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The Catholic Record.

Christianus mihi nomen est Catholicus vero Cognomen.—(Christian is my Name but Catholic my Surname).—St. Paclan, 4th Century.

VOLUME XXXI.

LONDON, ONTARIO, SATURDAY JULY 17, 1900.

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A SCATHING ESSAY.

In his latest work, "Essays, Literary, Critical and Historical," published by William Briggs, Toronto, Dr. O'Hagan shows that his pen is as virile and cultured as of old. One essay that should provoke comment is that entitled "The Degradation of Scholarship."

Dr. O'Hagan asks his readers to examine it carefully, remembering that the courage to state a truth is a more valuable asset of character than the gift of bestowing false praise, though that praise should secure friends.

Referring to the degradation to which scholarship is subjected at the hands of certain so-called educators, the author asks "How could it be otherwise when pedantry with all its assumption and presumption usurps the throne of scholarship, and true culture finds but little welcome in the class-rooms and academic halls of our land?"

Dr. O'Hagan contends that the work done in the primary and secondary schools of Ontario is the merest pedantry, tricked out in the feathers and pomp of a school curriculum. The Latin, French and German as taught in these schools are proofs of pedantry rather than of scholarship.

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The author asks, why does the Government of Ontario refuse, and against all justice, the Roman Catholic Separate School system the right to develop beyond an elementary status?

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The child of this generation is one of the sharers of the White Man's burden. We see him trudging to school carrying a load of books, on a multiplicity of subjects, to be pondered over and to be crammed with for examination.

and ends, learned names and dates, but he cannot think for himself. He is so hurried in his efforts to keep pace with the work that he does not understand why some poems are sung along the streets of Ispahan and some pages of prose are part of the world's literature, though he may pass and be acclaimed as the finished product of the school system.

The "better class of Catholics" is a phrase that is unseemly on the lips of a Catholic editor. To see it in accounts of entertainments is bewildering to those who believe that the Church's children are before her alters as equals and the one distinction recognized by her is that of virtue.

Against the Great White Plague is arrayed public opinion, backed by medical authorities and a disquieting amount of mortality statistics. Good food, fresh air, hygienic surroundings, the weapons in the fight, are within the reach of the rich.

There is a comfort, even to the strongest of us, in feeling that the crooked lines and the many blots on yesterday's page may be left behind and that the pleasure of a "fresh start" may be enjoyed every morning.

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Much practical optimism is hidden between the covers of "The Knack of It," by Charles Battell Loomis, published by Revel. For example:

As long as the public rates the teachers' services equal, in many cases lower than that of the day workman who digs our streets, it has no right to ask for anything better—it gets now very much better than it pays for.

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Despite their enthusiasm and persistence—revivals, clubs, classes—their leaders confess that religion is today of very low vitality. Without commenting on the intellectual processes by which Protestantism has been undermined, it must, we may observe, strike its adherents that the disease must be organic. They palliate its symptoms, but they cannot reach the root.

Despite their enthusiasm and persistence—revivals, clubs, classes—their leaders confess that religion is today of very low vitality. Without commenting on the intellectual processes by which Protestantism has been undermined, it must, we may observe, strike its adherents that the disease must be organic.

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And Low much does your School Board offer to such a woman? "Three hundred dollars! Give us just the right one and we wouldn't oppose making it three hundred twenty!"

And the official wiped his brow and was perplexed indeed that applicants the country over didn't flock to his office for "consideration."

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