

MRS. SHEPARD THE IMPOSTOR.

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

DEAR SIR,—It seems scarcely credible in this enlightened nineteenth century that there still can be found a class of people ever ready to welcome this notorious adventurer, whose character is well known to all, and to give ear with some show of belief to her plausible stories and absurd statements, the truth of which she has never attempted to sustain by the least shadow of proof, except the sinful vagaries engendered by what she is pleased to call the "sorrows of her past life." On her own veracity (?) then she expects foolish people to believe her. But she can't deceive anyone except a few who will not know the truth. The fruits of her demoralizing and dissention work are clear to all, when one can't walk the streets without being forced to listen to a few yarns, and put up with insulting epithets taken from this "bird of ill-omen's" dictionary, thus creating an ill-feeling and malevolent spirit among peaceful and law-abiding citizens everywhere this damsel has graced by her presence. But the joke of it is, that it is coolly asked by some, "why don't you reply?" Reply to whom and to what, may I ask? Is it to one who has no redeemable quality in her character, to one who, on her oath a few weeks ago, had to acknowledge to the dark and foul spots in the record of her past life, and who knew not who her father was; to one who had to refer to her notebook to ascertain what is the real name she bears at present, and to find out how many times she wed, her former spouses being still alive? Is it to reply to the nursery tales, malicious lies and indecent discourses which have no foundation in fact; in defense of which she can give no proof, excepting bold assertions hatched in the foul nest of her own disordered imagination? No; such a thought is not worthy of consideration. Her history is before the world, and if anybody wishes to know anything of her past career it can be had at the Catholic book stores or newspaper offices for twenty-five cents.

Some people seem to be gulled into the belief, misled, no doubt, by the amount of arrogance and audacity she puts on, that she is sincere, losing sight of the real object of her undertaking in laying her wily schemes to the best advantage for taking the money out of their pockets, and the better to insure success, she has espoused the cause of the P. P. A.—whatever that might mean. The cause must be a desperate one indeed that needs her assistance to prop it up. But no matter, when there is money in it the cause must advance at all hazards, the "end justifies the means." Of course the Catholic Church is attacked front and rear, her doctrine is misrepresented, her teachers denounced as wicked and designing men, leading people astray, and her members in general are to be treated with scorn and contempt, and relegated from the ranks of society, and driven from every position in office, as not worthy of trust or public confidence. The hydra-headed monster of bigotry, prejudice and hatred raises its head among a peaceful and law-abiding people, to such a pitch as to insult them on the streets, and 'tis asked, "who is responsible?" I reply by repeating the same question, "who is responsible." This lady is hired and encouraged and imported from place to place, to slander the faithful adherents of the ancient faith—the town halls are thrown open to receive her without a dissenting voice,—she is received with open arms by those who should be the guardians of public peace and morality,—her filthy lectures for "men only" and "women only" are attended by a motley crowd of open-mouthed people, and drunk in with avidity,—she is admitted into so-called Christian churches to exercise her charity in bearing false witness against her neighbour,—she is applauded to the echo; and 'tis asked "who is responsible." The answer is evident to all.

The defenceless religious, the Sisters, the real nuns, upon whose innocent heads she is continually pouring the vials of her wrath, are a source of much trouble to her. If she really knew how indifferent they are to her tirades of abuse, she would try some other means for annihilating them. The character of those good sisters needs no defence. They have proved to the world what they are and what they are doing. Their deeds of valour have been emblazoned on the walls of their own convents; on the silent chambers of the sick and dying; on the prison walls and pest house; have been witnessed on the field of bat-

tle amidst the dead and wounded, long before this damsel appeared on the scene, and will remain written in the hearts of thousands who were fortunate to be placed under their care when the name of this traducer will be recalled only as a by-word of reproach. Why mention particular cases? Their number is legion. Who were called upon less than three years ago not a hundred miles away from Toronto to nurse the son of a respected Protestant minister, stricken down by a deadly fever, when even his own friends and relatives felt it prudent to keep away?—the Sisters, who are now caring for the victims of smallpox in Chicago, where a short time ago there were reported no less than fifty cases and eleven deaths, including one of the faithful nurses. Who responded a few years ago to the call given by the Board of Health for volunteers to cross the "Dawn," to nurse, at the imminent danger of losing their lives, poor creatures dying of smallpox?—the Sisters only. Who held on till the very last, faithful to their post, nursing and even bringing to their graves hundreds of victims laid low by the dreadful ravages of yellow fever which swept over a portion of the Southern States some years ago, laying waste in its track whole towns and villages, turning them into a ghastly scene of carnage and destruction?—who remained when everybody that possibly could get away fled?—the faithful priests and sisters, many of whom went down before the plague, and bravely sacrificed their lives for the sake of the fever stricken people. This jail bird and those of her stamp, where were they then, or at any time when there was a real necessity to lend a helping hand, to exercise a real work of charity for the love of God towards suffering humanity? Nowhere to be found. And those are the self-sacrificing souls the Protestant people of Ontario are asked by this "reformer of morals," bless the mark! to beware of and shun as dangerous and prejudicial to the well being of society. I venture to say that if it pleased the Almighty tomorrow to scourge Ontario by sending a deadly plague of some kind as a chastisement for the wicked work, for the obscene discourses and indecent trash with which she is poisoning the minds of curious and easily-led people to their ruin and destruction, I would lay down my life, if such happened, this "heroine of many tragedies" and her admirers would be among the first to leave the field to those whom she is now villifying, to the utter disgust of all who have the interests of society and morality at heart. There is a law, I believe, in force which seizes immoral literature and punishes the propagators thereof. Why then is this shameless woman allowed to lecture in halls and in churches, so-called—disseminating the seeds of moral leprosy among the people without being taken to task. They come from her entertainment, (?) amongst them would-be respectable women; they say "it wasn't fit to listen to." Her books are bought and devoured by young and old. The husband says he dare not let his wife see him read it; she says the same of him; the son and daughter say the same of parents; her abominable lectures are talked of in the bar-rooms, in the work-shops, in the stores, and elsewhere; young children have a few choice selections in their mouths as a play toy along the streets to fling at whom they please, particularly Catholics—the writer received the full benefit of one of these tit-bits—I dare not put it on paper—and still this whitened sepulchre is left at large to say and do as she pleases to the destruction and ruin of souls. The very air and surroundings here are polluted with the germs of immorality which this creature has scattered far and wide, and the same unsavory odor she leaves behind wherever she goes, and still she is the hero of the hour, an honorable woman, and her admirers, all are honorable men! How fastidious, indeed, must those people be in their selection of moral food for reflection when they feast at the banquet given by this lady for two hours or more at a time. But enough; comment is unnecessary.

It is a consolation to know that she is not tolerated by the respectable class of Protestants, that she is disowned and denounced by the liberal-minded members of that religion, ministers and laity alike, as a disgrace, a hindrance, a moral evil, to any cause or association that has for its object the further advancement of unity, peace and concord which should prevail among all Christian people.

JOSEPHUS.

THE CATHOLIC IMMIGRATION HOME.

Thirty orphan children will come to the Catholic Immigration to-morrow evening from England. The children will be in charge of the Rev. Father St. John of Montreal.

Miss Brennan, the superintendent of the home, has received nearly 100 applications for boys and girls, mostly from farmers. Of 17 boys received into the home last week 8 have been satisfactorily placed.

The children sent from the orphanages in England have a sufficient stock of good clothes to last two or three years. The boys' outfit, which is packed in a substantial brown canvas bag, contains three full suits: blue serge suit, a tweed suit, and a suit of "never wear out" moleskin, for working in during the cold weather; each boy has also two large woolen mufflers, 5 Oxford shirts, a working cap, hat for best wear, and a sealskin cap for winter; in addition they have 3 pairs of strong boots, good underwear and suitable hose; altogether sufficient clothes to withstand 3 years hard wear, by which time they will have earned money enough to buy their own clothes.

Miss Brennan's excellent method of governing the children by kindness acts splendidly and the children are quite as obedient as they would be under the most rigid discipline and are naturally far happier.

ST. MARYS C. O. F. ENJOY THEMSELVES AT OTTERBURN PARK.

One of the most enjoyable of the Dominion day excursions was the picnic of St. Mary's Catholic Order of Foresters to Otterburn Park. Eleven cars left the depot in the morning and another special train of 8 cars left early in the afternoon; altogether there were nearly 800 persons present. The party enjoyed themselves immensely, and the energetic committee men under the able direction of Mr. J. Doolan, in spite of the hot weather, accomplished their duties splendidly.

Some of the prizes awarded to the winners of the races were very costly and above the average in value. The following is a list of events:—

Race for boys, under 12, won by Master Kearns.

Race for girls, under 12, Miss Ryan.

Young ladies' race—Miss Ryan, prize, gold ring.

100 yards, married ladies' race—Mrs. Fogarty.

Throwing the 56 pound weight—Mr. Brophy.

Putting 16 pound shot—1, Mr. McGreary; 2, Mr. Doolan; 3, Mr. L. Carle.

Half mile race—John Kearns.

Quarter mile race—J. White.

Quarter mile race, open to Foresters, T. Kearns.

100 yards, smoking race, P. Mongahan.

Quarter mile race for Chief Rangers and Past Chief Rangers—1st prize, handsome silver medal, won by Mr. J. Doolan.

100 yards, fat men's race (prize, a barrel of flour), won by Mr. J. Doolan.

Quarter mile race, for members C. Y. M. S., won by C. Kearns.

100 yards, married ladies' race, won by Mrs. Carroll; Mrs. Doolan, second.

The committee race, won by Mr. Cavanagh.

The party returned to the city about 8 o'clock, after enjoying a splendid day's outing.

The prizes won in the athletic events will be distributed on Saturday evening, at 8 o'clock, at 15 Dalhousie Square.

FATHER O'DONNELL HONORED.

Friday, the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, was also the Feast of the Rev. Father O'Donnell, of St. Mary's parish, and to testify their esteem for his zealous pastor, the ladies of the parish presented him with an address and a very substantially filled purse. Six prominent ladies of the parish were delegated to make the presentation on behalf of all the lady parishioners. Father O'Donnell, replying to the address, thanked the ladies most heartily for their generosity and for the kind feelings they entertained towards him.

ST. PATRICK'S ACADEMY.

The closing exercises at St. Patrick's Young Ladies' Academy were held on Thursday morning. Among those present were Father Quinlivan, Father Toupin, Mr. J. K. Foran, LL.B., and a

number of the relatives of the pupils. Miss Cunningham read an address to the Rev. Father Quinlivan, to which he replied very feelingly.

All the exercises presented by the young ladies were excellently carried out; in recitations the pupils showed especial proficiency. The recitations in French by several English pupils were splendidly rendered and the pronunciation of the words was almost perfect.

The Sisters of the Academy are greatly pleased at the success of their pupils, and speak very highly of the efforts of the young ladies to attain good places in the classes.

The following young ladies succeeded in carrying off the highest honors:—

Diploma Class—The Hon. Edward Murphy prize for English, Millie Cunningham, who gets also a prize for music and drawing. For English composition, Mary Christy and Maud Crosby. Other prize winners, Anna McCabe, Margaret Reynolds, Ellen Bowman, Elizabeth Wall, Elizabeth M. Moy, Jessie Hart, Margaret Day, Annie St. John, Mida Hanly, Stella Stephens, Clara Orton.

MISS CRONIN'S ACADEMY.**DISTRIBUTION OF PREMIUMS AND THE LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS.**

It is always a pleasure for us to announce any event that takes place in Miss Cronin's splendid academy, at 257 St. Antoine street. No event is of more importance than the closing of the scholastic term and the annual distribution of premiums. On Thursday, the 28th, at 10 20 a.m., this interesting ceremony took place. A most well selected programme was executed, and on all sides were congratulations, both to pupils and teachers. The medals awarded have been given, with the exception of two, by P. S. Murphy, Esq., member of the Council of Public Instruction. His Worship Mayor Villeneuve donated two medals to the school. The following is the list of the prize-winners:—

FIRST CLASS.

Annie Darragh, Norah Connolly, Ethel Mooney, Annie Laroux, gold medals, awarded for general excellence.

Second Division.—Sarah Coughlin, gold medal for assiduity and conduct; Agnes Quinn, silver medal for assiduity; Lizzie Kavanagh, prize for punctuality and writing; Rose Guinan, good conduct and punctuality; Rosanna Beaulieu, good conduct and writing.

SECOND CLASS.

Lizzie Foley, silver medal for excellence; Rose Methral, Gerlie McMahon, Florence Jefferson, Teresa Kavanagh, Maud Sword, Agnes Murray, Pearl Macalpine, Rose Casey.

FRENCH CLASS.

Anna Paquette, silver medal; Albertine Pleau, punctuality; Bernadette Guilmette, punctuality; Lea Quevillon, punctuality. Prize for general excellence, Evelina Guilmette; assiduity and conduct, Marie L. Laprairie; application, Blanch Valliere; assiduity, Blanch Parizeau and Alice Cypriot.

Second Division.—Prize for politeness, Alexina Laprairie, Eva Belec, Theodora St. Amour, Dorilla Foley, Bertha Cardinal, Marie Anne Lalonde, Delphica Laberge. Prize for excellence in English studies won by Rebecca Pleau.

GIRLS' CLASS.

Third Division.—Gertrude Metherell, silver medal, excellence; Annie Duggan, prize for writing and assiduity; Clara McMahon, May Foley, May Curtis, Lillie Duggan, Nellie Carrick, Janet Melver. Music: Gold medal, won by Lizzie Kavanagh; Nora Connolly and Ethel Mooney, silver medals. Special prizes for calisthenics: Gold medal, Lizzie Foley; silver medals, L. Kavanagh and Rose Guinean.

BOYS' CLASS.

First Division.—John McBride, silver medal, excellence; Willie McBride, Patrick Hushen, Daniel Hushen, Willie Davis, Emmet Blais. Second Part—Denis Brennan, silver medal; Harry Barrett, James Macalpine, George Murray, Andrew Duggan, Willie Barry.

Second Division.—Harry McGrath, silver medal; Mathew Gahan, John Barrett, Edwin Colrick, John Davis, Mathew Hicks, Joseph Casey, Peter Casey, Frank Cooney, Rene Longpre, Richard Davis.

Third Division.—James Barrett, Herbert McMahon, Timothy Molloy, James Whelan.