WILLIAM ELLISON, IN THE QUEBEC DAILY TELEGRAPH.

Quebec has many mobile institutives these helpless immates that you tions of charity in which the deserving poor and afflicted of all creeds and races are provided for by the alms of the charitable rich, as well as by the donations of many who are far from being tich, but who yet recognize the Christian duty of resieving the distress of those less fortunate than themselves. In the real work of caring for outcast orphan children and old people who are utterly destitute, perhaps there is no more deserving institution than St. Bridget's Asylum. To trace its history during the half century, or so. of existence would be an interesting study, but it is needless to go into details as the record of its charitable works is known to the public. The institution is managed in the

the Sisters of Charity, of whom there are nine and six lay sisters. Every dollar received into the treasury is handled with judicious care and expended to the bost possible advantage. The great responsibility of the management and direction of the falls upon the Mother Superior, Mother St. Isabella, nee Miss Martha E. Murphy, who recently succeeded Mother St. Roch, who previously succeeded Mother St. Bernard. The present superioress has spent some 26 years of her life in religious vocation and she possesses all the willitudes that fit her for the trying task of caring for the destitute and helpless charges entrusted to her keeping. The unthinking outside world can. hardly conceive it possible that human nature could bend and consecrate itself, for a lifetime, to labor amidst scenes of suffering abd affliction and poverty, from no other motive but pure charity, and with no other hope of reward save what is promeed in the next life by Him whose recompense is ever just and sure. The external or general supervision of St. Bridget's is in the hands of St. Bridget's Asylum Association; a body composed of charitable and well to do members of the congregation, who have time and means tel devote to the good work. Mr. Edward Foley, has been its zealous und active secretary for many years. The Rector of St. Patrick's in virtue of able refuge may be called the secular

home there are at present 169 indecrepid creatures bordering on a their needs, tender infants and totters hands the tenderest care, while the orphan boys are thoroughly schooled and equipped with a trainwhen their term of active life begins make good members of society in tunates who were unable to help later life. The old mon and women themselves. who are able, and have a taste for

fully, understand the meaning of pure charity, for you here come into contact with a number of God's destitute and afflicted poor in various dogrees of helplessness, and you see plainly that nothing stands between thom and utter wretchedness and want but the active charity and financial aid of their kindhearted benefactors, But, coming face to face with real; urgent, and ever present need, you instinctively four that even the charitable public hardly realize how much depends upon their financial help, for this large number of helpless ones have to be fed, clothed, and nursed, while the youthful ones are educated. And the question arises whether or not the Mother Superior and the good Sisters are not anxious as to the insufficiency of he diminished funds, which ablest and most economical way by are not enough to meet all the pressing needs of the establishment. And reckoning in this mood one feels that it would be but simple justice that the anxiety of the devoted nuns should be relieved by more generous donations in money and other necessaries for the support of the institution. Many of the veteran benefactors of St. Bridget's give generously according to their means, but the congregation is, not near so large as it use to be and that makes the burden harder for the steadfast friends of the home who remain Some, however, might double their

> The consolation derived from those weighty works, "Incismuch as you did it unto the least of these you have done it unto Me." and again the giving of a cup of cold water in the name of charity will not lose its the heirs. One heir in Georgia has reward, ought to be reward enough | made \$15,000 by sales of stamps on for the relievers of real distress.

One of the chief supports of St.

donations, without inconvenience,

and others again, whose hearts may

never have been touched by feelings

of charity, might give something and

bd as well off at the year's end.

Brifget's is the money derived from the aimual buzaar conducted by the good ladies of the congregation, aided by the zealous Redemptorists in charge of the parish, but last fall's effort shows a deficit of \$780 as compared with the year before. This will have to be made good by the his office, is president, Rev. Father increased efforts of the charitably in-Henning, C.SS.R., controls the ad-clined. Considerable bequests were mission and the discharge of the in- made during the year, but this is an mates, while Rev. Futher Delorgy, uncertain schurce of revenue in a CSS.R., is chaplain, Such a charit- congregation that is comparatively poor. The Provincial Legislature arm of the Church, and is of course, gives annually \$525 and Caisse under the immediate spiritual effect d'Economis, \$200, and many friends of the home, in the city and Levis. Patrick's parish, who labor un- have demated sums of money. Sevcasingly for its guidance and well-craft generous-hearted doctors have given of their professional skill. Inside the walls of the charitable Merchants and traders have contributed towards the Christmas dinner. dividuals consisting of orphan tots many noble minded Protestant donfrom two years to withered and ors being among the number. The manager of the Electric Railway, hundred years. The inmates are Mr. Lafrance, printer and book-bindclassed and cared for according to er, and the three English speaking newspapers of the city have been tering old age, receiving at the Sis- benefactors in various ways to St. Bridget's, but its main sustenance must come from the charitable men and women of St. Patrick's coagreng that fits them to earn a living gation, and the reessing obligation lies at their doors to adequately. a the outer world. The young girls support an institution that has earnalso receive the best of practical and ed such a noble record by its untold religious instruction fitting them to works of charity to the poor unfor-

The needs of the Asylum are seen work, are usually employed. It is in this pare fact, namely, that the only when you go through the dif- total receipts for 1899 were \$9,286. reat wards and see with your own and the expenditure was \$9,982.

A STUDY OF STAMPS AND COLLECTORS' METHODS.

he Hunter stamp collection and the nually hereafter. ountry, but the third, the others cards. aving taken place at the Dien Musee! In the period of little more than a

The recent sale in New York of tion in March of this year, and an-

arga sums paid for some of the spec- lection bids fair soon to become the mens have brought the subject of third in importance in existence. The bilately under discussion. The most valuable at it esent is the privrooklyn Institute of Arts and Sci- ate collection of M. Philippe Feruri, nces is the only educational body of Paris, worth much more than the world that recognizes philate- million dellars, and the second is the study, collection, and preser-that of the British Museum, which ation of stamps) as a science. Its owes its place largely to the acquisiection on philately was organized tion of the splended collection of the eptember 16, 1898, by the members late T. K. Tapling, M.P. M. Ferrari the Long Island Philatelic Society employs two agents, whose sole busi-Brooklyn. During the latter part ness is to search for stamps. One he March of the next year the section pays 10,000 francs a year and the of its first exhibition of postage other, 12,000 francs. One attends excorrevenue stamps This was not clusively to adhesive stamps. his

this city, in 1888, and at the Chi- year since the Philatelic Section was ago World's Fair in 1893, respect- founded the Brooklyn Institute has vely. But the Brooklyn exhibition received stamps from about fifty mas more extensive, more claborate, governments. This prompt and generand successful them either of its pre ous response is, attributed to the cessors, over 10,000 persons at high reputation which the Institute of the troops. ending. Thus encouraged the section enloys abroad Among the contribut. Mr. Deats divides Confederate comparable confederate parties have another and greater exhibit ors collection are the United stamps into four groups. He says

States, Austria, Hungary, Roumania. Russia, Egypt, British India, New Zealand, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Canada, Newfoundland, the South African Republic, Siam, Hong Kong, the Bahamas, and St. Lucia. The American set is complete, down to the latest issues of Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam. The French Mnister of Marine and Colonies sent the issues of forty colonies. All of the British colonies are also represented, the five Australian sets being particularly fine. These stamps are all genuine, and unmarked in the case of current issues, but reprints of the originals are out of use. Great Britain is the only conspicuous government that has not yet contributed, parhaps because there is will probably be forthcoming through the influence of the Duke of York, whose good offices the Institute have

The highest price ever paid for a ten-cent stamp of 1845, showing the autograph of Postmaster Buchanan of that city. Next to the Baltimore provisional stamp in value, the 20cent St. Louis stamp of the same class brought \$3,000. Many rare American stamps are worth from \$500 to \$2,000. In this class are the Brattleboro, Vt., Millbury, Mass., und New Haven, Conn., postmasters' stamps, and the Confederate provisionals. Beaumont, Uniontown, and Madison. Any well- authenticated Confederate stamp of which no duplicate is known to exist is worth \$500. Those who have access to correspondence of dates between 1843 and 1870 inclusive, have good chances to find valuable rarities. It is better to leave them on the envelopes. What is known to collectors as the Cobb correspondence—the Cobbs being allied with the family of M. B. Lamar, once President of the republie of Texas, when that existed-has proved almost a literal gold mine to these letters, and the supply is not

yet exhausted. Some foreign stamps are even more marketable. Among the rarest are the early issues of such British possessions as Mauritius, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick. Newfoundland, and Canada. The earlier stamps of British Guiana and the Hawaiian Islands are practically unobtainable at any price.

At the Brooklyn Institute, recently, before the Section of Philately, H. E. Deats of Flemington, N. J., exhibited a collection of Confederate stamps, conservatively valued at \$150,000. For a single small collection of stamps entering into his greater collection Mr. Deats paid \$4,500 a couple of years ago. Philately evolved to such an extent that the of Spartanburgs with quaint records. philatelist who expects to do anything noteworthy must specialize, and Mr. Deats' specialty is Confederate stamps. His collection is probably the finest of the kind in the world, although several European collectors crowd him closely for the first place. The collection consists of genuine Confederate stamps, reprints, and

To avoid imposition the collector

must be equally familiar with each of

the three classes. This is largely microscopic work. So minute is the scrutiny of the stamp expert that as soon as he has secured arare stamp. shades of that same stamp as eagerly as before he sought the particular denomination. The tiniest displacement or discoloration makes it practically a new stamp to him. The counterfeitors regard the philatelists as their fair prey. And this is easily seen in view of the fact that un alleged stamp actually worth nothing. with a face value of only 5 cents. mpy bring \$500 or more. As a rule however, the stamp-men are sharp enough to take care of themselves. As illustrating the detective work incident to philately, a collector traced a letter addressed to Alexand-Stephens. Vice -President of the Confederacy, around the world off and on during fifteen years before he finally found it in London. The Confederate Government made stamps in sheets of forty of a prevailing denomination of 5 cents, just as the United States now makes them in sheets of 400, and sells them 100 yo the sheet, the commonest denomination being 2 cents. The Confederacy did not recognize the provisional stamps of the postmasters, but the exigencies of the mail service made their use necessary. The postumsters usually stamped envelopes by hand. and then sold the envelopes, none he first display of the kind in the colleague to stamp envelopes and for less than 5 cents. If the exact postage were 6 cents, it cost the sender a dime. Letters forwarded from one address to another had to be restamped at extra cost. Thus

somo lettere cost twenty cents in

postage before they reached their

Providence, Rhode Island, \$200,000. Dr. W. C. destination, owing to the movements

comparable collection of the very

this classification is somewhat arbitrary, but that no stamp fails to come under one or other of these heads. In the first class are the stamps issued by postmasters on their own responsibility before the Government issued any. These fall into three sub-divisions-improvised hand stamps, hand-set stamps, and those produced by the comparatively primitive lithography of that time. The second subdivision is the most interesting, the composition of some of the specimens being very crude, those now owned by Mr. Dats showing four different spacings, as many distinct fonts of type, and numerous irregular impressions in the border caused by misplaced fragments of brass rules. One at least shows bad no British precedent for such a com- proof-reading. McConnell-the name tribution. But the English stamps of the postmaster --appearing with three successive c's. The hand stamps were made with wooden or metal dies, rubbæ stamps not yet having come in use. A few of these stamps show that the postmister changed single United States stamp was \$1,- his mind about their value, or decid-400. This was the famous Baltimore ed to have a bargain sale, as second denominations are stamped over the figures. This subdivision is so extensive that Mr. Dants is inclined to treat it as a class by itself, although technically it belongs to the first class. Regarding it as the second class, the third consists of adhesive stamps issued by the Confederate Government, and broadly known as "Confederate stamps," The unstamped onvelopes used by the Colife lerate Post-Office Department, corresponding to the penalty envelopes in use by the Federal Government nowadays constitute the fourth class. It is noteworthy that the Post-office Department was the only department of the Confederate Government that did not have to use stamps.

> The Deats collection includes envelope showing four Confederate provisional stamps, the only four to gother in existence. Four other envelopes epitomize the history of the Rebellion. The date of the first and that of the last are less than a year apart. The first, dutod April, 1861, bears a provisional stamp showing the Southern flag; the second, under date of June of the same year, the postmaster's hand stamp; the next dute of August, the postmater's engraved stamp, with the Confederate Goværnment's stamp pasted over it; the last, only a few months later, the government stamp alone. The collection contains a Macon stamp bearing no mark except its denomination, the unusual one of 2 cents. The collector paid \$500 for it. He knows it is a Macon stamp, because there is one other in existence, exactly like it, except for the add;tional data of time and place. The only Beaumont stamp known to exist he bought for \$1,000. He has a Pair

A Flengington pookseller, and a neighbor of his, was a steward in the Northern Army, and in Arkansas that captured and rifled a Confederate mail-bag. Few persons saved stamps in those troublesome times, but these two Spartanburgs impressed him as curiosities, and one he sent to his mother, the other to his sister. Afterward Mr. Deats bought one for \$5, and the present catalogue price of its companion is \$100.

A couple of New Orleans Secont stamps Mr. Deats regards as his most precious treasures. One is he begins to look for varieties of red on white, the other red on blue. The first is the only one of its kind there is, so far as known; therefore it would bring at least \$500, but it is not for sale. "Beyond price." is its dwner's own phrase about it. There is a single duplicate of the red on blue. More ornate and beautiful than either of these is a Livingstone, Ala., stamp, a blue shield on a white ground, with cupids in the corners, interwoven with delicate tracery. It looks like a state seal. It cost \$726, Two very scarce stamps in the collection are the 6-cent and the 10cent Confederate greens, as they are

> Then there are some interesting Baton Rouge counterfeits, made in Philadelphia after the war. They are four millimetres across, while the genuine are only three. That is all there is to brand them as base, but learned gentleman would be in medici that is enough.

TheDeats and the Institute collections are by no means the only great ones in this country. H. J. Duveen, of London and New York has a magnificent collection, his specialties Laing United States stamps, Pritish and French colonials, and old Horopeans, altogether valued at about \$400,000. The collection has been in this country at various times, but is now in England. Ex-Mayor Olney, of leas a general collection catalogued at Howers. of Bridgeport, Conu., has the finest collection in the world of early issuesof New South Wales. And H. H. Crocker of San Francisco, has an in-

TOLD BY FATHER BURKE.

laxation from his work, he would you with boards?" give funny reminiscences of strange is the following:

self from side to side, apparently in

oh, dear!" and burst into tears.

"Well, well, Molly," I replied, "you know he has been given over for some time by the doctors, and you said you would be content if go. He was well [repared and you ought to be more reconciled."

"Oh!" said she, petulantly, "that cent article." is not what's troubling me, but he has been so long sick that every penny is gone, and now that he is dead he will have to be buried by the parish. Oh! that he who saw netter days should have to be buried in a paupor's grave."

Recognizing the universal desire of the poorer classes at any cost of suffering to themselves to give a good funeral to the deceased relative, I you a pound out of the poor-box, brought, he took a hammer You run to Dublin and buy a coffin, by the parish.' She drops on her knees and with

to light you to glory."

I put her gently out, she walked to Cook Street.

To Americans it may be necessary to say that Cook street is a very narrow lane almost exclusively devoted to the manufacture of cotlins Big hulks of coffins are to be seen leaning against door entrances and inside there are piles of comins of all sizes. Little coffin lids may he seen holding up upper windows, and a continual rat-tat-tat may be heard all day in the different shops, where the workmen are engaged in putting on the tin ornaments that adorn the coffin of the poor.

When Molly came to the head of the street and saw all the resparations ed up, but before she had time to cry the owner of one of the estab- like that," pointing to the big hula. lishments - always on the lookout

as well as any man." "Oh, I seeyou knew him to a dot,"

she replies. By degrees he draws over toward

his shop and when at it he says: wantin' ma'am?" "Yis," she says, "that's what

brought me up to Dublin."

"How will that one do?" says he. pointing to a big coffin standing inside the door. "You know it was some time since I saw him, and he may have grown stout."

Sho thinks that would about do, and put her hand over it to feel its thickness. He immediately launches out in praise of his coffins.

"That's a fine article, ma"am; it is made out of the best boards get from Archangel."

When Father Tom Burke was in | "From the archangels! Oh, the one of his genial moods, taking re- Lord be good to us, do they supply

"Oh, yes, we keep nothing but the scenes which he had witnessed or vory best. Do you know Mr. Murray heard of. One of the most humorous that lives in Gloucester Diamond ? Well, he is a snug ould bachelor; One morning going into the Con- only last week he got sick and the rent of Tallaght I was met at the doctors gave him up he sent for his door by a poor woman swaying her- housekeeper. 'Mrs. Murray,' says he, 'they tell me I'm goin' to die.' 'Ah, don't talk that way, sir,' says she: She burst out at once: "Oh, Falh- you'll dance at all their wakes yet." er Tom, he's gone at last; he's gone; Oh, don't interrupt me,' says he, cross-like. 'I want you to make me a promise' says he. 'Anything in raison sir,' says she. 'Well, then, says he. 'whenever I am taken I want you to go ever to Mick Farrell's, in Cook you knew he was well prepared to street, and order my coffin. 'I will, sir,' says she. 'Then I'll die aisy,' says he, for I know I'll get the de-

> Just then Molly put her hand on the lid of the coffin and pointed out a

"Oh," says Farrell, "I'll fix that at cince," Then, calling up the little crooked stairs, he roars out : "Jemmy, bring me down a bunch of the best ameels."

These are blocked tin ornaments with which the coffins of the poor said: "Well, now, Molly, I will give are adorned. When the ungels were tacked one over the knot-hole, and and I will see that he is not buried one on the opposite side for uniformity.

"How will that do, ma'am? unraised hands says: "Oh, Father Though you must know that woolien Tom, jewel, may every hair of your kave in a hole like that for the poor head turn to a mowl' (mould) candle old sowl to creep through on the last day, as my coffins are so well made, and so safely screwed down Dublin and at once proceeded to that the poor tenant might be kept too long in Limbo."

> She expressed herself satisfied, and then put the important question: 'What is the price?"

> In his most insinuating tones he says; "The price of the article is a pound, but on account of the man that's gone and your desolate condition, I'll give it to you for seventeen and six."

> "Seventeen and six for that ! I'll give you ter and sixpence, and that's enough!"

All the suavity of manner that be horotofore possessed left him, and with a cynical scowl on his visuse, for burial of the dead, her tears well he says: "Go on out of that. you ould strap. Ten and six for a coffin

"It's a coffin made of chancyfor such cases-come up to her and orange boxes or of cholera bourds you want, and not the light ar-"So your poor man is gone at last, ticle in the street, Go over there to ah. God be with him; he was the dass Tom Foley's and get something to suit your pocket. He'll give you oue "Oh, then, you knew my poor hus- made of cholera hoards, so he will -wid your ten and six- and before "Yes, indeed, many is the time your man is twenty-four hours under he and I went to Bully's Acre to- the sed in Bully's Acre or Templeduring the war was one of a party gether, and he would take his pint ogue, the body snutchers will have him, so they will-wid your ten and six. Yes, and they'll take out his liver and lights and preserve them in spirits in Madame Steven's Hospital, so they will-wid your ten and "I suppose it's a coffin you'll be six. Yes, and they'll sell his shin bones, to Todd & Burns, to make handles for parasols, so they will -wid your ten and six. Yes, and they'll take out his teeth and sell them to Dr. Brady, the dentist, in Stephens Green, and he'll put them in the mouth of some bloody ould infidol, where they'll be gnashing in hell for all eternity-wid your ten and

> Molly, who was writhing in agony during the first part of the philippic. could not withstand the last fearful threat and paid the sum denanded .-The Gael.

BUMOR OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Continued from Page Nine.

strumental in promoting the organization. One learned and eminent lawyer, who had become the chief oilicer in a regiment of volunteers, especially moved his mirth. There were dangers, he argued, in those fielddays of volunteers, no one could tell what accidents might not happen, "and my advice to the honorable and tutissimus ibis-you will get along much more safely in the Middle Temple," the recognized home of staid and steady, going lawyers in London.

One of the Ir sh law efficers of a former Liberal Government, who was afterwards raised to the bench of justice and became Baron Dowse, used to amuse the House very much, by his rattling Irish humor. During a debate many years ago on one of the schemes for the admission of women to the learned professions, delivered a characteristic Dowse speech.

"I don't deny," hr said in the some truth in the assertion that 7 ST. LAWRENCE STREET course of it, "that there may be some of our judges are old women,

but I do not think that is sufficient reason why every old woman should try to become a judge."

A good deal of ready humor is sometimes displayed in the House of Commons when a member wishes to say something offensive and yet is anxious to escape being interrupted and called to order by the specter. An Irish member of a former day was once making an attack on one of the ministers who had just deliv-

ered a somewhat provocative speech. "The Right Honorable gentleman," said the Irish member, "is full of hig words when he lectures us from the Treasury bench, as every cock crows loudest on his own-homestead, Mr. Spenker," he added quickly, when he saw that the eyes of the Speaker were turned menacingly toward him in anticipation of a loss decorous ex-

I think with this anecdote I may bring to a close my illustrations of the humor occasionally displayed in the House of Commons.—Justice Mc-Carthy, in the Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post.

pression.

BROSSEAU,

DENTIST, Telephone 2001.