

By a Special Correspondent.)

It might not be uninteresting, were I, in this series of old time remeniscences, to recall an event in my own life. It comes to me more like a dream for I was quite young at the time. I recall every little detail as perfectly as if it had been yesterday; far better than I would remember it were the date a year or two back. Still I had no idea at the time that I was gazing upon a scene of great historical importance as far as this Dominion is concerned. Since then, and as I grew older and became acquainted with the affairs of life, the significance of what I had on that day witnessed dawned gradually upon me. One day, in the course of a conversation with a learned judge, now dead, I told the story of what I had seen, and he remarked that I had been highly privileged. And such was the case; although the privilege was entirely accidental. I will tell briefly and as simply as possible what happened on that occasion.

It was the first day of July, 1867, and a scorching hot day it was. There was to be a grand military display in Ottawa on the occasion of the opening of the first Federal Parliament of Canada. I was a young lad, and my mother took me to see the review. We had been rambling about the streets for a time, in the forenoon, and I remember well having a mortal fear of the two Russian cannons that stood, at that time, upon the Major's Hill, and which pointed their inoffensive muzzles at the old Sapper's bridge. On turning the corner of Sparks and Elgin streets we met a gentleman who wore a white stove-pipe hat over a wealth of black curly hair, and who appeared to me to be very cross looking. He swilled delight fully, however, shook hands my mother, patted me on the head. and after chatting for a few moments, turned to accompany us. My mother told this gentleman that she wanted to secure a good place to see the parade and the ceremonies, and as I was so young she would like a position away from the crowd. "Come with me," said the the gentleman, "I will settle you for the and he added, in a pleasant day;" tone, "you did me greater services in the old land." I did not understand all this at the time; but have since learned its meaning. He took my mother by the arm and me by the hand, and while they were chatting-I remember well about Ferguson's "Forging of the Anchor," which had then appeared for a first time in the American press-we up to the East Block of the, then, new Parliament Buildings. We went in: and I can still feel the thrill of importance that shot through me as I saw the big policeman, at the door salute us-it was our gentleman friend, of course, that he was saluting. We went up one flight of stairs, then along a corridor, and into a room-that had red baze doors of the swinging kind-and found ourselves, in a kind of tower room overlooking the square without. After finding chairs for us in the recess of a bay window, our guide shook hands with my mother, kissed me on the forehead, and bowed himself out. When he had closed the door behind him, and we turned to the window to watch the arrival of the troops. the bands and all the show that so much admired, my mother said to me. "that gentleman is Hon. Mr. There is no need of telling about what took place outside the build-ings, all of which was highly interes'ing for me. No person came to disturb us until after the arrival of

man-I, afterwards learned he was a Mr. Himmsworth, clerk of the Privy Council-came in, looked around, seemed surprised, walked over to us and shook hands with my mother. 1 remember he asked, "How did you get in here?" and she made some reply in which she mentioned the name of McGee. He told her to remain quietly where she was and to not stir under any circumstance, nor to pretend to recognize any person. I know she protested, took me by the hand, and offered to go out; but he would not hear of it. So we sat down silently in the shadow of the curtains to await events. Presently the door opened. A tall man, dressed in a most gorgeous uniform and accompanied by some officers with less decorations, but equally brilliant and military looking costumes came in. These were followed by a number of gentlemen in evening dress. Mr. Himmsworth, himself. came last, with a lot of papers in his hand. Amongst the gentlemen present I had no difficulty in recognizing our recent guide-Mr. McGee who, like all the others seemed to be in attendance on one tall, darkhaired, clean-shaven, spiritly-looking personage, who was nodding to every person around him. The personage in the grand uniform took his stand at the end of the room near a table; an officer beside him handed him a roll of paper. Then he was given a sword by somebody else. Finally, after considerable talk, which did not interest me, the gentleman of the tall, lively type, came forward and went down on one knee The great man-as I supposed him to be-laid the sword on the kneeling one's shoulder and said. in words and tone, that I can distinctly recall: "Arise, Sir John Macdon-There was then a general gathering around the table, a deal of hand-shaking on the part of those present and a deal of bowing and nodding on the part of Sir John. After this the latter appeared to be introducing the other gentlemen to the one in the beautiful uniform. Subsequently they all wrote their names, or something else, upon the roll that Mr. Himmsworth held. The whole affair took about fifteen minutes. Those present went out in the order in which they had entered soon we saw them proceeding up the square to the Central Block, and the soldiers all presented arms and the band struck up the National Anthem.

the big brass band. Then gentle-

This is the story, just as I remember it. That gentleman in the gorgeous uniform was the Governorneral; the other officers were the members of his staff; the gentlemen in evening dress were the members of the Cabinet, past and present; the ceremony was the conferring of knighthood on Sir John A. Macdonald, the Premier, in honor of the Confederation of the provinces and the birth of this Dominion of Canada. All those who had taken part in that private ceremony proceeded to the House of Parliament, to the Senate Chamber and to the House of Commons, for the opening of Parliament and the official proclamation of the British North America Act. How many of those then present I later on came to know as public men I cannot exactly say; how many of them are alive to-day I do not know-possibly not more than t'ree or four. But, as an humble individual, I can truthfully say that I ac-tually witnessed a history ma'ing event-even if it were by nee accident.

case, and here at one is the record the last forty years! The total number of divorce in the last forty years! The total number of divorces in the United States for any given year since 1870 exceeds the figure for all the rest of the world!

the rest of the world! While going into details, the same organ tells us that in some divorce courts the judges have each meposed of as many as one hundred cases in a day. That is surely cutting the Gordian Knot with a double-edged sword. Now, while this break-neck words is in surement one field the system is in progress, we find the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, in delivering judg-ment in a divorce case, make the fol-

lowing clear statement:ere is no such thing as a legal right to divorce vested in any pervorce, and only permits a divorce to be granted when conditions are found which make the legislature believe that the interests of society would be better served if the persons were separated."

What kind of logic is this? If 'there is no such thing as a legal right to divorce vested in any person"-and this is exactly the principle taught by the Catholic Church how then, can the State (which is some person or persons) permit divorce, no matter under what conditions? Here we have, in a lew words, the inconsistency, the fall-acy, and the error of the fallible State contracted with the consistency, the exactness, and the truth of the only infallible Church. It is no wonder that the advocates of moral looseness should be so bitterly opposed to a Church that will not clerate, under any condition, such a menace to the world and such a di-

rect violation of God's law. The article from which we took the foregoing refers to the moral rectitude of the ancient Romans, and attributes thereto their strength and invincibility; it then says that 'time came in the history of the Eternal City when many of its woman reckoned up their ages not hy the years they had lived, but by the number of husbands they had had. This condition of things was at its climax in the reign of Augustus when Rome was outwardly omnipotent and when it looked as though

her dominion might endure forever. But because the domestic life the great city had gone to the dogs it was true, though it was not the time perceived, that the barbarians were soon to crush her. The "glory which was Rome's"

gan to fade when the purity of her homes began to decline and no axiom in Euclid is clearer than the fact that it was the impurity of the Roman domestic life rather than the strength of the barbarian arms that destroyed the capital of the world. The question: Will history repeat itself? is answered by the eternal

truism that history is always the same when the conditions of human society are the same. History can repeat itself; history does repeat itself; if we are wise w

will remember Rome.' This is a grave warning upon easonable basis: It would be well for them to "remember Rome;" but ot only the Rome of Augustus. If they would elso remember, and list-en to, that other Rome- the Rome of Peter and of Leo XIII. hope might be yet entertained that the fate which is certainly being prepared for the victims of this unholy system of divorce may be avoided. Bad as the divorce court is, it still has about it the mask of legislative authority. But the natural conse quences of its existence can only be unbridled licence and unrestrained immorality. Above all does it do a-way with the idea of God in mattirs relating to marriage and domestic life. Do you wish to read about one of the practical results of unrestrained divorcing? We take the follow ing despatch, from Jamestown. Y., dated Oct. 11, to the New York "Journal." It is a simple statement of two facts the first, relating to the act of a legislature, the second to the pructical advan-tage taken of that act. Read it and nder over it:--"The Legislature last winter, for "The Legislature last winter, for the purpose of abolishing the evils of the common law marriage in this State, enacted a law which provided that contracting couples who desired to dispense with the services of a minister or other official authorized to perform the marriage ceremony, could sign a contract of marriage, and if the same was within a period of six months filed with the clerk of the city or town in which the con-rract was executed the marriage wus egalized.

his piece of legislation, nor to c the piece of legislation, not to com-ment upon the so-called marriage that is in accordance with the enact-ment. Catholic readers can form their own opinions and draw their own conclusions. But, we repeat, hat we have here an evidence of the byss to which we referred, and to-wards which the social body is driftig in a most irresistible manner.

SATURDAY, OCT. 25, 1902.

O.H., DIVISION NO. 8, meets on the first and third Wednesday of

month, at 1868 Notre Da t, near McGill. Officers :

treet, near McGill, Officers : Al-terman D. Gallery, M.P., Presi-eant; M. McCarthy, Vice-Presidents Fred. J. Devlin, Res-Secretary, 1538F Ontario street, L. Brophy, Treasurer; John Hughes, Financial Secretary, 65 Young street; M. Fennel, Chairman Standing Com-mittee; John O'Donnell, Marshal.

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A.O.H. LADIES' AUXILIARY, D.-vision No. 5. Organized Oct. 10th. 1901. Meeting are held on 1st Sunday of every month, at 4 p.m.; and 3rd Thursday, at 8 p.m. Miss Annie Donovan, president; Miss. Sarah Allen, vice-president; Miss-Nore Kavanaugh, recording-secre-tary, 155 Inspector street; Miss Huma Doyle, finantial-secretary; Miss Charlotte Sparks, treasurer, Rev. Father McGrath, chaplain,

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nesday. Officers : Rev. Director. Rev. M. Callaghan, P.P. President.

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1st Vice, F. E. Devlin, M.D.; 2nd:

Vice, F. J. Curran, B.C.L.; Treas-

urer, Frank J. Green, Correspon-in Secretary, John Kahala; Rec-

ording Secretary, T. P. Tansey,

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rick s Hall, 92 St. Alexander St., immediately after Vespers. Com-mittee of Management meets in same hall the first Tuesday of every month at 8 p.m. Rev. Father Mo-Grath, Rev. President; W. P. Doyle, 1st Vice-President; Jno, P. Gunning, Secretary, 716 St. An-toine street, St, Henri.

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B.A., B.C.L.,

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ralized. The first couple in this section, so r as known, who took advantage this law was K. George Selandor d Miss Irene Curtiss, both of imestown. The contracting part a met at the law office of E. V thield September 20 and signat a necessary contract."



