

ASSUMED NOBILITY.

In mentioning the soi-disant duke of Mantua in these columns recently, says the Marquis de Fontenay in the New York Recorder, I should have added a few words on the facility and audacity with which nobiliary titles abroad are assumed by persons who have not the remotest right thereto. There is apparently no law either in England or on the continent dealing with this species of fraud, which can only be reached by justice when the postiche aristocrats have made use of their borrowed plumes for the purpose of swindling tradesmen.

Both London and Paris, and in fact every continental city, are crowded with people of this kind, who by dint of sheer audacity and persistency end by being taken, not at their real value, but at the one at which they have attributed to themselves. All that a man such as either the "duke of Mantua" or the "marquis de Leuville" has to do in order to get his rank recognized, if not by society, at any rate by the public, is to keep the society columns of the daily, and above all the weekly, press well supplied with paragraphs concerning his movements and entertainments. Of course it is indispensable that each paragraph should be accompanied by a ten or twelve shilling bit, which the paper accepts as a matter of ordinary business, and then forthwith publishes the item without taking any trouble to investigate the rights of the persons mentioned therein to the titles which they have assumed. The newspapers in Europe have neither time nor yet the inclination to usurp the functions which in older days were exercised with great severity by that still magnificent creature, garter-king-at-arms.

The public, seeing the names of these pseudo noblemen appearing day after day in the society columns of the most respectable and widely circulated papers, and being in ignorance of the monetary consideration paid for the mention and by believing the titles to be valid. Up to the time of the bankruptcy of the "marquis de Leuville" the other day scarcely a number of the Court Journal appeared which did not contain some paragraph about the entertainments which he had either given or attended, and many of the readers, seeing the

royal coat of arms which fills almost the entire first page of the Journal, became convinced that the title of the "marquis" enjoyed the recognition of the British court. The only English court, however, which at any time opened its doors to the "marquis" is the bankruptcy court.

MAX O'RELL'S WIFE.

It is said Mrs. Blouet, wife of the noted wit and lecturer, Max O'Rell, is a typical English lady who has been a great help to her talented husband in his career as writer and speaker. Before her marriage, she was a teacher in an English academy, where Mr. Blouet was also employed as a professor of French. They were often thrown together in their school work and the young French professor presently found himself in love with a woman to whom he could not converse save in soul's language, which is not taught in books. Blouet won an apt pupil, and the English schoolmistress soon taught him to speak and write the English language. After their marriage, the Frenchman gave up the academy and turned his attention earnestly to literature, with what success the whole world knows. His wife has been an invaluable helper ever since, and is to-day exceedingly proud of her pupil, as she has a right to be. Mrs. Blouet has dark hair and eyes, and despite her rather austere and dignified manner, is extremely affable, and when interested in a topic is a fine talker. She dresses very plainly and is thoroughly domestic in her tastes.

—Canada.

THE RELIC OF ST. ANN.

At the weekly meeting of the Methodist ministers of New York, recently, Rev. R. L. Dunn, of East Orange, said that it was strange that Protestants should have stood still while a part of the alleged arm of St. Ann was exposed to the worship of the ignorant in the Catholic Church of St. Jean de Baptiste. He thought some protest should be made. There was no proof, he said, that the so-called relic was really what it was represented to be. "The whole business," Dr. Dunn said, "was a humbug, arranged to take money out of the pockets of the ignorant."

Mgr. Bernard O'Reilly, formerly domestic prelate of Leo XIII., was

told what had been said by the Methodist ministers. "The body of St. Ann," replied Mgr. O'Reilly, "was buried, according to the Bollandists, in the tomb of the Blessed Virgin, at Jerusalem. The legend in the south of France is that all the relatives of Our Lord and the Virgin Mary were banished from Palestine, and with them several of the friends and adherents of Our Lord. They took with them the body of St. Ann. It was entombed in a subterranean chapel in the cathedral of Apt, in the south of France, by the first bishop of that see, in the First century."

Mgr. O'Reilly stated that when France was invaded by barbarians, the entrance to the chapel was walled up and evidences of its existence were obliterated. In A. D. 772, the vault was discovered and opened in the presence of Charlemagne, Archbishop Turpin and a great company of priests and nobles. On the cypress coffin was inscribed, "This is the body of St. Ann, the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary." A letter of Charlemagne to Pope Adrian I concerning this discovery is extant. "The body has been kept ever since in the cathedral of Apt to the great glory of the city," added Mr. O'Reilly. "The relic recently exposed in this city came from the right arm which was sent to me and kept in the monastery of St. Paul."

"In respect to the Methodist ministers who criticize us," added Mgr. O'Reilly, "I have only to say that they should go to the libraries and read for themselves the historical proofs of the mysterious presentation of the body of St. Ann."

LACROSSE MATCH TO-DAY.

The lacrosse match between the clubs of Victoria and Vancouver will bring out a large crowd of the lovers of Canada's national game, at the Caledonia Park, to-day. The Victoria club cannot complain of lack of practice, and as they now stand first in the race for the provincial championship, they will no doubt strain every nerve to maintain their place.

Scene in a court of justice in Moodyville, B. C. A klootchman is about to be sworn as a witness.

Counsel for defence: "Is this woman a Christian?"

Local Constable: "I dunno about Christian; but she's a Methodist, sir."—Nanaimo Free Press.