and always, and it is high time that all Canadians should do the same.

That Cabinet Office.

The friends of the Hon. Mr. Mercier were all of one mind a few days ago that as His Mightiness was to spend sometime in Montreal, holding cabinet councils, he would profit by the occasion to select his Irish Catholic member of the cabinet. The joyful intelligence had spread far and wide. The Irish Canadian, of Toronto, although dubious about the matter, gave currency to the report as follows:

"So Mr. Mercier is going to do his Irish friends justice at last. Well, he has been a long time thinking about it; but we suppose there will be no hitch at the meeting mentioned above, and that before it terminates our compatriots in Quebec will have been recognized in the person of an Irish Catholic honored with a seat in Mr. Mercier's Cabinet."

The cabinet meeting was held, the same was duly adjourned, the members thereof repaired, as we are told, to the fish and game club, and were there royally regaled at the expense of Hon. Mr. Boyer, minister without portfolio, but nary a hint even about the Hibernian standard-bearer of the future. Mr. Mercier appears to be in no particular hurry about the appointment. Why should he? His Irish apologists in different parts of the Province are always ready to forge excuses for him. Some of these enthusiastic admirers of the Premier will have a sad awakening when they realize fully "the ways that are dark and the tricks that are vain" of their leader. Mr. Mercier has gone to recruit his health at "Old Orchard." If he will not give us a cabinet representative now, will he after having renewed his mental vigor at the beach, tell an expectant public why he got rid of the People's Jimmy?

THE ALLEGED ROYAL COMMISSION.

Its Powers Severely Defined.

In the Case of Messrs Whelan, Tarte and Pacaud by the Superior Court.

Mr. Justice Warrle gave judgement on Friday last on the writ of prohibition taken by Messrs. Whelan, Tarte and Pacaud against Messrs. Belue and Malenik, Royal Commissioners, who threatened them with imprisonment if they refused to answer certain questions put to them when called up as witnesses in the Whelan Pacaud bundle case. The judge first took up the case of Mr. Tarte, upon which he pronounced judgement which also applies to the cases of Messrs. Whelan, and Pacaud. "Three questions," he said, "present themselves for adjudication under the issues raised. 1st. Whether the matter to be investigated is contained in the category of subject mentioned in Article 586 of the Revised Statutes, and consequently whether or not the commissioners have the power purported to be conferred by Article 586 to enforce the attendance of witnesses and compel them to give evidence."

2. Whether the Legislature had the power to enact the last mentioned article and to confer upon commissioners appointed to conduct inquiries concerning public matters and upon the boards and officers mentioned in article 587, the same power as is vested in courts of law in civil cases to enforce the attendance of witnesses and to compel them to give evidence. 3. Whether, if the two previous questions be resolved in the affirmative, the questions put to the complainant was pertinent to the enquiry and therefore one which the complainant could be compelled to answer."

The learned judge then considered the first point, and held that ordinary Royal Commissioners had only the right to take the evidence of willing witnesses. When expressly empowered by an Act of Parliament a Commission could, however, compel the attendance of witnesses and give evidence. The Commission had been given the Lieutenant Governor by the Legislature of Quebec in article 586 of the revised statutes. This article provides that whenever the Governor-in-Council deems it expedient to cause enquiries to be made into matters connected with the good Government of the Province, the conduct of any part of the public business or the administration of justice, he may confer upon the Commissioners the power of summoning witnesses and of compelling them to give evidence. The matter which the present commission was ordered to investigate, however,

DID NOT COME

within this category, as this article only referred to the executive and political departments of the Province's political organization. The court held that the Legislature, relating to the members of either house was not connected with the Province, although in a general and popular sense they were. The matter for the investigation which the Commission was appointed did not fall within the scope of the phrase "connected with the good government of the Province." Such being the case, the Commission appointing respondents was without effect as a statutory commission, and could not exercise the power which might be conferred under 586 even if the enactment of that article were within the powers of the Legislature, which the learned judge held it was not. The Legislature had, under Sec. 22 of the B. N. A. Act, the right to make a law compelling witnesses to testify before Commissioners, but this section implied the passing of a statute fixing a specific fine or penalty for each offence. The Legislature had not the right of delegating its right of fixing the amount of fine or penalty to the Court which was to determine whether the cause for inflicting a penalty existed. This article, 586, therefore left to the Commissioners powers which belonged to the Legislature alone, and was consequently beyond the power of the Legislature to enact, unconstitutional and without effect. As a result of the inapplicability of the provisions of article 586 of the revised statutes to the question submitted to the Commission, and in view of the unconstitutionality of article 586 the court held the writ of prohibition to be good and valid, and ordered a peremptory writ of prohibition to be addressed to the respondents and returnable within a week, commanding them to abstain from further proceedings to compel the complainant.

On the second point, the learned judge re-

ferred to Todd, who says that, "Commissions are made to enquire and report." They are ministerially and

NOT JUDICIALLY

and do not, consequently, possess the power to commit for contempt, which is inherent to judges. Now could the Legislature, by special enactment, confer such power upon a commission? Under section 504, which gives to royal commissioners the power to summon witnesses and examine them, is constitutional and binding, but there is no penalty provided for refusal of a witness to comply with such summons, and the Legislature has no power to decree that the punishment shall be at the discretion of the commission; it has no right to delegate its power of fixing a penalty to any person or body, which is practically done to the terms of article 586 of the revised statutes. For this reason this article 586 must be declared unconstitutional. His Lordship's judgement as the first two points rendered judgement on the third unnecessary but he added that "if it is desired to obtain a full investigation of the subject of enquiry in the present case, the proper course will be for the commissioners to make a special report to the Provincial Government of their proceedings and of the circumstances which have interrupted the enquiry and for the Government to submit the report to the Legislative Assembly, which could then order a Parliamentary investigation to be made and could compel the witnesses summoned to give evidence either before the House itself or before a special committee appointed to take the enquiry. The complainant, by refusing to answer a question put to him by the respondents, committed, if the question be a pertinent one, a willful violation of a law of the Legislature of this province, that is of the law of conduct laid down in article 586 of the Revised Statutes. Now every violation of an act of legislature of any province which is not made an offence of some other kind is constituted a misdemeanor by section 25 of chapter 173 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, and is punishable accordingly. Although, therefore, the respondents cannot themselves convict and punish the complainant as he has disobeyed the law, he is liable to be indicted for misdemeanor before the Court Queen's Bench, and if convicted, punished accordingly."

It is said the question of constitutionality will be further tested.

THE LIBERAL PARTY

As Viewed Through the Spectacles of "La Presse."

La Presse, in the course of some remarks on the course pursued by the Terence Globe, says:—

"The organ of Sir Richard Cartwright, the 'doctrinaire' par excellence of clear grit, wants the old school of George Brown to turn over a new leaf and throw to the dogs the medley of red, blue and pink rage with which Mr. Laurier wishes to clothe his Liberalism. There is evidently a split between the two leaders, one nominal and the other de facto of the Liberal party. Mr. Laurier disses by the side of Mr. Mercier and kisses nationalism on both cheeks, while Sir Richard Cartwright, no more than Mr. Blake, wishes to open the doors leading to power with keys stained with the blood of English. He repudiates, as if moved by an irrepressible horror, any connection with the Nationalist leader of Quebec." The article, after stating that it is all good and well to repudiate Mr. Mercier when quietly writing on principles, adds:—"But will we will ask the Globe if, in private, it will be as easy to leave aside Mr. Mercier with all his baggage of political bias, damaged and compromising, for the Liberals, when the day for the general battle arrives. Take away from Mr. Laurier the help of the Provincial Ministry, what will be left him in the Province of Quebec? Did not Laurier, in company with Mercier hold the Champ de Mars meeting? Did he not approve the famous resolutions? Did he not threaten the Imperial troops with his old but solid musket? Have not his followers in the Commons fought all his battles here, renewing the provocation against the English element and heralding every where the good news the time has arrived when the province of Quebec must pursue the work of French regeneration and repeat on the shores of St. Lawrence, the *gesta dei per Francos*? There is more than this. Has not Mowat, the co-leader of Gritism with Sir Richard Cartwright, taken part in the Quebec conference? Did he not make himself the obliging and obsequious accomplice of the convention in which the Globe finds so much to blame, and which is the basis of the attempt to give a good bleeding to the federal treasury? Mr. Laurier must either march with the Liberals of the old school, in which case he will be considered as serious by the sister provinces, or he must go on the side of the National-Liberal and in that case Ontario cannot go hand-in-hand with the brothers of the Regina party. Here is what Mr. Mercier has led the Liberal party to, for the love of a power of which he has made such a bad use in Quebec."

Our Militia System.

Preminent amongst the machinery originated for the purpose of governing the Dominion of Canada is that which is utilized for the maintenance of a militia-force for ordinary duties; indeed, the facility with which British colonies apply themselves to all the duties of devolution, constabulary and self-government is remarkable. This was indicated when the Imperial Government, which had had practical experience, determined to make Canada completely self-sustaining and withdrew its regular regiments from all stations except Halifax in the autumn of 1871. This increased responsibility required enlarged provisions for Canada for its local force, and therefore the Department of Militia commenced in earnest the new work which devolved upon it, by organizing a battery at Kingston in 1870; B battery at Quebec in 1871, the year the last regular regiment was withdrawn; the Royal Military College in 1876; B troop of cavalry, and A, B and C companies of infantry in 1883; the company of mounted infantry at Winnipeg in 1885; D company of infantry in 1887; C battery of artillery in 1888, in all numbers, batteries and companies, having a strength of 1,000 non-commissioned officers and men, which formed the basis for schools of military instruction from the dates they were severally organized. The college forms the Dominion centre for the higher education of cadets, who compete for 24 places each year, and the several schools, being located in different provinces, form the instructional centres and models on the same lines for the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the active force of the country. The whole of this service and the system for working it has, therefore, been set on foot during the last twenty years. It indicates an appreciation of some of the difficulties which have to be surmounted in new countries, and the ingenuity with which plans have been devised for nullifying the strength of the people, and so aid them in maintaining order and good government in the Dominion.—Empire.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Illegality of the Modus Vivendi.

The following article from the Daily Colonist of St. John's, Newfoundland, from the pen of our distinguished fellow-countryman, Mr. R. P. Bowers, will be read with interest. Mr. Bowers was one of the delegates to Canada last winter and is chief editor of the Colonist:—

Those who commenced the agitation against the iniquitous invasion of the French, builded more wisely than they thought. The advice given three years ago by the Colonist, namely, to arrest any man, no matter what his nationality, who was guilty of an assault, or a trespass on the French Shore, for the purpose of having the question tested in the Supreme Court; the opposition to the *modus vivendi* by the Legislature; the mass meeting of the bone and sinew of the capital in Bannerman park; the steady work of the French Shore committee; the energy, tact and enthusiasm of the Delegates to Canada and England; the worldwide support of the press of the Mother Country and the colonies, have each and all contributed, to create a determined spirit to know our rights as British colonists, and to maintain them at all hazards. If the question were left to the Colonial Office, things would have gone on in the same unsatisfactory state that they have for years. Let any one carefully read the closing paragraphs of the despatch of Lord Knutsford, in reply to the people's address to the Queen and no other conclusion can be reached than this, namely, neither a speedy nor satisfactory extinguishment of French claims can or will be effected by the Colonial Office. A combination of circumstances, however, arising out of the popular agitation, has arisen, which will take the settlement of the question out of the hands of the so-called diplomatists, and leave it almost solely in the hands of the people themselves. The position of affairs, and the duty of one and all who have the interest of their country at heart, may be realized by understanding the import of the following despatch:—

"ST. JOHN'S, July 12, 1890.

"TO SIR JAMES S. WINTERS, LONDON.

"In the *modus vivendi* legally in force in the 'colony. Has the Act 28, George III., chapter 35, been repealed. Get highest legal opinion. Reply."

"FRENCH SHORE COMMITTEE."

"LONDON, July 19, 1890.

"TO FRENCH SHORE COMMITTEE, ST. JOHN'S.

"Most eminent member British bar has given 'his opinion professionally, that (1) There is 'no law authorizing the application of the '*modus vivendi* in Newfoundland, and (2) The 'Act 28, George III., chapter 35, has been repealed, and there is no statute enabling them 'to enforce the Treaty and declaration of 'Versailles."

"JAMES S. WINTERS."

According to this, the *modus vivendi* has no authority from the Imperial Legislature to enforce it; and it was concluded finally without the consent of our Local Legislature; and hence its enforcement is unwarranted by law. The Salisbury-Balfour administration gave instructions to have it enforced, knew it was illegal; because they were aware that the Act 28, George III., Chap. 35, giving them power to enforce it, was repealed. We glory in living under a constitutional form of Government; and we pride ourselves on the boast that the humblest man's house is his castle. Hence we owe it to ourselves and to our free institutions, to resist any and every attempt made to violate the right and liberty which we are only too anxious to submit to tyranny, come whence it may. Humility is all very well in its proper place; but the wretch who licks the hand that strikes him unjustly, is the worst foe of himself and his country. The *modus vivendi* being illegal, the officers who close factories, who remove nets, and who destroy property with only that instrument for their property which is simply murder, and should be treated accordingly.

We don't advise any violence towards the gallant men, many of whom, no doubt, like Captain Kennedy, despise the dishonorable work in which they are engaged; but we do advise that whenever any other attempt is made to interfere with the property of Newfoundlanders, or to prevent proceedings to be immediately instituted against him, as was done by Mr. James Baird, a man who reflects honor upon his country for the manly action he felt it his duty to take. Let the traitors be ignored, and passive resistance be exercised all along the line. This will suffice after a year or two, and the French invasion will be without the necessity of employing physical force.

The French dare not, henceforth, attempt to exercise coercive jurisdiction, as they did at Bay St. George, on May 23, by ordering the removal of nets, or threatening to cut or remove them in face of Lord Salisbury's declaration. British officers will be sent to the coast to prevent or for heavy damages for trespass if they close a factory or remove a net. Newfoundlanders be true to yourselves! New's the day, and now's the hour! There never was a better opportunity or a people to work out a grand destiny, if you resolve to forgo some little pleasures for the common good of your country.

THE CURIOSITY SHOP.

EDITED BY JOHN IVYAGH.

[We receive a number of questions from subscribers asking for information on various subjects—literary, historical and general. In future they will be classified and submitted to a gentleman who has undertaken the special task of taking them into consideration.]

THE BOOK OF KELLS.

W. E. B.—The Irish charters in the Book of Kells translated and published with notes by Dr. O'Donovan in the first volume of the Miscellany of the Irish Archaeological Society, gives some information on the subject. This important document is hardly mentioned in works which are supposed to be complete summaries of information. I am in possession of a very valuable article on the "Book," and if permission is granted I will give some extracts from it for the information of my correspondents.

AN IMPERIAL BATTLE.

MILES.—The battle of Antietam, in which Napoleon I. was victorious, has been termed the battle of the three Emperors, because the three armies engaged—French, Russian and Austrian—were respectively commanded by Napoleon, Francis II. and Alexander I.

BRITANNIA.

ALICE.—The first known coin bearing the figure of Britannia is one struck in Rome A.D. 131, and is said to have been in honor of the arrival of the Emperor Hadrian in Britain. Some other Roman coins have a similar figure. After them no coin seems to have been the effigy until the time of Charles II.

THE SKULL.

N. K.—I believe that Mr. Gladstone did suggest recently that his head was increasing in size and said that the coffin had been when first sworn a Privy Counsellor in 1841 was now altogether too small for him. Some controversy ensued in the press, and several letters on the subject were written in a most learned manner. Finally a leading hatter wrote to the London Times, pointing out that during the entire duration, while much tradition had been displayed, no one had seemed to think of the simple fact that the skull, and that it was probably due to this

that Mr. Gladstone could not get his ancient shaggy head. It is commonly understood that the skull cap of the aged statesman is one of the six of the body; at two, one fifth; at three, one eighth; at seven or ten it reaches its full weight; at twenty it is but one thirty-fifth of the body, and at seventy it decreases very often to one forty-fifth.

PERSECUTIONS OF THE CHURCH.

HUNTINGDON.—Your letter is not quite clear. It is not correct to speak of "The Great Persecution," for there were in all ten great persecutions. Which one you mean is therefore not clear. The ten were—1. That under Nero in A.D. 64; 2. The general persecution under Domitian, in which it is said 40,000 were martyred; 3. That under Trajan in 104; 4. That under Marcus Aurelius; 5. That by the orders of Severus in 197; 6. That under the Emperor Maximian in 235; 7. That under the Emperor Decius, A.D. 249; 8. That under the Emperor Valerian, A.D. 274; and 10. The great persecution under Diocletian in the commencement of the 4th century.

A CONSTITUTIONAL POINT.

FUZZLED.—Strictly the Sovereign is not bound to observe any act of Parliament until he or she has assented to it. But it may be reasonably assumed that no act should be passed by the three Estates sitting in Parliament, on any important question, without the Sovereign being well aware of the fact, and to disregard it would be an unwise act. The only instance in recent times of such a course being adopted was when the Queen, disregarding the expressions of both houses of Parliament, refused her prerogative and issued her mandate abolishing the purchase of army commissions. This unusual course was followed on the advice of Mr. Gladstone.

"THE GREAT CORRUPTER."

JOHN MCMAUR.—It was Sir Robert Walpole to whom this epithet has been applied, but there seems no reason for believing that he was anything of the kind. The Rt. Hon. John Morley, in his recently published sketch of the great statesman, says: "Like almost all other great public benefactors, Walpole was a steward of his own private fortunes, but his expenditure can be perfectly explained out of known and avowed resources, and the imputation of personal corruption and private plunder—never openly made, he is observed, by any reasonable person wholly unnecessary and gratuitous. His support and support has come from the reckless calumnies of unscrupulous opponents striking with marks on should be at last dropped finally out from the history of a good servant of his country."

BOOK NOTICES.

LECTURES ON ENGLISH LITERATURE. MANTON

Francis Eggar, LL.D. New York: W. H. Sadlier. (75c.)

This series of lectures, delivered before the University of Notre Dame, are of the high class of teaching and exalting sentiment so characteristic of Dr. Eggar's works in general. The first lecture deals with "Literature as a factor in life," and lays bare the true end of all reading. He points out the dangers to religion, and, therefore, wholesome soul life, from the pernicious books which come from the press in such numbers. He wisely tells his readers that "people who only read the lower books acquire false ideas of life." Dr. Eggar then deals with Chaucer, his life, time and friends; Southwell, Orashaw, Habington, Tennyson, women writers of note, and the influence of literature on manners. As a guide through what are to many, unknown paths of literature, Dr. Eggar probably stood unequalled. His own writing was of the highest type, and while conveying instruction of the most valuable character he never became in any way either dry or stiff. He instructed and charmed at the same time. He dealt with the most subtle and complex subjects, but he seemed to be both interesting and lucid. In the present volume, while it is hard to specially select any of the lectures as being superior to another, it may be said that those on Tennyson and "Some Women Writers" are masterpieces of analytical criticism. To a great many some help is needed in the perusal of the Lectures on English Literature. A well known much of his inner meaning, while, at the same time, repudiating any intention of attributing ideas to the poet which probably he never thought. As a short hand book on English literature, this collection of lectures should be in every school and library.

THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE, July.

Macmillan & Co., London and New York.

This serial continues to grow in excellence. The present number is an artistic and literary gem. The Princess Mary, Duchess of Teck, and Lady Wolverton describe the Needlework Guild, a charitable work which, without much ostentation, does an immense amount of good among the poor of the three kingdoms. A well illustrated article by H. C. Maxwell Lytton gives a historical and descriptive sketch of Eton College. A spirited poem—St. Cecilia—is followed by a charmingly written description of Adare Abbey, Limerick, the property of Lord Dunraven, by Lady Emily Guinness. The illustrations of the magazine are of the highest quality. A sketch of silhouetting gives a pleasing idea of the manner that art was revived by Edouard in 1825.

DONAHOE'S MAGAZINE, August. Boston:

NOBMAN & CO.

This familiar green-covered magazine comes as usual full of overflowing with good things. The leading articles are upon the Russian Play at Oberammergau, by the Rev. Gerald Molloy, D.D. "The Lyrics of the Flight," dealing with the flight of the Earls of Tyrone and Tyrconnel, by the Rev. O. P. Moohan; The Spanish Inquisition, "With the Brigade of Mercy," a pleasing sketch of the work, by the Rev. Thomas Moohan. The Rev. Catholic of Lebanon and Northern Borneo. The interesting and instructive papers on Newfoundland and its Irish settlers are continued.

ROMANCES OF SIR RICHARD, Sonnets and other

Poems, by Arthur Weir, B.A.Sc. Montreal: William Drysdale.

Mr. Arthur Weir is already well known in this country as the author of a volume of poems entitled "Flowers of Lyle." The present volume contains a number of new poems, and is a most pleasingly written romance, in which some knightly deeds of ancient days are conjured up, and the epilogue winds up—

I had better a poet true,

From what of fabled truth we had learned,

A moral for the present drew.

I said, "We still have knights as great

As those who fought that sunny morn,

Who love the truth, hold wrong in hate,

And pity show the feeble born.

Still leads the faithful knight his aid

To set Oppression's victim free,

And on his soul some little maid

Still whispers "Seek nobility."

One of the most spirited pieces in the collection is the "Odeur de bois."

My home is in the forest shade,

My life is my bride,

From whom not a e'en the fairest maid

Can lure me to her side.

My bed is on the scented pines,

My couch the rhy,

Yet not the king himself