

THE IRISH BENEFACTIVE MONASTERY OF IOWA.

Creston, Union Co., Iowa, October 16th, 1879.

Editor Western Watchman:

Nothing gives the Catholic tourists more encouragement to notice the progress of his religion as he is hurried in the mad whirl of the "iron horse" across populous states, rolling prairies and broad expansive plains, than the fact that the few notes which he may collect on this important subject will be sure to find a cordial reception from the Catholic editor, and a prominent place in his widely circulating journal.

A few months ago a humble servant found himself in a position to lay down the "hoe and the rake" of his ordinary vocation, to pursue for a time a life devoid of any special care, a life of relaxation and duty.

One bright morning about the middle of last August, as the sun rose in all his wonted splendor and majesty from his eastern couch, I found myself, scotch in hand, wending my way to the nearest depot of the village in which I reside.

Since that moment I have skipped over hundreds of miles by rail. The Chicago and Northwestern, the Union Pacific, the Rio Grande, the Colorado Central, and the Chicago Burlington and Quincy were among the principal lines over which I travelled.

I hardly ever passed through any village or city without being led instinctively to look for the cross, the infallible sign of the establishment of our holy religion on the prairies and plains as well as in populous cities, and, thanks be to God, I was seldom disappointed.

When I found myself on my homeward bound journey I determined to take a different route that I might obtain a new prospect of the country. This I did especially on reaching the State of Iowa—a State which stands high in my estimation, and from which great things may be expected in the near future.

It has four principal lines of railroads with numberless branches or "leaders" as they are called. It has all the marks of thrift and prosperity, and is situated in the centre of one of the richest farming portions of the State. Its privileges are excellent, water, etc., being found in abundance.

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branch of the Benedictine order have been most happy in giving it the name it bears, viz., "the Irish Benedictine Monastery." It is a name dear to the heart of every Irish Catholic. It is a name which will excite to it, I hope, thousands of Irish Catholic families, to whom the bread of eternal life will be broken, and then the rising generations will be protected from the countless dangers to which it is exposed of bartering away the boon of Faith. It is a name which will send a thrill of joy to every Irish heart from Maine to California and from the Rocky Mountains to the rugged peaks of the Alleghenias.

The Benedictine order is pretty well established, and pretty generally known throughout the United States, with the exception of this branch, and it is to be hoped that Irish Catholics will not allow the only Irish monastery in the land to languish for behind the lighthouse of the other religious institutions. I was almost on the point of remarking that these good Fathers, who are in charge of this institution are greatly to be blamed in not making their circumstances more generally known. But when I consider that the golden rule of their holy Founder, is to labor and toil unknown and unseen by all, save the all-seeing eye of God alone, their otherwise apparent neglect is satisfactorily explained.

Field has three banks, with a capital of \$175,000, and one hundred business houses. The total business of Fairfield, as reported by the International Bureau of Revenue, approximates \$4,000,000.

Besides physical, Fairfield claims two other great advantages, dear to the heart of every Irish Catholic, viz., a good Catholic school, conducted by the Sisters, where the youth of the Parish secure a moral and religious education; and a good church with a permanent pastor.

Since the opening of navigation this year to date, the exports of live stock from this port to Great Britain, per six lines of steamers, viz., the Allan, Beaver, Pumperly, Ross, Donaldson, and Great Western, are as follows:

Cattle, 17,101 head, 53,907 sheep, 3,468 hogs, and 257 horses—to which must be added 74 mules and about 22 calves, carried by the cargo vessels of one of the above-named lines.

The exports for the season of 1878 were 18,655 head cattle, 41,250 sheep, 2,078 hogs, and 690 horses. It will be seen by comparison that there has been a great increase in the trade this year, for, with the exports per the Dominion line and all the outside steamers yet to be added, the number of cattle is not far behind the total exports of last year, while sheep show an increase of 12,650 and hogs of about 1,400.

At the private meeting of the shareholders of this bank, held Thursday afternoon in the Exchange Bank building, (Mr. Walter Shanly, in the chair) a committee was appointed to take advice as to the liability of shareholders, to confer with the official assignee and inspectors as to the actual condition of the bank, and with the principal creditors and shareholders to see if an amicable settlement cannot be arrived at, the said Committee to report at an adjourned meeting to be held on December 3rd.

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as landlordism has always been. Let it be replaced by a peasant proprietary, and the work of reconciliation will be eased of, at least, one of its master difficulties.—Connaught Telegraph.

A VOICE FROM SOUTHERN IOWA. An Irish Priest's Practical Letter on Well Improved Farms.

St. Mary's Church, Fairfield, Johnson Co., Iowa, November 1st, 1879.

To the Editor of the TRUE WITNESS and Post.

Would you be kind enough to allow me a small space in one of your valuable columns to write a few words on this most important subject, emigration. It is a subject generally known to our countrymen in general, and in particular in this region of Iowa, there are many well improved farms for sale at very low rates or prices.

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saltiness. If any of our commercial readers wish to take advantage of the return of Mr. Stimson's barque, or require further information in regard to suitable exports, we shall be glad to put them in the way of procuring it.—St. John Telegraph.

British Grain Trade.

The Mark Lane Express, in its review of the British grain trade for the past week, says:—"Except a few beans, the harvest is now secured in England. In the Scotch uplands the cereal crops are still being harvested, mostly in an unripe state. The Scotch harvest, however, will probably be terminated in a week or ten days. Farmers so generally availed themselves of the favorable weather for field operations which continued up to Friday, when there was a sharp frost, that threshing has been neglected. The supplies at the country markets were consequently light, and wheat in a fit state for either sowing or milling, was decidedly scarce. Fortunately a good area has already been sown in wheat under circumstances which augur favorably. The recent uncontradicted estimate of this year's crop shows that it will be necessary to import 18,000,000 quarters of foreign wheat. Doubtless, with every allowance for possible exaggerations, the crop is desperately bad. The Mark Lane and country markets have been dull. With liberal arrivals from abroad, prices have fallen a shilling for all descriptions of wheat. There was not much pressure to sell, but the enormous visible supply in America and the uncertainty as to the actual extent of the surplus available for export thence caused a pretty general abstention of buyers. Until something more definite is known, trade must feel its way cautiously. In some quarters a strong opinion prevails that wheat will prove remunerative even at present prices. Doubtless a decline of a few shillings will bring forward a number of speculative buyers. The arrivals at ports of call have been large. Early in the week wheat off coast declined as low as 54s for red winter for the Continent, but subsequently prices rallied to 55s per qr. Maize was in fair inquiry, principally for the Continent, at about the late rates. Wheat for shipment was quiet in consequence of the high prices asked in America. Maize was dull. Barley receded to 1s per qr. The sales of English wheat last week amounted to 39,735 qrs. at 48s 9d per qr., against 54,740 qrs. at 48s 7d per qr. for the same week last year. The imports into the United Kingdom for the week ending November 8 were 1,386,480 cwt. of wheat and 243,991 cwt. of flour."

The Consolidated Bank of Canada; its establishment and its career until its downfall. By JOHN F. NORRIS.

This is a compilation in a concise and consecutive form of all the proceedings attendant upon the suspension of the Consolidated Bank of Canada, from its establishment in 1870 as an amalgamation of the old City Bank of Montreal and the Royal Canadian of Toronto. Appended to very full reports of all the meetings of shareholders, is a record of the late criminal proceedings against the Directors, and of the trial of Sir Francis Hincks, in an almost verbatim form; also, "Correspondence," "Opinions of the Press," and "The Civil Suits." True, it is not much more than a reprint of what appeared in the newspapers, but, in the language of the compiler, "in this form will doubtless prove interesting to those who are concerned in our Joint Stock institutions, and will, it is believed, be valuable as a work of reference hereafter."

Canadian Fish Exports.

The export of fish from Newfoundland since last August amounts to 249,881 quintals, against 194,463 quintals for the corresponding period of last year. Of the excess, Brazil has taken 34,921 quintals, and Portugal the balance. 1,914 tons cod oil have been shipped, against 750 tons last year. The clearances, however, for the United Kingdom are less than those of last year, while those to the United States are three times greater, which shows that at a period of low prices a good market can be found on this side of the Atlantic. Of seal oil, 1,454 tons have been exported, against 1,097 tons last year. The United States have taken 228 tons. Last year they took 22 tons. The export of salmon is 2,578 tons against 1,343 tonnes in 1878, and 4,810 barrels herrings against 1,981.

Live Stock Exports.

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Commercial Items.

—Over 400 sheep were shipped from Kingston yesterday to Cape Vincent. Many thousands have been shipped from this port this fall.

—An Albany despatch says Superintendent Clark announces that navigation on the New York State Canals will cease December 6th, unless the canals are closed sooner by ice.

—Intercolonial Railway receipts for the month of October were \$136,569, made up of passengers and mails \$55,219, freight \$81,350, showing an increase of \$23,742 over the month of September, and \$40,489 over the month of August.

—In consequence of recent developments, the Directors of the North German Lloyd's Steamship Company have decided to refuse transportation of heavy freight silks so weighted with chemicals and oil as to cause danger of spontaneous combustion.

—A London cable says that the scarcity of fine English hops and improved quality of American hops, which are attracting unprecedented attention, has had the effect of advancing the price £3 per bale since the first shipments this season.

—At the sale of Mr. Dempster's stock, at Ingersoll, on Saturday, the Stockwood was bought by Mr. Eddington, Woodstock, for \$250; Mileston by Mr. Quetton St. George, Toronto, for \$300; the matched pair by Mr. J. Labbutt, London, for \$230.

—Messrs. T. A. Dawes, Alfred Brown, and J. P. Dawes, of London, and Messrs. Gerhard Lomet and S. W. Beard, of Montreal, are applying for Letters Patent to incorporate the General Beet Root Sugar Company (limited) with a capital of \$150,000, in shares of \$100 each. The object is to manufacture beet root sugar at Cookscook, Que.

—In a suit for \$3,000, brought by the owners of the schooner Job Leonard against the British ship Aragon, for the loss of the schooner by a collision with the Aragon in 1877, Judge Choate of New York decided that the fog horn signal was blowing just before the disaster occurred, and both vessels were at fault. The libellants will have a decree for half their damages and costs.

—A Boston despatch says:—"The wool market during the past week has been more excited than at any time this year. The news is buoyant and the opening sales at London caused a rush of buyers. Here the market is 2c to 3c higher than last week, with a decided upward tendency. X. N. fleeces have been sold for 50c. Many holders are not disposed to sell under 60c.

—Canadian lambs continue in good demand in the markets of the United States, and have recently brought very good prices. At New York on Wednesday last 2,124 Canada lambs and 191 sheep were sold as follows:—418 lambs weighing from 72 to 77 lbs, each at 53c to 55c; 1,706 do, weighing from 71 to 72 lbs to 52c; 452 do, weighing from 71 to 72 lbs to 52c; 452 do, weighing from 71 to 72 lbs to 52c; 452 do, weighing from 71 to 72 lbs to 52c.

—The shipments of dairy produce from this city to Great Britain during the week ending to-day comprise 10,958 packages of butter and 25,823 boxes cheese, against 9,988 packages butter and 15,268 boxes cheese shipped during the week previous. The shipments from this port to Europe since the opening of navigation consist of 189,863 packages butter and 515,350 boxes cheese, against 101,506 packages butter and 455,449 boxes cheese, shipped during the season of 1878.

—This week's circular of the Liverpool Cotton Brokers' Association says:—"American Cotton was in comparatively light demand, with abundant supply, and quotations were reduced; other growths maintain full prices. Texas Cotton is 3-16d to a furthering lower, and other American grades 4d to 4-16d lower. In Sea Island the business was dull, but at extreme rates. Futures opened excited and 4d to 5-32d higher, but since then there have been very fluctuating rates, occasionally 1-32d below those of last Thursday."

—Yesterday's Liverpool grain circular says:—"The general trade since the commencement of the week has been dull. The majority of the country markets have been inactive, though previous prices were fairly maintained. Cargoes of coast were in fair request at full prices for both home and continental destinations. Cargoes for arrival were slow of sale at Liverpool since Tuesday, there being only a small business in wheat on spot at rather lower rates. Corn, in consequence of increasing shipments, declined 2d per cental. The tone of to-day's market was better, and most of to-day's wheat recovered a penny to two pence per cental from the previous lowest rates. Flour was in better demand at former rates. Corn was less depressed than yesterday, but is still a penny per cental lower than on last Tuesday."

ST. JOHN, N. B., November 24.—Writs of attachment in insolvency were issued on last Saturday against W. H. Olive and Andrew J. Armstrong. L. H. DeVeber & Sons have made an assignment to M. McLeod, official assignee. This assignment was made in accordance with a demand served upon them, under the provisions of the Insolvency Act, on Tuesday last, by Messrs. Leaf, Sun & Co., London, Eng. DeVeber's liabilities, direct and indirect, amount to about \$700,000; their assets are large, but consist of unrealizable property, real estate, mills, shipping, etc. The house is the oldest in the dry goods and grocery business, having been established in 1815. A number of houses in St. John and throughout the Province will be affected by this failure. About \$100,000 of the indebtedness is due in England.

Valuations of the Old Masters.

To give you some idea of the valuation placed by competent authorities on some few well-known pictures, I give below the estimated value of the originals and the asking price of copies:—Raphael's "Sistine Madonna," \$2,000,000, copy, \$600; Paul Veronese's "Wedding at Cana of Galilee," the same price; Da Vinci's "Last Supper," the same; Salvator Rosa's "Apparition of Samuel to Saul," \$500,000, copy, \$600; Titian's "The Disciples on the Way to Emmaus," same price; Guido's "Annunciation," \$400,000, copy \$500; Annibal Caracci's "Virgin Appearing to St. Luke," same price; Da Vinci's "La Vierge aux Rochers," same price; Murillo's "L'Assomption," \$23,000, copy, \$300; Van Dyke's "Virgin and Child," his "Charles I.," and his "Venus," each \$100,000, copies, \$300; Oouture's "Les Romains de la Decadence," \$50,000, copy, \$200; David's "Leonidas at Thermopylae," and "The Sabines," each \$240,000, copies, \$500; Rubens' "Descent from the Cross," same price as above; Rosa Bonheur's "Winter Ploughing," \$60,000, copy, \$200; Garot's "View in the Coliseum," \$10,000, copy, \$100; Hans Makart's "Entrance of Charles V. into Antwerp," \$12,000, copy, \$100; Teniers' "Temptation of St. Anthony," \$12,000, copy, \$100; Cabanel's "Death of Francesco de Rimini," \$50,000, copy, \$200; Meissonier's "Battle of Waterloo," \$80,000, copy, \$200.—From a Paris Letter.

THE CIDER MILL.

Under the blue New England skies, Flooded with sunshine, a valley lies, The mountains clasp it, warm and sweet, Like a sunny child to their rocky feet.

Three peary lakes and a hundred streams Lie on its quiet heart of dreams. Through its trees the softest sunlight shakes, And the whitest lilies gem its lakes.

I love, oh! better than love can tell, Its every rock and grove and dell; But most I love the grove where the mill Comes down by the old brown cider mill.

Above the clear spring gurgles out And the upper meadows wind about; Then join, and under willows flow "Round knolls where the blue beech whip-stocks grow."

To rest in a shaded pool that keeps The oak trees clasped in its crystal deeps. Sheer twenty feet the water falls Down from the old dam's broken walls.

Spatters the knotty boulders gray, And, laughing, hies in the shade away, Under great rocks, thro' trout pool still, With many a tumble down to the mill.

All the way down the nut-trees grow, And squirrels hide about and below; Acorns, beechnuts, chestnuts, there Drop all the fall thro' the hazel air;

And buds rolled down with curled up leaves, In the mellow light of the harvest eves, Forever there the still, old trees Drink a wine of peace that hath no leav.

By the roadside stands the elder mill, Where a lowland slumber waits the mill; A great brown building, two stories high, On the western hill face warm and dry.

And odorous piles of apples there Fill with incense the golden air; And heaps of pomeace, mixed with straw, To their amber sweets the late flies draw.

The carts back up to the upper door, And spill their treasures in on the floor; Down thro' the toothed wheels they go To the wide, deeper pool below.

And the screws are turned by slow degrees Down on the straw-laid elder trees; And with each turn a fuller stream Buists from beneath the graining beam,

And amber stream that gossamer slip, And four no morrow's parched lip; But wherefore goes? Those elder toys Were soulless to real New England joys.

What classic goblet ever felt Such thrilling touches thro' its melt, As thro' a chalice along a stream, When boyish lips the cider drank?

The years are heavy with weary sounds, And their discord like a sweet music-trow; But yet I hear, oh! sweet, The fill that bathed my bare, brown feet;

And yet the elder drips and falls On my wearied ear at intervals; And I tend at times a sad, sweet dream, To the babbling of that little stream;

And sit in vision autumn still, In the sunny clover of the elder mill, —John G. Whittier.

Miscellaneous.

"Little Buttercup" is ruined now. The Paris Temps speaks of her as "a sort of old sea-water."

A hundred thousand dollars' worth of hazel nuts are shipped yearly from Turkey to England.

Londoners spend \$50,000 every day of the year for cab fares. George Augustus Sala says he uses 1,200 cabs a year.

An exchange discovered that when two young men met they address each other as "old man," and that when two old fellows meet they say "my boy."

The young lady who aspires to be admitted to the ranks of the legal profession does not reflect that the gratification of her ambition would only make her a bar-maid.

Baron K. W. P. F. Gercke de Hervynon, Dutch Counsellor of Legation at Brussels, has been promoted to the same post in London, where he will commence his duties on December 1.

The greatest taxpayer in the United States is Mr. Blackwell, the North Carolina tobacco manufacturer, who pays a tax of \$250,000 a year, \$10,000 a week, or over \$1,428 per day.

Amaldo Smith, the colored evangelist, well known at all the camp meetings of the country, has gone to South India to engage in revival work among the churches in that country.

BOOKING ON HEN.—Gis.—Now, mind, Bob, it's square envelops you're to get. Don't forget—square ones! Bob—"All right. But (innocently) they don't sell round ones, do they, Cis?"

LITERARY.—An experiment was tried on Monday of utilizing the electric light for the reading-room of the British Museum, with great success. This is certainly a remarkable innovation, for the Museum is one of the last places we should think of going to light lanterns.

An interesting pre-historic discovery has been made near Queto, in Italy. On a previously unexplored cavern being searched a quantity of teeth and bones of the cave bear were found, together with some rude stone utensils, dating probably from the stone age, all the remains being in good preservation. The cavern itself is easy of access, level, dry and surmounted by a regularly arched roof.