

VARENNES COLLEGE.

Examination and Distribution of Prizes.

Thursday afternoon at 1:30 the annual examination of the pupils of the Varennes college took place in the spacious hall of the institution, which had been decorated for the occasion. A large assemblage was present, not a few having come from Montreal. Among those present we noticed A. Desjardins, M.P., and P. F. Pateau, esq., of Montreal; Dr. A. H. and Dr. St. Cuthbert; Dr. A. Brodiner, Roxton Falls; M. De Martigny, cashier of the Bank of St. Cuthbert, and a number of others. The entry of the guests was announced by an organ executed by the Varennes College orchestra band. After the guests were seated Prof. Fitzsimmons announced that the pupils of the business course were to have been examined by Prof. Russell, of St. Laurent, but owing to the unexplained absence of that gentleman he would be forced to conduct the examination himself, unless some of the gentlemen were disposed to assume the task. The students were then examined in the various branches, comprised in a thorough business education, viz. book-keeping, algebra, mathematics, telegraphy, phonography, and calligraphy. Although the majority of the students were French, the enquiry was directed in English, and revealed a depth of knowledge perfectly astonishing to the audience. The devious ways of banking and other financial institutions were clearly illustrated by the scholars, who displayed a complete acquaintance with the subjects treated. Problems propounded for mental solution were solved with a rapidity and celerity alike creditable to the pupils and their teacher. A problem in cube root was speedily and intelligently solved by a pupil, who, with the aid of small cubes, illustrated the question to the satisfaction of the assemblage. The examinations were satisfactorily concluded with a test of the perceptive abilities of the scholars. A telegraph message was hastily despatched, and as rapidly jotted down by the students. The proficiency of the boys is principally due to the praise-worthy exertions of their preceptor, Prof. Fitzsimmons, who cannot be too highly praised for the advanced learning of the students in his charge.

Diplomas were then furnished the following scholars in the order of merit:—A Senecal, Varennes; L. Martigny, Varennes; Alf Rochelle, St. Cuthbert; J. W. Flynn and P. S. Shea, of Balfic, Conn.; and A. Paquette, of St. Cuthbert. The distribution of prizes was then proceeded with. The premiums consisted principally of costly works of well known authors. They were received by the successful candidates with many signs of appreciation. We give below the names of a few of the prize winners:—Study—1st prize, Phillis Blois; 2nd, Ed. Chalifoux. First exercise—1st, T. Bieuvet; 2nd, Jos. Lussier. Excellence—A Senecal. Arithmetic—1st, A Senecal; 2nd, P. L. De Martigny. Telegraphy—Jos. Chazou, Arthur Paquette, Belles Lettres—C. Germain, Gaudric. The premiums were presented by Mr. De Martigny and others. Mr. Paquet, then, in a short address, expressed his satisfaction with the day's ceremonies. He thought it proved to the satisfaction of the people the thorough proficiency of the scholars. Great credit was due the teachers for their assiduous attention to the pupils. A commercial education is indispensable to the Canadian youth now-a-days, and was the foundation of all success. The pupils in this case will do honor to the institution which has educated them. Bad bookkeeping was the step to insolvency and dishonor. A classic education is desirable, but more important advantages must not be sacrificed for it.

Mr. Desjardins, M. P.—He considered great credit was due the directors of the institution, and complimented Mr. Paquet on his expressions. The examination which had taken place showed the aptitude of all French people for business. He then referred to Hon. Mr. Masson, and seven prominent merchants as instances of success. In this case, as usual, the clergy have to be congratulated, as all the success was due to their efforts. Owing to patriotism evinced by the clergy, French sentiment and feeling did not disappear with the French flag. A commercial education was a capital to the business man. In this case again the clergy were at the fore; they have established colleges throughout Canada, of which this was the latest sample. French Canadians have the necessary ability, but require the training; a want such institutions as Varennes amply supplied. The Varennes and other commercial colleges deserved all the assistance which could be given them, as they laid the foundation of a wise, practical economy, which would ultimately benefit the country. The reverend director (Father Baril), in the name of the principal, thanked his audience for their kindness in attending at the distribution. He hoped that they had endeavored to merit the encomiums which had been showered on them. This closed the exercises, and the scholars dispersed in various directions with their friends and parents.

THE COLLEGE.

is located in the quiet village of Varennes, situated at the confluence of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence rivers. Varennes is one of the prettiest villages in Canada. The houses are built in a superior style, generally of stone, and are encompassed by luxurious flower gardens so numerous that the perfume of the odoriferous plants permeates the air and impart delicious perfume to the atmosphere. The college is a spacious four-story edifice, constructed in brick, and contains all the latest improvements, even to gas. The principal superior is M. Desjardins, M.P.; director, Rev. Anselme Baril. Professor John A. Fitzsimmons, formerly of Masson college, is the mathematical professor. The courses are taught by the following ecclesiastics: Messrs. Perrault, Beaudoin, Moreau, Gauthier and Rev. Mr. Kieley, prefect of studies; Rev. Father McKewen, chaplain; Rev. Father E. Martel, cure of Varennes. The institution was founded in 1857. The commercial course has only been in existence since the destruction of Masson college, in 1875, when the business class was transferred to the present institution.

McGill Normal School.

The following is a list of the prize winners at the above school:

UNIVERSITY GRADUATES.

Academy Class. William McClure, of Lachine, P.Q.; William H. Stevens, of Mantilla, Ont.; James F. Sweeney, of Montreal.

Academy Class.

Altris Cutting, of Coaticook, P.Q., prize in classics and mathematics; honorable mention in Latin, Greek, mechanics, solid geometry, trigonometry and practical chemistry.

Anna Darling, of Montreal, honorable mention in mental philosophy, Latin, Greek, mechanics, solid geometry, trigonometry, practical chemistry and elocution.

Louisa McFee, of Montreal, honorable mention in mental philosophy, Latin, Greek, solid geometry, trigonometry, object lessons, French and drawing.

Alice Anderson, of Gains, U. S., honorable mention in Latin, Greek, mechanics, solid geometry and trigonometry.

Robert Campbell, of Montreal, honorable mention in mental philosophy, Latin, Greek, mechanics, elocution and drawing.

Alexander Young, of St. Rose, P. Q., honorable mention in mental philosophy, mechanics, solid geometry and trigonometry.

Manasseh Parent, of St. Pie, P. Q., honorable mention in natural philosophy, Latin, Greek, mechanics, solid geometry, trigonometry and French.

Jessie Ross, of Montreal, honorable mention in Greek and trigonometry.

Model School Class.

Bertha Graham, of Montreal, Prince of Wales medal and prize; honorable mention in geography, English grammar, education, English literature, composition, writing, history, algebra, geometry, book-keeping, Latin, French, object lessons and drawing.

Edwin Derby, of Sutton, P. Q., honorable mention in geography, English grammar, education, English literature, composition, writing, history, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, mensuration, chemistry, agricultural chemistry, book-keeping and drawing.

Florence Thurston, of Lachine, P. Q., honorable mention in geography, English grammar, writing, arithmetic, algebra, mensuration, book-keeping and drawing.

Margaret Stewart, of St. Anicet, P. Q., honorable mention in geography, English grammar, education, English literature, composition, arithmetic, Latin and elocution.

Samuel Fortier, of Leeds, P. Q., honorable mention in English grammar, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, mensuration, Latin and French.

The following names are mentioned honorably mentioned in the different branches:—Elizabeth Reid, of Montreal, honorable mention in geography, arithmetic, algebra and Latin; Clifford Scott, of West Brome, P. Q.; Kate Wilson, of Montreal; Agnes Shaver, of Montreal, mensuration and music; Jennie Fabiau, of Montreal; Catherine Brown, of Durham, P. Q.; Margaret Campbell, of Montreal; Annie Aird, of Montreal; Marion Russell, of Montreal; Marion O'Grady, of Montreal; Armine Nutting, of Waterloo, P. Q.; Edward Tucker, of Sorel; William Gamble of Lachine; Jennie Skinner, of Waterloo, P. Q.; Paula Fuller, of Chatham, P. Q.; Agnes Forgrave, of Montreal; Elsie Fuller, of Chatham, P. Q.; Mary Cote, of Quebec; Margaret Martin, of Montreal; Richard Frost, of Waterloo, P. Q.; Lydia Sinclair, of Montreal; Jessie Shanks of Montreal; Warren Kneeland, of South Stukely, P. Q.; Isabella Cowan, of Hinchinbrooke, P. Q.; Jessie Hamilton, of Montreal; Lucy Poplam, of Montreal; Jessie Gordon, of Montreal; Annie Martin, of Montreal; Dunbar Browne, of Montreal; Alice Douglas, of Montreal; Frances Leslie, of Montreal; John Lawrence, of South Stukely.

Elementary School Class.

Carrie Durick, of Clareville, P. Q. (J. W. Wilson prize), honorable mention in geography, writing, history, English grammar, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, mensuration, book-keeping, botany, elocution, natural philosophy, music and drawing. Eleanor Binter, of Cowansville, P. Q., honorable mention in geography, composition, arithmetic, geometry, mensuration, book-keeping, botany, elocution, natural philosophy, music and drawing. Gemima Rodger, of Montreal, honorable mention in composition, art of teaching, history, English grammar, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, mensuration, book-keeping, French and natural philosophy.

Margaret Rutherford, of Montreal, honorable mention in English literature, English grammar, arithmetic, algebra, French, natural philosophy, elocution and music.

Marion Armstrong, of Durham, P. Q., honorable mention in composition, English grammar, French, elocution and music.

Helena P. Rutherford, of Montreal, honorable mention in English literature, English grammar, arithmetic, elocution and music.

Marion Blair, of Montreal, honorable mention in English literature, geometry and drawing.

Janet Kerr, of Montreal, honorable mention in geography, French and elocution.

Lottie Clarke, of Montreal, honorable mention in writing, book-keeping, French and art of teaching.

Agnes Stewart, of St. Anicet, P. Q., honorable mention in geography and history.

John Stephen, of Montreal, honorable mention in geography and elocution.

Lynn Leet, of Nicolet Falls, P. Q., honorable mention in arithmetic.

Amelia Bowman, of Lacolle, P. Q., honorable mention in English grammar.

Martha Donaldson, of Potou, P. Q., honorable mention in mensuration.

Annie Coulthard, of Beauharnois, P. Q., honorable mention in writing and English literature.

OBSTRUCTION.

The English Orator Defending It.

LONDON, June 26.—An exciting scene occurred in the house to-night. Hon. John Bright made a speech defending the conduct of Irish members in obstructing the business of the house in order to compel attention to their demands. Irish members of parliament, said he, formed only an insignificant numerical minority in the house, and they had only two methods possible for them to obtain what the majority was disposed to refuse. One of these methods was to sell themselves to one of the two English parties and thus give the purchaser the balance of power. The other was to exercise their parliamentary rights, and by the obstruction of business, under the forms of the house, to compel the majority to make concessions to them.

Fenian Skirmishing Fund.

Dennis D. Mulcahy, as will be remembered, some time ago brought an action against Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa to recover \$1,000 for services rendered by him in going to Dublin, Ireland, to attend the funeral of Colonel John O'Mahony and to bring the body to this city. Mr. Mulcahy claims that O'Donovan Rossa was to pay him this sum and charge it to the skirmishing fund of the Fenian brotherhood. The defendant admits the employment, but says the fund is not liable for payment, and refuses to pay. Judge Freeman, of the Superior Court, yesterday appointed Mr. George F. Langbein referee to take the testimony of P. W. Dunne, who was announced as coming to this city yesterday, from Philadelphia, to take to-day's steamer for Europe. All the parties and lawyers were in attendance at the referee's office from ten a. m. till four p. m., but Mr Dunne did not appear.—New York Herald.

At a recent royal banquet at Copenhagen the guests were served with hock of the year 1495, kept in the royal cellars of the castle of Rosenborg, and which is only drunk as a curiosity, being so terribly acid that several lumps of sugar have to be added to each glass before it is drinkable.

HOCHELAGA CONVENT.

The Distribution of Prizes—Gold and Silver Medals—Fancy Works.

Last Wednesday afternoon the distribution of prizes to the fortunate pupils of Hochelaga convent took place, Monsiegnor Archbishop Tache, of Manitoba, presiding. Both teacher and scholar have reason to be indeed proud of the progress which was made during the last year. A number of canons of the different orders and a few invited guests were in attendance. Beautiful specimens of fancy and plain needlework, which must have been the result of much labor, were on exhibition and created much admiration. Lace works of every description, opera cloaks, oil paintings, furniture covers, window curtains with the monograms of the different nationalities, attracted attention.

The hall in which the distribution took place was beautifully decorated with flowers and evergreens. Mottos with the following inscriptions were hung around the walls: "A Dieu seul la gloire;" "Jesus claire nos intelligences et couronne nos succes;" "Alions nous reposer a l'ombre de nos lauriers." Owing to the rule laid down by the Bishop of the diocese, the parents of the children were not present. Clever valedictories were pronounced by Miss Ella Haines, of Brooklyn, in English, and Miss M. Clement, in French.

To the kindness of the Sisters we are indebted for the following list of the principal prizes awarded:—

Gold medal Graduates—Misses M. A. McGrath, E. Haines, M. Bourke, A. Papineau, N. Heedy, C. Lake, M. Clement, A. Tourville, M. Lorange and E. Lorange.

Religious Instruction—Gold medallists—Misses N. Heedy, M. Clement, M. Poupart and M. Breen.

Department—Gold medallist—Miss V. Mount.

French conversation by American pupils—Gold medals to Misses M. Ives and H. Brady; silver medal to Miss M. Collins.

English conversation by French Canadian pupils—Gold medal awarded to Miss J. Masson, niece of the hon. the minister of militia and defence, and a silver medal to Miss E. Voligny.

Department—Silver medal to Miss E. St. Denis.

Staging—Miss Clarke, of New Haven, Conn.; prize, a gold cross presented by Madame Pelipas.

Medals of honor voted by pupils—1st, Miss M. Poupart; 2nd, Misses V. Mount and M. Ives; 3rd, Misses L. Clarke and M. Drien; 4th, Misses M. McCarthy and S. Stevens; 5th, Misses A. Beebe and M. Shaw; 6th, Misses M. Moran and C. Bourgeois; 7th, Misses B. Stevens and C. Stevens; 8th, Misses L. Rolland and D. Thibault; 9th, Misses J. Masson and H. Brady; 10th, Misses M. L. Drole and A. Sullivan; 11th, Misses M. Sanson and M. Patterson; 12th, Misses E. Brauchaud and A. Desaulniers; 13th, Misses J. Gagnon and C. Clarke; 14th, Misses N. Johnson and Sanson; 15th, Misses M. McCarthy and F. Stevens; 16th, Misses L. Beebe and Poston.

Green Ribbon—Intermediate course—1st, Misses E. Voligny and V. Howard; 2nd, Misses M. L. Plante and C. Tourville; 3rd, Misses C. de Rouville and G. Demarete; 4th, Misses N. Hills and J. Currier; 5th, Misses F. Baillarger and N. Scotte; 6th, Misses R. Galtpeau and M. Delormier; 7th, Misses Marie M. Lacoste and L. Quintal; 8th, Misses M. Pratt and A. Gill; 9th, Misses G. Morache and M. Crevier; 10th, Misses A. Fautoux and C. Payette; 11th, Miss V. Desjardins.

Juvenile Department—Red Ribbons—1st, Misses A. Scotte and B. Archambault; 2nd, Misses J. Demers and B. Glosensky; 3rd, Misses E. St. Denis and A. Laberge; 4th, Misses Josie McGovern and M. Rolland; 5th, Misses L. Galtpeau and J. Archambault; 6th, Misses M. L. Henry and J. de Rouville; 7th, Misses L. Archambault and M. Auger; 8th, Miss E. Lorraine.

Ribbons of encouragement awarded to children pupils, between 5 and 7 years of age.—1st, M. L. Scotte and L. Rolland; 2nd, H. Lenois and G. McShane; 3rd, H. Hawkins and B. Auger; 4th, A. Lorange and E. Perry; 5th, L. Fautoux.

Good conduct voted by all the pupils—Prize, Miss M. Poupart and V. Mount.

Application in all the branches taught—Prize, Misses I. Ives and J. Gagnon.

Success in all the branches taught—Prize, Miss M. Shaw.

FANCY WORKS.

In addition to the usual course of studies taught in this excellent institution, sewing and fancy work of every description were on exhibition in one of the reception rooms. The reverend sister Marie Rosalie, with her usual generosity and kindness, which has won for her the respect and love of every pupil inside the establishment, as well as a great many outside, showed a few of the members of the press samples of the many articles which were made during the year by the careful hands of the pupils. We have decided only to mention the principal works, although all are worthy of mention. A wine-colored smoking cap embroidered in gold was much admired, the work of Miss C. Blake, of Boston, Mass. Samples of hand-made lace next came under our observation, comprising a collar and handkerchief, executed by Miss M. Poupart, of this city. A quilt, the work of Miss Papineau, was really beautiful, and perhaps the finest piece of work on exhibition. Misses Distrow, Pardee and Bergstrom displayed a hand-embroidered opera cloak, which was jointly made by them, and was the object of much attention. Miss C. Blake, of Boston, contributed a hand-somely finished ottoman. Miss G. Holland, of Springfield, deserves credit for her superior workmanship of a quilt, which was the object of general attention, worked in blue satin and alternate white strips on white ground; it looked exceedingly pretty.

Want of space compels us to mention only the names of a few of those who exhibited the result of many an hour's hard work.

To Miss A. Francoeur, of this city, credit is due for the coverings of eight pieces of furniture embroidered in autumn leaves.

In the drawing department the following young ladies deserve special mention: Miss McGrath, of Boston, Mass., a black crayon drawing entitled "A Little Sammy." The pastel sketch of "A moonlight scene on the lake," by Miss E. Poston. Miss J. Thorburn, of St. John, Nfld.; Miss J. Hynes, of Brooklyn, L. I., and Miss M. Heedy, of Ohio, exhibited excellent drawings.

During the past year over 200 pupils were in attendance at the convent. To-day some of the pupils leave for home.

New York, June 26.—The Ninth regiment of Massachusetts, 400 strong, arrived here from Boston this morning by the steamer Old Colony, accompanied by a large delegation of citizens from New England, the Knights of St. Patrick, of Boston, and the famous Montgomery Light Guard. They were received by the Sixty-ninth New York regiment and escorted to the city hall and reviewed by Mayor Cooper and other city dignitaries. The procession then passed up Broadway to Union square, where an exhibition of drill was held. The Bostonians received a cordial welcome.

Address.

The following address was presented to the Rev. Father Toupin by the pupils of St. Denis Academy, on Monday week last:

THE REV. FATHER TOUPIN, Chaplain to St. Denis Academy.

REV. SIR.—Now that the academical year is drawing to a close, we, the English-speaking pupils of this institution, would fain approach your reverence with those sentiments of love, attachment, and gratitude which your zealous labors to promote their spiritual wants and necessities so richly demand.

There can scarcely be a doubt that the best mode of impressing the minds of the young with the beautiful principles of our holy religion is to exhibit these principles in their midst, and in their every-day life, and to point out, specifically, those dispositions and modes of conduct which conduce to habits of piety and virtue.

The pupils of this academy will, in after life, have abundant reason to recollect those wise principles you have so earnestly labored to inculcate, because if we wish the Catholic youth of this country to act faithfully and successfully in the battle of life, it needs be that we furnish them with the necessary arms for their future conflict.

In laboring to impress upon us the beauty of virtue, and to imbue our minds with the holy principles of religion, you have not deemed it enough that its precepts be announced, but pointedly applied them to every moral incident calculated to impress them on our minds.

Were such instructions and illustrations of moral principles given in all our schools, there can scarcely be a doubt that the most beneficial results would soon appear, and the moral state of society be improved beyond what we have ever yet experienced.

But if we are remiss in our attention to the best interests of the young, and refuse to bring into full operation a rational system of moral and religious instruction, we have no right to complain of the vicious dispositions of the rising generation, or the licentiousness and depravity of general society.

We who have the good fortune to be sheltered under the protecting wings of the Catholic church, have reason to rejoice, for she ever faithful to her Divine founder, never abandons her children; she leads them on, pointing to the golden vista beyond, and her ministers, her sainted ministers, are always like you, reverend father, leading the way to a happy eternity.

Hoping, reverend father, that these crude observations will not be unacceptable to you, and that you will graciously deign to accept our loving regards, we conclude with an earnest desire that you will ever remember us in your prayers to Him whose worthy minister you are, and that your good works here may be an earnest of your happiness hereafter.

DENIS LYONS, For self and fellows.

Notes from Quebec.

[From our own Correspondent.]

QUEBEC, June 25.

The stevedores of Quebec are running the Rock City. They put their faces against machinery in the loading and unloading of vessels, and they appoint themselves a power for the discomfiture of 671. The result must be to their discomfiture, but not, perhaps, before they do a good deal of harm. This opposition to machinery is antiquated. It will not do in this year of our Lord. Machinery will be used in every branch of commerce where it is found to be necessary, and the men who oppose it only make themselves ridiculous. When steam engines were wrecked, English farmers did not prevent the reaping machine, and the thrashing machine from saving manual labour, and no matter what the Quebec stevedores may do, machinery will beat them in the end.

THREE CITIES.

As a city Quebec is the most picturesque, Montreal the most important, and Toronto the most enterprising, in the Dominion. The Dufferin terrace in Quebec is unsurpassed for prospective beauty on this continent; Montreal has, undoubtedly, no equal in commercial wealth in Canada; while Toronto is typical for the go-aheadness for which the new world is said to be proverbial. The three cities in one would embody beauty, wealth and energy; but the three cities as they are embodying little but themselves, Quebec lacks wealth, but has the beauty; Montreal has good looks and means, but she appears to lack in energy; while Toronto has all the energy, but she lacks the wealth of Montreal and the beauty of Quebec. Providence dispenses His favours, and so we must grin and bear it.

NARROW MAJORITIES.

It is a good thing for a people when the government possess a narrow majority. When a party is expecting a single vote the party will be more careful not to offend. There are always men to be found who will not do the bidding of any party, and to such men, right and not party is the only beacon. With large majorities the government can do as they please, the loss of one vote does not affect them in the least. They can afford to snap their fingers at public opinion, and experience proves that they very often do so. Narrow majorities mean good government, while large majorities mean anything from corruption and fraud down to aristocratic rule. The reformers of Quebec will be afraid to do much harm unless they become too strong, the conservatives in Ottawa, or Sir John A. Macdonald for them, smile at all the tricks of office of which he is guilty and says, "What harm, have I not a powerful back?" Most governments, at best, are bullies, but a bully is very often a different thing when he meets one of his own kind, and when he bluffs a "pretence hand." The better men are matched the more likelihood there is of fair play.

OUR CITY FATHERS.

As a matter of taste it is not a nice thing to see our city fathers spread themselves out over the salary question. Some of them want to be paid \$2 for each time they attend a meeting of the council, and it looks somewhat pretty to see men who are reputedly well-to-do make a fuss over so small a sum. This is all right—but what is the other side of the question? Let us see. We think that all the citizens will admit that it is desirable to do something to make all the members of the council attend regularly; otherwise the self-seekers will have it their own way. Some men attend the council, it is said, for the purpose of obtaining contracts, &c. These men, it is again said, always present at the meetings. The men who have axes to grind attend, while the men who have no axes to grind are not regular in their attendance. Now, if this be so, the result must be that jobbery triumphs when honesty is away. The question then is, "How are we to get all to attend?" and the reply is, "By paying them." Two dollars is but a small sum, but yet it is a direct appeal to men's interests, and direct appeals generally carry conviction. We do not say that we favor the payment; but there are two sides to the story, and it is as well we look at both of them. We give the explanation, but we think non-payment, for which we notice the three members for St. Ann's ward voted, is more to our taste.

The Napoleons.

It is a singular fact that not one of the imperial Napoleons has died in France, or on French soil. Napoleon I., the founder of the family, died a prisoner on the British island of St. Helena, in the South Atlantic Ocean; his son, Napoleon II., died in Austria; his nephew, Napoleon III., died an exile in England; and now his grandnephew, the young man whom the French imperialists have hoped would one day rule France as Napoleon IV., has met his fate at the point of Zulu spears in South Africa.

Manufacture of Phosphates.

It would appear that there are some prospects of the languishing phosphate interests of Canada being revived. The Kingston News says:—"Messrs. Jas. Richardson & Sons have leased the old Brokenshire foundry, and intend fitting it up at once for the manufacture of phosphates. Machinery is being procured for the purpose, and it is expected that the mill will be in running order by the end of next week. The capacity of the machinery will be such as to work up about 2,000 tons of the rough material per annum." This is certainly a step in the right direction.

What Lord Coleridge Said.

In delivering judgment in favor of the Duke of Norfolk, in re the Arundel chancel case, Lord Coleridge took occasion to make a remark which no judge would have dared to publicly utter half or even a quarter of a century ago. "The Roman Catholic religion," he said, "had been persecuted from the time of Elizabeth till that of George III. in a way that was a disgrace to a civilized country." "I believe it is still Mr. Gladstone's belief, and I know it was Mr. Tennison's at the time he published his 'Queen Mary,' that not a single Catholic was put to death in the reign of the virgin queen on the ground of religion alone; and, therefore, an admission such as this from the judicial bench may be hailed as an indication of extending enlightenment and toleration. I anticipate with some amusement the *Rock's* comments on Lord Coleridge's frank confession; and I am sure it will not forget the existence of his brother in the Farm street community of Jesuits.

The Nihilists.

The island of Saghalien, to which a large number of persons suspected of being connected with the Nihilist conspiracy are to be deported from Odessa, lies at the mouth of the Amoor, and extends for some 600 miles along the east of Manchuria, from which it is separated by the Gulf of Tartary. The island was first occupied by Russia in 1855, in pursuance of the policy she has steadily followed for two centuries of bringing the Russian seaboard on the Pacific down to a temperate climate. In 1875 Japan gave up her share of the island to Russia. Owing to the existence of coal on it, and also through its position as a natural work covering the estuary of the Amoor, Saghalien is in some respects a valuable possession, but it can hardly be esteemed a desirable place of residence. Situated in from latitude 45 degrees to 54 degrees north, its climate appears to be much colder than that of most other places in the same parallel; and the island, it is stated, is entirely covered all the year round with fogs of extraordinary density. Attempts have been made to colonize the island, but without success.

Siberia.

The Moscow correspondent of the Cologne Gazette says that the practice of banishing Russian criminals to Siberia has of late been repeatedly objected to both by legal and political authorities in Russia, and that even the Government now recognizes the necessity of a thorough reform of the present system. Deportation to Siberia was first introduced as a mode of colonization, and banishment did not depend so much on the degree of the convict's guilt as on his capacity for labor; indeed, many persons who were innocent of any crime used to be sent to Siberia as settlers. It is only in comparatively recent times that banishment has been looked upon as a means of clearing Russian society of its dangerous elements. Only those are now banished to Siberia who are regarded as dangerous to society and the State, irrespectively of any qualifications they may possess as colonists. The number of persons "deported" to Siberia in 1875 was about 18,620; 5,000 of these were sentenced to banishment by a court of law, 9,000 were banished "by administrative decree," and the rest were the women and children of the exiles. It is estimated that the total number of banished persons now in Siberia is about 300,000.

Irish and German Catholics.

The Irish and German Roman Catholics of the United States seem to be making rapid strides in the development of a spirit of unity of action in matters pertaining to the advancement of our common faith. We hope they will continue to work intently until they make their influence for the good of society in general felt in every section of the country. The *Pilot* of the 12th says:—"Twenty-four years ago the German Catholic societies of the United States were organized, and the work of the great central body, which convened at Newark, N. J., on the 1st of June, was initiated. They now present one of the largest and most effective organizations in the country. The spirit of fraternization with Irish Catholics has been exhibited at recent German convention, and at the last convention of the Irish Catholic Benevolent union in Worcester, Mass., the German union was represented by an eloquent priest, who urged, with much force, a system of co-operation between Catholics of both nationalities in the work of the societies. At Newark the German Catholic committee invited the Ancient Order of Hibernians to join in their procession. This spirit of harmony between the two great Catholic elements of the United States has much more significance than that of mutual courtesy, and promises much substantial work for the faith in the future."

Walking Back to Ontario.

That there is a wide field for the industrious, frugal husbandman, the small capitalist and the trader in Manitoba and the west is, of course, true enough, but men who leave a thickly populated and highly cultivated country are not those who can always take up residence contentedly in a sparsely settled prairie, without markets, communications or any of those advantages with which they have become familiar all their lives. Such people going out west expecting to immediately better themselves by farming rich soils which have only to be tilled with a hoe to laugh with the harvest, and to make fortunes in a year or two, will be certain to be disappointed. They will be set back by much they overlooked when they took none but roseate views of a country of which they practically knew little. Here are various drawbacks incident to new countries, be they never so favorable for settlement. Mr. Weld, the editor of 'the Farmers' Advocate,' who is now in Manitoba, tells the following story:

the destitution there is fearful, and that many who arrived there from Ontario are walking back. He gives a discouraging account of affairs in that region, and says: "Government should aid deceived Canadians to return, and stop pauper migration." If this be the state of affairs now, what will it not be this coming winter? If there are any others who contemplate making their homes in this great land of promise, they should be cautious not to make an indiscriminate rush there unless they are prepared to perform the part of pioneers—in some respects—in a comparatively new land.—Hamilton News.

Crop Prospects on this Continent.

We have already published from time to time some very encouraging reports of the condition of the crops in different parts of the United States and in Canada. Despatches from all the agricultural centres in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia provinces report prospects for a bountiful harvest, with very few exceptions, remarkably favorable. The late rains have had the effect of assuring an unusually large crop of hay, and in some parts of Ontario have apparently wrought an entire change in the whole appearance of vegetation. The meadows never looked more promising, and the sown low lands and light soil, where the cold, dry spring weather and late frosts in the early part of this month had retarded the growing crops and to some extent killed the fall wheat—but recent showers have greatly revived these bad effects—the outlook to the farmer for all kinds of grain and fruit crops is most encouraging. From western Ontario come reports that the farmers have seldom if ever had such encouragement, and, on the whole, there is abundant reason to expect that the yield and quality of the Canadian harvest this year will exceed that of last year. Of course it is too early to say much of the prospects of root crops, but their present condition appears to be generally satisfactory.

The *Dubuque Herald*, in a late issue, publishes crop reports from most of the counties in the state of Iowa which indicate that the small grains will yield largely more than in any previous year. The corn crop there is in splendid condition and will yield abundantly should there be no unforeseen drawback. Farmers are jubilant over the prospects of large crops and good times.

The Land in Ireland.

The following is taken from a long letter in the *New York Herald*:—"The strongest resolutions anywhere yet passed, says the Dublin correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, in reference to the present condition of the Irish farmers have been put on record by the Roman Catholic priests of the deanery of Tralee, who ask for a reduction of rents on the ground of a failure of the last out and potato crops, the poor prospects of this year and the decline of prices for agricultural produce in consequence of American competition. They say:—"The English markets are as near or nearer to French, Belgian or Dutch producers than to us, while steam navigation has brought the vast continent of America, with its free lands and light taxation, within eight days' sail of our shores. How will it be possible for our tenant farmers, overburdened with excessive rents, heavy taxation and high farm wages, to compete successfully with their higher favored foreign competitors?" Some of the Irish tenant farmers, indeed, have not waited for priestly assistance