

SCHOOL INSPECTORSHIP.

As we do not wish to claim credit where we do not deserve it, we desire to state that the idea of a movement in favor of the securing an English-speaking Catholic inspector for our schools, did not altogether originate with us. We are merely striving to carry into execution the suggestions received and upon which we deemed it most advisable to act. In fact, as we are constantly prepared to take up any question that may have for its object the amelioration of the condition of our people, either collectively or individually, it requires but a slight indication of a crying necessity to stir us into action in favor of a movement to have that necessity supplied. The present course, which we are but too glad to take, was inspired by the remarks and suggestions of various teachers, some of whom called upon us, others of whom we met in the course of our visits to some of the schools, and all of whom recognize the want of an English Inspector.

This subject is one which deserves to be brought under the notice of the Government. There is not an English teacher in the city, male or female, (except perhaps an exception or two who may be controlled by influences under which they are not free to speak) but believes in the absolute necessity of such an official as we have attempted to describe in former articles. They feel that, until the government meets their views in a favorable spirit, the great body of teachers and pupils, numbering three or four thousand, cannot possibly receive that justice and fair play to which they have every right. When this question is fully elucidated, our local members will be called upon to do their part in the matter; and, judging from the experience of the last year, we have no doubt but they will well and effectively acquit themselves of their duties in the premises. If it be deemed requisite a petition, signed by every English-speaking Catholic ratepayer in the city will be brought into requisition, as a mode of formulating the demand which is so patently reasonable.

Last week we pointed out how necessary it was for the members of the Board to have such an inspector at their back; we purpose, now, in a few words, indicating the utility of such an official in regard to the teachers. Every teacher, worthy of the name, has a reputation that he, or she, is most anxious to maintain, an ambition to be recognized according to his or her work and merit. Therefore the teacher feels an encouragement, that is beyond expression, when a thoroughly competent and interested inspector comes into the school, aids the teacher with advice drawn from long experience, gives out plans for the better regulation of the classes, suggests methods that must result in more effective work, and reports exactly, minutely and from personal observation and examination upon the teacher's success. When such aid is taken advantage of by the instructor, and when the report, made under these circumstances, is favorable, the teacher feels and knows that recognition must eventually follow and that merit cannot fail to be rewarded. But when the teacher is conscious that the inspection of the school or class is, more or less, a matter of form, and that the reports thereon cannot be other than vague and general, he feels a discouragement that naturally chills the fervor he might otherwise have in the pursuit of his labors, and clogs the successful working of the machinery he has so untiringly attempted to keep in motion.

No teacher of any worth is backward

in courting inspection; the closer and more severe the better for him. Besides it gives him an opportunity of competing, on a fair field, with others; it opens a channel through which the numerous requirements of his school or class may be brought to the notice of those who have it in their power to assist. Without such inspection the school drifts along year after year, in the same current, and the teacher drifts with it. He gets into a groove and out of it he has neither the care nor ambition to stir. Why so? Because he perceives the lack of attention that should be paid him and his school; he feels the absence of a stimulating encouragement; he notices that no matter what pains he may take or what labors he may bestow in performing his difficult duties, there is neither the smile of approbation nor the voice of authority to show that the eyes of his superiors are upon him. From that apathy, which is not natural, he requires but a sign telling him that the results of his work are carefully examined, to spring into the attitude of a real gladiator competing for a prize. Broader fields spread out before him, higher prospects arise on his pathway the moment he feels there is a strong arm to lean upon, an arm that will help, direct, guide, and that will also check, correct and control. The teacher requires an inspector even as does the soldier need a commanding officer under whose inspecting eye he is obliged to pass. That officer is at once a source of confidence and of encouragement.

In fact, having weighed the question, carefully, and examined it from every imaginable point of view, we have come to the conclusion that, for the teachers as well as for the members of the Board, an English-speaking Catholic inspector is required; and once having recognized the necessity, we do not hesitate one moment in setting to work to secure for our people the appointment of such an officer. Next week we will point out wherein there is a necessity as regards the pupils and parents.

REV. MR. HOYT.

In last week's issue, under the heading "Convention Addresses," we sought to be just in our appreciation of the orations delivered by the different prominent speakers at the recent Christian Endeavor convention. In so doing we heartily praised the Rev. Mr. Hoyt's address upon the children and expressed a wish to hear the man on some other topic. We regret very much to be forced, by circumstances that have since arisen, to withdraw our unqualified approval of that gentleman's style and above all his sentiments. We learn, through the *Hamilton Weekly Spectator*, that on his way home, Rev. Mr. Hoyt delivered an address in the Central Presbyterian Church of that city, and in the course of his remarks not only condoned the language of the Hindoo preacher, Karmarkar, but went so far as to misrepresent the events which took place in Montreal. He had the audacity to deny that Mr. Karmarkar ever used the words attributed to him; despite the fact that over five thousand people heard him. He spoke of Catholic "tracts containing arguments in favor of the worst and most pernicious doctrines," that were handed about. Mr. Hoyt also claimed that if Karmarkar said what was attributed to him, he said the truth, and had a right, "under the British flag," to the enjoyment of free speech. He then wound up with a regular Orange peroration. The difference between Karmarkar and Hoyt is simply this: the Hindoo, in his ignorance, spoke out what he had been taught to say, while

the Minneapolis preacher was cute enough to hide his real sentiments while in Montreal, but could not keep in his venom and bigotry till he reached home. One is a fanatic from the East, the other an A. P. Aist from the West; both are equally despicable.

It may not be generally known that the Rev. Mr. Clark, president of Christian Endeavor Society, is a native of Canada, and comes from the little town of Aylmer, nine miles from Ottawa. His name originally was Frank E. Symmes. He is now forty years of age. When "Frankie," as he was called in Aylmer, was seven years of age, his parents moved to the United States and located in a town near the city of Boston. After the death of Mr. Symmes, Sr., the boy was adopted by his uncle, a Mr. Clark, of that place. On account of certain legal issues that might affect Frank's succession to the Clark property, he had his name changed by "act of Congress," and he became Mr. F. E. Clark. He studied for the ministry and finally took charge of one of the largest Presbyterian churches in Boston. It was at this stage in his career that the former Frank Symmes, (now Rev. Mr. Clark,) conceived the idea of the Christian Endeavor movement. In time he gave up his church for the purpose of devoting all his attention to the Society which was so rapidly increasing. We may, therefore, say that Canada's share in the movement, which has caused so much stir of late in religious circles, is greater than many of its members are aware. We understand that Rev. Mr. Clark paid a visit, while on this side of the line, to his birth place, where he has a host of relatives—all Symmes of course.

LAST WEEK another blasphemer was sentenced to pay \$10, or go to jail for two months. We are glad to see that, while disorderly conduct and drunkenness are being punished, the authorities do not omit to lay the lash of the law upon the blackguards who make it a practice to curse, swear and blaspheme the name of God, and to thereby shock the feelings of all self-respecting citizens.

THE "HERALD" seems to be uneasy under adverse criticism. It objects to the word "fanaticism," when applied to its tone and spirit. Evidently *La Presse* has been arraying column after column against that *avant coureur* of national destruction, that Herald of all imaginable disasters. In defending itself against the "heavy guns" of our French-Canadian contemporary, the Herald alludes to THE TRUE WITNESS shots of some weeks ago. Those "pellets" from our "pop-gun" must have stung pretty severely since the wounds are still smarting. We rejoice that, when we felt it a duty to stir up our morning prophet of ill-omen, we refrained from using any more formidable weapons. Apparently, had we attacked our sensitive friend with any other kind of gun the army of blue ruin would have to lament the loss of its Herald; and how could it then enter the lists without its knightly precursor to proclaim war against everyone, good, bad or indifferent? As far as Irishmen are concerned we will not apply the term "fanaticism" to the Herald: it is only fanatical on one question, its terrible anxiety to have its friends in power in order that a chance of a pull at the "good things" might be secured. No, the Herald is simply prejudiced against Irishmen, but when they are only of a school not likely to hurry on the day of the Herald's satiety. If the great machine of government could only be changed so as to give the Herald's

friends a hold on the treasury, it would be worth the experiment, were it only for the fun of listening to the now tune that sage and patriotic organ would play. Immediately would it become the Herald proclaiming prosperity, glory, happiness, peace, and national triumph. (We can lend the Herald a few weapons, anything from a "pop-gun" to a Krupp cannon, if it ever feels itself hard pushed.)

Plat justitia ruat cælum; Scarcely ever does justice ultimately fail, no matter what might have been the obstacles cast in the way. No doubt many of our confreres will be pleased to know that, after the severest of trials, deep misfortunes, countless efforts made against him, one of the members of the Bar, and an able contributor to the press, Mr. H. Pillet, has at last succeeded in getting his foot on solid land again and is beyond the reach of the billows of persecution that have buffeted him during so many years. While his case is yet, in part, awaiting judicial decision we do not deem it proper to express any opinion, but, in a few words, the facts are these. After having energetically fought, both here and in Washington, the cause of a defenceless woman, and having been reduced himself to poverty, Mr. Pillet was placed in a position that he had to choose between the street, the asylum and the jail. Through an action in Court he succeeded in securing an alimentary allowance from the estate Delisle, of which family his wife was a member. No sooner was the allowance granted, than the Defendants had Mr. Pillet interdicted. It was only when forced by the Court to pay the allowance that they found out the necessity for interdiction. A petition has been taken to annual that interdiction; it was argued on Saturday before his Honor Judge DeLormier who is expected to give favorably judgment hourly upon it. We can, at this stage, only say that scarcely ever have we known a person to have been subjected to more bitter troubles than has Mr. Pillet. In his health, in his prospects professional and literary, in his family affections, in all that is dear to a man he has been stricken over and over again. But we rejoice to know that the silver lining has appeared on the cloud, and we hope to see the dark shadow entirely disappear before many more suns arise. Mr. Pillet is a staunch Catholic, an honorable man and an affectionate parent—from whose only child he has been severed during long years.

THE "STAR OF BETHLEHEM" is on its way again. Although Professor Wiggins announced his intention of withdrawing from the prophetic arena, on account of the absence of due appreciation on the part of the public, still he stated, on the twelfth July, that:—

"In two or three weeks a very brilliant comet will be seen in the northern sky. He had been watching for some weeks for a comet, which he says is the large variable star seen by Cornelius Gemma in 1570 in the constellation of Cassiopeia, as its reappearance was about due. In 1864 he announced that Gemma's star, usually called the Star of Bethlehem, was only a large comet at its perihelion when its tail surrounded it and gave it the appearance of a star of the first magnitude. He considers that his theory has been proved now, for on the night of July 8 he saw for a few minutes, between clouds and near the pole of the heavens, a star of the sixth magnitude, moving rapidly sunward, which he pronounces a comet, and which is seeking a nearer perihelion than in 1570. On its return from the sun it will be very brilliant. It is now, he says, probably below the horizon."

The Emperor of China has conferred the dignity of a Grand Mandarin on the Right Rev. Bishop Auzer, of Canton.