

value are Celtic. What an education for the race could we all only read them!

Apart from Irish literature, it was in the Celtic tongue that our persecuted forefathers prayed to God; it was in the Celtic language that—through the dark night of ages—the Faith of our race was conserved; in the Celtic language Irish mothers sang the lullaby and rocked the cradles of our great-great grand parents. By all these sacred ties, we are prepared to aid in reviving that language and transmitting it a heritage to the future.

ATHLETICS.

This week we present our readers with a special number of the TRUE WITNESS; we entitle it the "Shamrock Number." Every now and again it is our intention to issue special illustrated numbers, each dedicated to some particular subject of universal interest. We hope to be able to give our readers one every four or six weeks. The object of the present one is to mark the opening of the lacrosse season—the first game of which will be played to-morrow, the Queen's Birthday. It may be asked, "what special interest has a Catholic weekly organ in the athletic sports?" We will answer the query; but we first desire to draw a line of distinction. There is a vast difference between the interest taken in and the attention given to the events in the world of amusement, by a regular "sporting" journal and the motives that impel a religious and national publication to devote space to such subjects. In the case of the former it is the present excitement and the different sensations of the time being that excite its enthusiasm; in the case of the latter it is the future of our fellow-countrymen, the physical, moral and social development of our race that challenge our attention.

Recently, in an editorial on this subject, we spoke of the necessity of building up a stalwart and hardy race, of having men not only educated mentally, but also physically. It is a well known fact that as the mind has a great influence upon the nervous system and the state of the body in general, so the body has a corresponding influence upon the spirits and the faculties of the soul. No matter how refined the sentiments, how cultivated the mind, or how bright the intellect, if the physical strength is shattered and the vigor of youth impaired, real happiness and true success in life need not be expected. But, by means of proper care, exercise, and development, if the limbs are strengthened, the nerves regulated and the system cultivated, the spirits grow buoyant and the mind expands in due proportion. And these effects seen so clearly in the mental structure are also perceptible in the moral organization. The pure air of heaven gives a healthy glow of complexion to the outward form and loftier and nobler aspect to the moral construction. Then, socially, there are advantages that redound to the ultimate benefit of all who join together in the pastimes of the field, in the exercises of the game.

In the history of the world it has ever been so. The courage of the Athenian was only equalled by his refinement; but eventually it was the Spartan training that gave the government of Greece to the men of the latter city. While they cultivated the arts and sciences, the letters and philosophy, their legislators did not omit to enforce the rules laid down by Lycurgus; the consequence was a nation of strong minds in healthy bodies—a nation destined to hold its own against all opponents. We require good men, intelligent men, educated men, but we need also a race of healthful and powerful men. In all the leading educational institutions of this con-

tinental most particular attention is being paid to gymnastics, athletic sports, baseball, foot-ball, lacrosse and other games. Why so? Simply because the experience of the past has taught the professors of the present that unless the blood courses freely through the veins, and the physical powers are judiciously developed, there can be no hope of ever having a generation of men fitted to do battle in the great arena of life. Lacrosse is the national game in Canada; it is a grand form of athletic practice. There is required for the player, calmness, courage, swiftness, thought, judgment, decision, promptness, activity, and a dozen other of those fine qualities that go to make up the complete man in the affairs of life. These characteristics of the successful lacrosse man, when carried into the regular affairs of commercial or professional life, tend to place him at once in an advantageous position regarding all the rest of the world. There is, apart from these reasons, a certain ambition—that is most legitimate—to have the young men of our race foremost amongst the first in the grand arena of our national tournaments. By the list of the game played and the championships won, during the past twenty-eight years, it will be seen that in thirteen cases the Shamrocks have carried off the trophies of victory. The team coming next on the list having only five to its credit. This is a record of which the boys in green may well be proud; and we look forward this year with great and well-founded confidence, to their success in adding one more to their number of triumphs. Sincerely and fervently do we wish them "good luck," and may the victory perch upon their banner at the close of this season of 1894.

CANADIAN INDEPENDENCE.

Some weeks ago we penned an article under this heading; it was suggested by the reading, in the Irish Catholic, of Dublin, some quotations from Hon. Mr. Royal's pamphlet on "Independence." Fearing that our fellow-countrymen at home might, in reading the same, come to the conclusion that the Irishmen in Canada endorsed the expressions and opinions of Mr. Royal, we enlarged somewhat upon the subject, and sought to point out that, in this country, where we enjoy a real Home Rule system, we are perfectly contented with it. In its issue of 5th May, the Irish Catholic refers, in two editorial notes, to our article; but we regret very much that our Dublin contemporary seems to mistake our intentions in one instance. It is thus the Irish Catholic comments:

"The question of the loyalty of Canada to the Empire is well treated in the last issue of the Montreal TRUE WITNESS which has reached our hands, and this with special reference to a brief notice which we ourselves recently inserted of a pamphlet which was published not long since by a well known Canadian politician, the Hon. Mr. Royal, and in which that gentleman advocated the declaration of Canadian independence and the rejection of Imperial sway. Through some misconception our Montreal contemporary appears to have supposed that we endorsed Mr. Royal's suggestion. Nothing, of course, could be more contrary to fact; but we have no intention of complaining of the error in view of the fact that it has drawn from THE TRUE WITNESS a sensible exposition of the views of those whom it represents, with which we heartily agree."

After quoting, at some length, from our article, the Irish Catholic adds:

"We entirely agree with the general views of our Canadian contemporary, although we regret its misconception of our utterances."

In another place, in the same issue, we find the following:

"The position of Irishmen under Cana-

dian Home Rule is dwelt on by THE TRUE WITNESS in terms which we believe to be not one whit exaggerated."

Then comes another quotation and finally the Irish Catholic closes thus:

"We can only repeat that we entirely agree with THE TRUE WITNESS, and that we shall be much obliged if it will give us some information as to the manner in which and by whom it was induced to form a wrong interpretation of the notice of Mr. Royal's pamphlet which we published."

We are only too happy to be able to inform our esteemed Irish contemporary and friend that no person at all induced us "to form a wrong interpretation of the notice of Mr. Royal's pamphlet" which was published in its columns. If we have in any way left the impression that we found fault with the Irish Catholic we regret it exceedingly. Decidedly it was most unintentional. If our meaning was improperly conveyed it was through a lack of ability, on our part, to couch our ideas in sufficiently clear and exact language. We remarked that the comments on Mr. Royal's pamphlet "proved the danger there is that our Irish compatriots—living in Ireland—might undervalue the importance of the position we hold in Canada. Not later than last St. Patrick's Day—in a speech delivered at Gananoque—Hon. Solicitor-General Curran stated that the Irishmen in Canada were 'Hostages for Home Rule.'" In other words our idea was this: the fact of such an important organ as the Irish Catholic taking notice of and commenting upon Mr. Royal's pamphlet caused us to deem it opportune to point out to our compatriots in Ireland how very far that pamphlet was from expressing the sentiments of Irish Canadians. We did not say, nor did we insinuate that the Irish Catholic endorsed Mr. Royal's production. However, we are pleased that these misunderstandings occurred, since they have secured for us the privilege of having our editorial circulated in Ireland through the medium of one of the most popular organs in the country.

We refer editorially this week to a communication from the Rev. T. E. Ryan, of Providence, R.I., on the subject of the Irish Language Revival. Would it not be possible for some of our leading Irish literary societies in Canada to join in this movement for the sake of the grand old Celtic tongue? It would be a pleasant and useful means of cultivating literary taste as well as of creating a patriotic and national spirit. We particularly call the attention of the Young Irishmen's L. and B. Association to this question.

The following paragraph appeared in one of our last week's American exchanges:—

"Miss Florence Kilkelly, of Boston, has been sued by Mother Superior St. Anistans and Sister Clement, of Sioux Falls, S.D., for \$40,000 damages for slander. The defendant visited Sioux Falls some weeks ago to write up the divorce colony for a magazine and was entertained by the Sisters. She took offense at the refusal of the Sisters to make certain disclosures to her and left. Since leaving she is accused of having said that the Sisters tried to poison her."

This does not surprise us. The same lady landed in Montreal, last December, destitute of means and perfectly distracted—apparently on the verge of despair. She was received and treated most hospitably by the Sisters of the Hotel Dieu. During several months the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame kept her in their establishment, sought employment for her, and we individually interested ourselves, at the charitable request of the good Sisters, in her behalf. When she wanted to go to Sioux City, the nuns, through the

generosity of a couple of prominent Catholic Citizens of Montreal, secured her passage. The result of all this extreme kindness to an entire stranger was simply some insolent letters, in which she demanded that her mail be sent to her, or else she would have to expose the Indians and barbarians here—from the post master to the Sisters, from her benefactors to her protectors. We hold a couple of her letters in which she gives evidence of a very different spirit, as long as she thought there was a gain in being polite. We repeat, the above paragraph does not surprise us. Ingratitude is a spirit that can transform the being possessed of it into one whom exorcism alone can cure.

A PARIS correspondent writes as follows to an English paper:

"When Emile Zola went to Lourdes a few years ago to take notes, most people thought his intentions were at least honest. Some went further, and thought him on the road to conversion. Now the scales have fallen from the eyes of the most credulous. As if it was not enough that his wretched *feuilleton* on Lourdes now running in the Gil Blas was becoming more sensual and grossly realistic every day, the author has been at the pains to give a conference in Paris on the Lourdes miracles. As may be supposed, it was not good Catholics who went to hear him. Probably for the most part his hearers were not Catholics at all. Zola managed to offend some of them, however, by the irreligion and immorality of his remarks, and he was accordingly hissed. Young girls, it is said, had to stop their ears."

We fail to understand the spirit of those American secular papers that are now giving Zola's abominable work in weekly parts to their readers. Have they no consideration for their numerous Catholic subscribers? Have they no respect for the feelings and moral sentiments of the thousands of self respecting Protestants who read their columns? Shame!

A GRAND ENTERTAINMENT

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CATHOLIC ORPHANS

The former pupils of St. Mary's college, desirous of giving a helping hand to the Catholic orphans, organized a literary and musical entertainment, which took place in the hall of St. Mary's college, Bleury street, last evening, at 8 o'clock p.m. The following ladies and gentlemen had charge of the musical part: Mrs. C. Monk, the Misses Ducharme, Young, Hubert, Hollinshead, Hopkins, Turcotte and Lewis; Messrs. Dubois, Le Bel, E. Clark, F. Pelletier and E. Renaud. Messrs. Dumouchel, Laramee, Gladu, Mignault and Surveyor will play "Les Deux Timides," one of Labiche's most attractive comedies.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY TRIPS.

The railways are, as is usual at this time of the year, busily preparing for Queen's birthday traffic. The Grand Trunk has a great many excursions in view, among them being the St. Anthony's Young Men's Catholic association for Otterburn park, Catholic Order of Foresters for Rouse's Point, the tickets for this excursion already sold being over 800; the Highland Cadets to Alexandria, the Odafellows to Highgate Springs and the Victoria Rifles to Kingston. The C. P. R. have no particular excursions on hand, but will be fully engaged with the traffic attendant on the reduced rates for that time. With the early spring we have had, and a nice day, the traffic of this Queen's birthday should be one of the largest for years.

FIRST COMMUNION.

Archbishop Fabre gave First Communion and held Confirmation service on Thursday at the following churches: St. Louis de France at seven o'clock in the morning, where 130 boys and girls received Communion and were confirmed. At ten o'clock 360 boys and girls received Communion at St. Bridget's Church. Afterwards the Archbishop gave Communion to 400 boys and girls at Notre Dame Church, and at two o'clock in the afternoon he held Confirmation service.

THE ARNOLD READING CIRCLE.

The boys of St. Ann's School who are members of the Arnold Reading Circle, will hold their first meeting at 2 o'clock on Sunday afternoon. The boys are taking great interest in the new Reading Circle; history especially being much studied by them. There is every prospect of this becoming a grand source of literary improvement.

A PINK SOCIAL.

The Children of Mary in St. Mary's Parish are organizing a grand Concert, to be held on May the 30th. It will be a Pink Social. E.M.