

ligious education of which the ratepayers may disapprove. But what is your existing system? Your existing system is that you compel the ratepayer, however much he may object to the system of education pursued in the Board schools—however determined he may be to send his child to a voluntary school, however freely he may subscribe to that voluntary school, you compel him to give what you call State money in support of a school of the whole system of which he disapproves. Now, I want to remind you that if the voluntary schools are destroyed, it is not merely the cause of religious education, but the cause of the ratepayers, which is imperilled. I say that the two interests are conjoint, and that at this moment the voluntary schools in all those districts where they are brought into competition with the Board schools are in the extremest peril, and that is a peril which no citizen of this country interested in secular education, interested in religious education, interested in keeping down the rates even, can contemplate without something like dismay."

After appealing for a settlement of the school question in favor of voluntary or separate schools, Mr. Balfour thus closes: "It can only be settled by their will; it can be settled by no more powerful engine; and so far as my voice will reach I beg them to exercise it in the cause of what I truly believe is not only that of religion, but that of civilization itself in all its higher aspects."

Right Mr. Balfour; the cause of separate schools is certainly that of "civilization in all its higher aspects." The efforts of the Manitoba Government to drive the abominable law down the throats of the minority savor greatly of that barbaric principle, "might is right." The perpetrators of the deed and the men who, with voice, or pen, with vote, or compliance, aid and encourage them, are only a degree removed from the tyrants of penal years. Were the same to be attempted in Quebec the whole Protestant population of Canada would be up in arms. But here is Mr. Balfour, a leader in the British House of Commons, a most determined opponent of every Catholic interest, laying down the same broad, constitutional, and rational arguments as those that form the basis of the Roman Catholic petition in the present Manitoba case. What have the P. P. Aists to say to Mr. Balfour?

#### A PAINFUL CASE.

THERE is a class of cases to which we desire to draw attention. Recently a woman was found dying and surrounded by three starving children in a poor lodging. The kind policeman had secured food for this family and called in a doctor, he sent for the ambulance and had the woman conveyed to the Notre Dame Hospital. The doctor and the Rev. Vicar of Hochelaga concurred in the necessity of the woman being sent there. But the hospital refused to take the woman "because her case was incurable." We do not know anything about the hospital rules, nor do we know who is responsible for such a rule, if it exists; but we do know that there is no Christian charity in such a heartless course. This is only one of many cases. It is as cruel as to fling a dying person, without food or clothing, upon the street. If that is a sample of the benevolence of institutions that the public support, then we have to go to some barbaric land for samples of true charity. The argument may be used that if one case were admitted it would create a precedent, and that there is (or should be) some place for incurables. As well argue that a rich man would be justified in letting a

poor creature die on his door step, because were he to save that life he might be called upon to succor every tramp that came along. There is a vast difference between the case of an incurable who has a home, or friends, or means, and one destitute of all and to whom rejection means death. We have come in contact with so much ostentatious charity coupled with an absence of the real, practical, humane charity, that at times indignation knows scarcely any restraint. There are cases that cry aloud for mercy, and all the display of subscriptions, public dinners, and newspaper puffs, cannot efface the hardness that is evidently deaf to such appeals. For God's sake let our institutions have rules sufficiently elastic to admit of unselfish charity in dire necessity.

#### STATE MASSES.

After all his bombastic effusion of a couple weeks ago, on the subject of State Masses for the Dead, Dr. Carman finds, to his sorrow, that he was much too hasty. He jumped at conclusions after a manner that clergymen and persons holding responsible public positions should avoid. After accusing the Government of paying for State Masses for the Dead, and thereby making him, Dr. Carman, as a ratepayer, cash up for what he did not believe in, we find that the Premier thus settled the irate Doctor's contentions:

"I notice, by the by, that you have written another letter condemning, in your usual trenchant style, the government for having done certain things which you regard as wrong, that is, paying for masses for the repose of the soul of the late premier. I have spoken to the Hon. Mr. Haggart and the Hon. Mr. Curran, two of the committee of three in charge of the funeral arrangements, and they say most positively that no such expense was incurred, nor authorized; nor is it intended to pay for such services."

"I should have been pleased had you written me frankly on this subject, so that you might have saved yourself from meeting out condemnation where there was no guilt. The government did pay a considerable amount for the funeral at Halifax and elsewhere; but after what England had done it was thought this was the least that Canada could do to honor the late premier."

#### OUR SOUVENIR.

It is thus our bright and prosperous contemporary, the Canadian Freeman, of Kingston, anticipates our St. Patrick's Day number:

"The souvenir St. Patrick's Day number of the Montreal TRUE WITNESS promises to be an elaborate affair and will add more laurels to Catholic journalism in Canada. THE TRUE WITNESS management is sparing neither money nor labor to make this edition perfect; therefore we bespeak for it a large patronage. THE TRUE WITNESS is doing great work in Quebec Province in the interests of Catholicism and its proposed St. Patrick's souvenir is a sure sign that it means to carry on the good work with greater vigor than ever. The artistic edition will be eagerly watched for."

We are very grateful to our Catholic contemporaries for the expressions of approval regarding our venture. We only hope to meet and even surpass their expectations.

MINSTRELS.—St. Ann's Young Men's Minstrel troupe will give two of their unique entertainments on next Monday and Tuesday, the 25th and 26th insts. The entertainments will be given in their hall, Ottawa street, and all who would wish to spend a really enjoyable and jolly evening should not fail to be present.

Archbishop Fabre has appointed the Rev. Father T. Joubert pastor of the new parish of Dorval.

#### YOUNG LADIES' MISSION

AT ST. PATRICK'S.

The grand success of the Mission for unmarried women and girls, at St. Patrick's, must be a matter of great encouragement to the parish and of much edification to the other parishioners of St. Patrick's. On the first day, between three and four thousand young ladies attended, and at each service, since the opening on Sunday evening last, the number of those present has steadily increased.

The Mission is being given by the Rev. Father Klauder, Redemptorist, of Brooklyn, N.Y. Father Klauder is the missionary who last year gave a most successful mission for the young men.

There is perhaps no means so potent in promoting the welfare of the soul as a mission, and when the missionary has the hearty co-operation of all the parish in his work, the spiritual benefit that results must be enormous. In a sermon last Sunday morning the Rev. Father Klauder touched lightly on the value of a mission and of the great heinousness of the sin of indifference which sometimes gains dominion over Catholics who allow their fervour to grow less, even in a very small degree; he said that to attend only one early Mass on Sundays was in many cases a sin and in some cases a mortal sin. It was to strengthen the fervour and to bring into the Church those Catholics who had wandered that missions were established; he therefore exhorted all parents and relatives to use their authority and influence with the young women of the parish and to get them to attend regularly the services during the mission.

The efficacy of this appeal was apparent on Sunday night and at the succeeding services on Monday and Tuesday, when so many young women were present. The services of the mission are at 5 o'clock in the morning, when a Mass is said and an instruction given. The service is brought to a close at 6 o'clock. The second and last morning service is given at 7 o'clock, when Mass is said again and a second instruction given. The last service of the day is at 7.30 p.m.

The Mission will close on Sunday evening next, when baptismal vows will be renewed and the Pope's blessing, which conveys a plenary indulgence, will be given to those present.

Before each sermon, during the Mission, a hymn is sung and the chorus joined in by all those present. On two evenings of the week the orphans of St. Bridget's Home will sing the Canticles.

#### ST. BRIDGET'S NIGHT REFUGE.

Report of relief given for the week ending Sunday, February 17:—Males, 471; females, 68; total, 539. Nationality—Irish, 339; French Canadian, 108; English 62; Scotch and other nationalities, 30. Religion—Catholics, 460; Protestants, 79; total, 539. Nations were given to 539 persons.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH.—The work of renovation at St. Patrick's church is progressing rapidly. The second coat of paint is nearly on the interior. Mr. Locke has come on from Brooklyn to superintend the work. As soon as the second coat of paint is finished Messrs. Cassavant Bros. will commence work at the new organ.

WILFRED LAURIER ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY.—Yesterday morning the Hon. Wilfred Laurier was waited on at the St. Lawrence Hall by Mr. James McShane and invited to deliver an address at the Monument National on St. Patrick's Day. The Hon. Mr. Laurier readily accepted, and expressed great pleasure at being requested to meet his Irish friends on that occasion. The lecture will be given under the auspices of St. Patrick's Society, of which organization the Hon. James McShane is the president.

A LECTURE.—The first of a series of entertainments by St. Anthony's Y. M. S. was held in their hall last Friday evening. Mr. A. J. Gordon, president, extended a hearty welcome to those present. He stated that the object of these complimentary entertainments was to bring together the Catholic young men of the parish. In this he was pleased to see that, with the assistance of their spiritual director, Rev. J. T. Donnelly, and the co-operation of a large number of honorary members, the society has greatly increased their membership. The object

of the society was to bring together the young men for the purpose of intellectual, social and moral advancement. Friday evening's entertainment was given by Mr. J. H. P. Brown. There was a large attendance, numbering some of the most prominent Catholics of the district. The subject of the lecture was "Character reading from a phrenological standpoint." The lecturer is an excellent phrenologist and his shrewd remarks were heartily appreciated. A very acceptable musical programme was gone through, those who contributed being Messrs. T. H. Hockley, J. Morgan, T. J. Murray and Masters Schneider and Boron.

The death is announced at Lowell, Mass., of the Oblat Father, Rev. Andre M. Garin, head of the Order there, aged 75 years. He had been a missionary among the Canadian Indians.

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NEW: GOODS.

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Finest Carolina Rice.

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## OLD RESERVE PORT.

—\$100 WINE—

\$2.00 per bottle. \$20.00 per dozen.

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Boneless Codfish Steaks in 5 lb. boxes.

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