

however, was not written by that Bishop, but was compiled and written by Cormac McCullenan, King of Munster, and Archbishop of Cashel, who died A.D. 968, and it is an interesting fragment of Irish history, of undoubted authenticity. This book was an authority among the Irish Kings for centuries. The fac-similes of Irish manuscripts were very remarkable and attracted much attention.

PRINTS AND COINS.

There were a number of various prints and engravings many of them exhibited by Messrs. J. Horn and T. D. King. Indeed, the walls of the hall were lined with them. Several of these were ancient and curious; including the names of such celebrities as Albert Durer, Rembrandt, Woollet, Gallé, Goltzen, Bartalozzi, Reynolds, and Sharp.

Mr. McLachlan displayed probably the largest collection of coins, ancient and modern, in the Dominion. In the Canadian department of these was a coin struck by the Copper Company of Upper Canada in 1795; the silver piece of Louis XV., the oldest Canadian coin of any kind. There is a collection of 45 *nu sous*. Among Canadian medals is that given by George III. to the Indians. It is four inches across, and of silver; the Confederation medal; a silver one commemorating the capture of Montreal. France represented as a female weeping, and on the reverse the words, "Conquest of Canada completed." Also a medal commemorating the Fenian invasion of Canada.

SHOW DAY.

School show days seem, from what we have observed this year, to have lost none of their charms in the eyes of mothers and sisters. Whether it be at time-honoured Cambridge (where it is called Commencement Day, we suppose because it ends the scholastic year) or in some fresh built village of the Far West (where these ceremonies are called Openings, we presume because they close the term, crowds of people, ladies especially, don annually their gala costume to hear the same old pieces recited in the same old way, and the same time-honoured, unhesitating praises of the scholars from the lips of a chairman who generally knows little or nothing about them. Year after year the temporary platform is trod by the heroes of Shakespeare in out-away coats and white kid gloves, and heroines of *Molière* in short frocks and sashes. Year after year are we delighted to hear that "the examination papers have never been so good," and "the behaviour of the scholars never been better."

The question is often asked: Are "show-days," after all, of any use? Are they not productive of more harm than good? They seriously interfere, it is plain, with the work of the school. Do they not, often, lead to unconscious and most unwholesome cramming? Do they not, more often still, breed conceit in the showy and fortunate scholar, and jealousy in the slow and the unsuccessful?

We are afraid that they do all this, and yet we think that their advantages on the whole outweigh their drawbacks.

They are not necessarily evil, we believe, because they act as temptations to conceit or jealousy. The temptations incidental to school life, if the way they are yielded to or resisted by his scholars is well watched by the wise teacher, are the very things which give strength to the school-boy character. Temptation withstood is moral victory gained, and in a school temptations to conceit and jealousy *have to be withstood*, for their exhibition will be greeted with a storm of mockery and contempt.

A little incident in a cricket field will perhaps illustrate this. We once saw the favourite batsman of a school walk to the wicket amid the anticipatory clappings of his school fellows, and with sure hopes of a "double figure score" radiant on his face. Quietly but confidently he took his stand. But, lo! the very first ball pitches to leg, rises invisibly over the shoulder of his bat, and sends the off ball spinning in the air. His fondest hopes are blasted in their bud. Here you would say is a needless temptation to irritability and bad temper. Our hero felt as if life had no more charms. But he walked in seeming good humour to the tent, and merely said, with the quietest control of his voice, to the boy who was to go in next, "Take care of those balls, they twist like the mischief." Are not temptations like this, under such strong pressure to resist them, good moral training? Amid such heats as these were wrought the heroes of Trafalgar and Waterloo!

We cannot annihilate our petty emotions, but every time we check or sharply punish their manifestations, we may scotch if we do not kill them. I once gave a fifteen-cent prize to a little girl in a country school, and three of her school-fellows burst into bitter tears. Seeing that I was non-plussed as to the cause, the teacher told me it was jealousy, and that it was always so when prizes were given, even when they were fairly awarded by drawing lots. I think I made the school laugh so heartily at the picture I drew of the folly of being sorry because some one else was glad, that the vices of envy and jealousy appeared in their proper silly and odious light.

It is, we believe, provided by law that there shall be a public examination of every school in the Dominion, big or little, every year. This shows that the wisdom of our legislators thinks of "show-days." And indeed they are, on the whole, desirable in many more ways than one.

The desirability of giving prizes, too, is not obscurely hinted at in our statutes. School prize-giving is a powerful lever for good, though, like every other good thing, it is, of course, liable to abuse.

We have more than once detected favourites in the awarding of prizes in this country; a thing undreamed of, to the best of our belief, in the public schools of Great Britain. Cham, the Parisian caricaturist, once hit this sort of thing off capitally in one of his sketches.

"Délice must get a prize," the President of the Lycée is represented as saying to the head master, "his father has five hundred thousand francs a year." "But he perseveres in his idleness and mischief," replied the teacher. "Then give him a prize for perseverance," says the President!

In Canada we have observed a tendency to give prizes to clergymen's daughters. They rank above the average in intelligence and good behaviour, and very often do deserve prizes, but they sometimes get them even when they do not.

Some schools, especially private schools, ingeniously contrive to give a prize to every single scholar, on some pretext or another. In this case the gifts cease to be prizes at all. One prize in every class, each term—two at most, if the class contains more than fifteen scholars—is an ample allowance. Where there are a hundred scholars and ten prizes, each prize is an honour indeed. Increase the number of prizes, and the honour of getting one, the cream of the whole thing, is eliminated, and a powerful stimulus to merit disappears. We have known of a "general proficiency," (nick-named "general deficiency") prize being given to all who were neither first, second, or third in anything!

The "good conduct" prize is often a joke to the initiated. "A good conduct prize," said a witty under-master to a lady whom he happened to be sitting next to at a show-day, "we give to the boy who is so stupid that we cannot give him a prize for anything else." "I'm sorry for that," said the lady, "for my son has got one."

Sometimes prizes are awarded entirely on the results of the Examination; they then crown one day's success with what should go to reward the diligence and application evinced during a whole term. Every school-day, every school hour, a boy should be anxious to gain good marks for his lessons, and not lose any for punctuality or bad behaviour. Are boys likely to be thus anxious if these marks are not counted towards the prize which, as the tangible emblem and symbol of merit, is too often valued more highly than merit itself? At the same time the results of the examination should have more weight than they would be entitled to, if it were not necessary that the interest and excitement be kept up unflagging to the end.

It is nonsense to say that children ought to work for work's sake. Perhaps they ought. But they certainly do not. "How I do hate my lessons" has been the honest exclamation of many a bright boy and intelligent girl. Prizes, punishments, and above all, a fostering of the spirit of emulation are all needed, to induce the young to climb the knotty tree of knowledge, the rich fruit of which is so invisible to their eyes.

As a rule, public examinations are favoured more especially at the better class of schools and by the most conscientious teachers. They at least consider them desirable. It is true that they interfere with the regular course of study, and where used as advertisements to secure pupils, do so too much. We know of a school where they begin to prepare for the midsummer recitations as soon as the first week in April! But in good schools, under good teachers, they absorb but a small fraction of the year, which under good teachers can be well spared.

It is one inestimable advantage that whatever is learnt on Prize Day is generally learnt well. To learn even one thing to perfection, is a great point gained, and one *never* attained in many a long school life. Out of the hundreds of pieces of poetry learnt for "Rep." at school, often the only one remembered for life is the piece got up for a recitation for "show-day." The exhibition of dialogues, moreover, often gives a boy an insight to the art of acting, a thing which it is well worth while to devote a week or two to acquire.

In conclusion the rising generation will thank us for protesting against the occasional practice of substituting medals and crowns for books as school prizes. Of what use on earth is a medal? If the owner hides it, it is as if "colourless it lurked in virgin mould." If its owner, on the contrary, makes a display of it, is he not open to the charge of conceit, yea, even, guilty of the blunders of self-praise? Are medals an ornament? Did a right-minded school-boy ever wear one? Does not the "ingenuous youth" blush with "ingenuous shame" when his mother opens the medal cases on the drawing-room table? Does he not wish them at—let us say, Jericho.

Medals are neither of ornament nor use. Now school prize books are generally the masterpieces of such authors as Kingsley, Hughes, Farrar, Mayratt, or some mightier genius still. All such books are well-springs of moral and intellectual improvement wherever they go. "One of the happiest experiences in life is "to do good in secret and have it found out by accident." How pleasant it was to see some honoured guest at our father's house, take up a book from the drawing-room table, and watch him come accidentally on the inscription inside the cover, which showed it to be a well-earned trophy of our industry and our intelligence.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE CAXTON CELEBRATION.—The following figures explain our picture on another page:—

1. Decretum Gratiani, illuminated initials, Strasbourg, 1472, printed by Henry Eggstein, apprentice of Gutenberg.
2. Mazarin Bible.
3. A very complete and interesting collection of extremely ancient and modern coins and medals in the Dominion.
4. "Durandus," by Faust after he had left Gutenberg, 1459.
5. A book in miniature, printed in Paris, 1819. (Natural size.)
6. Koran.
7. Livre d'heures, prayer book which belonged to Mary Queen of Scots.
8. Finished type.
9. Type casting machine.
10. Specimen of Caxton's typography.
11. Lord Rivers presenting his book, Dictes and Notable Sayings of Philosophers, to the King.
12. The entire Book of Esther in Hebrew, done in Paris during the last century.
13. Type founding in 1564.
14. Caxton's house in Westminster.
15. The house in which Caxton lived at Bruges, 1468.

INTERNATIONAL GAME OF BASE BALL.—The sketches which we give in our present number were taken during the late match between the Tecumseh club of London and the Maple Leaf club of Guelph. The match was a very exciting one, and was witnessed by several thousand spectators. The base ball grounds and buildings, of which we give several sketches, have been fitted up at an expense of upwards of \$3,000, and without doubt are the best for the purpose in the Dominion. Thousands of spectators visit the grounds whenever a match game takes place; in fact, on such occasions, everybody seems to give up business for base ball.

A SWIMMING BATH.—This bath for swimmers and learners, which we present to our readers to-day, is from the designs of Mr. E. W. Sewell, the architect of the "Northern Light," kindly given in agreement with a suggestion from a contributor of this paper. There seems no reason to suppose that a floating bath need be more expensive than one on shore, and there is by the former method the great advantage secured of a constant stream of fresh water flowing through from end to end. A stream there is in most baths, but this would form a perfect supply. The bath is intended to be open to the heavens, would give one hundred and sixty feet by forty feet of swimming surface, with rounded ends for turning, and would be furnished with dressing boxes for the entire length. We would venture to suggest the addition of railed-in galleries for spectators above the dressing boxes. The moderate distance from shore at which the bath would be moored would be overcome by ferriage. Besides covered baths, which might be conjoined with skating rink arrangements in the same building, the third plan of a long-shore bath, fenced in, and with dressing conveniences, might easily be conceived of. The in-shore stream, however, of any river is seldom as good as that in the open. Our enthusiasts in things aquatic, in more than one Canadian city, have no doubt been indulging visions of swimming professors, season tickets, fresh dry towels by the hundred, and a noble tournament to close the season's enjoyment. It is better than dawdling in any event, and we sympathize with their hopes, because we see in swimming and its encouragement the means of rousing our people from the wretched thralldom of boating and bathing accidents, which in Canada reminds one of Andromeda and her ordeal. Such a bath as Mr. Sewell's could be devoted to the use of each sex on separate days. We cannot go on longer in the Dominion as we have done in the past, for that kind of neglect is unworthy of an aspiring people. We have got to move in this Dominion, and our coming celebration will not be any the less complete for being signalized by the formation of swimming clubs in the important cities, for the service of whom, somewhat simpler, if less complete, plans might be sketched for the current year. Our Government, both Federal and Provincial, would have reason to look kindly upon exertions so made, for the cultivation of the art and science of swimming would go far to relieve them in many of their painful responsibilities in maintaining the public safety, and in instituting enquiries after that has been sacrificed. The other dimensions and particulars to elucidate Mr. Sewell's plans will be found in connection with the drawings.

Mr. Sewell writes: "The dressing rooms, some fifty in number, to be well fitted up and furnished with mirror, couch, towels, &c. A large entrance or waiting room to be fitted with a proper gangway at one end, &c. The necessary ground tackle and ballasting would be fully adjusted."

FOOT NOTES.

THE ROMANCE OF CHESS.—All chess-players will be gratified to know of a beautiful and spirited realization of the idea of the "Royal Game" of intellectual battle, reproducing in miniature statuettes the heroes, queens and prelates, of the grand and romantic Middle Ages. There has been for some time in the chess-room of the Lotos Club, in Fifth avenue, an elaborate and strikingly elegant set of metal chess men, finished in the highest style known to modern reproductive art, designed, manufactured and presented to the Club by Mr. J. Le Mou, a well known civil engineer of N.Y. city, who has, during several years, devoted his leisure to the completion of the work. The set is in statuettes, about three inches in height, on a circular low basis, and shows the heroes of the "golden age of chivalry" contesting the field: France, under Philippe Auguste, opposing England, led by the daring "Richard of the Lion Heart," each

daring warrior being attended by his court, and valiant men at arms.

The following is a list of the characters represented on the two sides of the game, of the period 1190-99, A. D.:

- White: England. (Silver.)
 King: Richard, "Cœur de Lion."
 Queen: Berengaria; born Princess of Navarre.
 K. Bishop: Hubert Walter, Archbishop of Canterbury.
 Q. do.: William Longchamp, Bishop of Ely.
 K. Knight: William Longchamp, Earl of Salisbury.
 Q. do.: William Beauchamp, Baron of Worcester.
 Castles: Anglo-Norman, Twelfth Century.
 Pawns: Men-at-arms, Twelfth Century.
- Black: France. (Gold.)
 King: Philippe Auguste, "Dieudonné."
 Queen: Ingeburge, born Princess of Denmark.
 K. Bishop: Philippe de Dreux, Beauvais.
 Q. Bishop: Etienne de Tournay, Paris.
 K. Knight: Mathieu II., Baron de Montmorency, Grand Constable.
 Q. Knight: Guillaume des Barres, Comte de Rochefort, Chef de la Garde du Corps du Roi. "La fleur de la chevalerie de France."
 Castles: Franco-Norman, Twelfth Century.
 Pawns: Men-at-arms, Twelfth Century.

The contemplation of this mimic battle on the checkered field awakens stirring memories of hard fought fields and deeds of "derring do" by valiant knights beneath the applauding glances of the royal and noble dames of chivalry's Age of Gold. In every detail of costume, blazonry, artistic excellence, and spirited realization of a noble idea, this set of statuettes leaves nothing for the artist or scholar to desire, being entire original and *sui generis*.

LITERARY.

BROWNING'S translation of the "Agamemnon of Æschylus" is now completed, and will shortly be published.

SOMEBODY once said to Victor Hugo, "It must be very difficult to write good poetry." "No, sir," replied the poet, "it is either very easy or utterly impossible."

BAYARD TAYLOR, in his remarks before reading his poem at the re-union of the Army of the Potomac, wisely said: "No author can quite do justice to himself or to political art in waiting for an occasion which seems to prescribe the subject, if not the manner of treatment."

THACKERAY, when speaking about fame, would frequently tell the following anecdote: "When at dinner in St. Louis one day he heard one waiter say to another, 'Do you know who that is?' 'No,' was the answer. 'That is the celebrated Mr. Thackeray.' 'What's he done?' 'Blessed if I know,' was the reply."

The gentleman whom Miss Thackeray lately married is a connection of her family, as his name—Richard Thackeray Ritchie—implies. He is twenty-two years old, and his wife is thirty-eight. He is a Cambridge undergraduate, and has just gained an appointment by open competition in the India House.

A CAXTON Commemorative Volume is to be issued in connection with the celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the introduction of printing into England. The work will be a *fac-simile* edition of "The Dictes and Sayings of the Philosophers," the first book printed in England, by Caxton, in 1477.

MR. WILLIAM F. GILL, of Boston, has for some years been engaged in collecting materials for a new and complete biography of Edgar A. Poe. He has just completed the work, which is to be published in a few days. Among its many interesting features are fifteen full-page illustrations, including four *fac-simile* letters of the poet, a *fac-simile* letter from the lamented Willis, dated from the office of the Home Journal, and a copy of the original manuscript of "The Bells."

HUMOROUS.

A FORTUNE awaits the man who invents a newspaper with only one place for advertisements, and that arranged so that each advertiser may have the head of a column next to local matter.

SEND us from every town and county in America, poems, sad, sweet, dreamy poems, or "Summer." Write only on one side of the paper, please. We want the other side to write editorials on.

IN dining with the best society of England, General Grant, it is said, preserves in its pristine purity the beautiful American habit of eating with his knife. And the habit is courteously referred to by his hosts as a charming eccentricity.

"BUT I pass," said a minister one Sunday, in dismissing one theme of his subject to take up another. "Then I make it spades!" yelled out a man from the gallery, who was dreaming the happy hours away in an imaginary game of euchre. It is needless to say that he went out on the next day, being assisted by one of the deacons with a full hand of clubs.

JOSEPH BILLING'S MENU FOR A LOVE FEAST.—"Spring" soup and Pot au Feu, two soles (with but a single thought), Sauce Piquante, Gail's heart au My deary, Filly a la Fimblecure, Lamb Chuddits, To mate for sauce, Amour Fowl trust au Paté de Foi. Tongue au naturel brain sauce, Green Gage Tart, sweet sauce; Cherries, Pairs, Love apples, Tees; none, Wine; Chateau Ma go, Chateau in Rose, Beau jolly, Port—not crusted—Sherry—Amorous, Liqueur—Cure her-so, Cate au Champ Elysées.

ARTISTIC.

FRENCH lady art students in Paris do not join classes of men when studies are made from nude life; but American girl students of art in that city do.

HORACE VERNET originated the word "chie," used to describe things striking and agreeable, almost as used in English-speaking countries as in France. Vernet had a clever pupil who painted so like his master and drew with such strength and precision that he held him up as an example to all his class of pupils. When a pupil displeased him, he would say, "Look at Chie!"—that was the name of his favourite—"see how he works; do as he does," &c. Chie died young. Vernet felt very badly about it; and when he went into his studio and looked at the work of other pupils he would fold his hands, cast down his eyes, and say to himself "O chie pas Chie!"

"No need of having a gray hair in your head," as those who use *Luby's Parisian Hair Restorer* say, for it is without doubt the most appropriate hair dressing that can be used, and an indispensable article for the toilet table. When using this preparation you require neither oil nor pomatum, and from the balsamic properties it contains, it strengthens the growth of the hair, removes all dandruff and leaves the scalp clean and healthy. It can be had at the Medical Hall and from all chemists in large bottles 50 cents each. DEYVINS & BOLTON, Druggists, Montreal, have been appointed sole agents for Canada.