

PLEASING EVERYBODY.

We have a curious collection of letters, the publication of which would create no end of amusement; if we could add thereto some of the verbal remarks that are daily made regarding the paper, the whole would form a most interesting and yet bewildering volume. As each of the letters asks for a reply, in one way or another, we have decided to answer them *en bloc* through the editorial columns. Some of these communications extend back as far as 1892, others are of more recent dates. Evidently each writer is under the impression that he (or she) alone must be considered in the preparation of the paper for publication. We are confident that nearly all our *confreeres* of the press will find that they could duplicate, from their own pigeon-holes, the letters that we have received. Doubtless each one will recognize his own letter as we refer to it. We take them according to the dates of their reception.

The writer of the first letter in our list complains that our paper does not contain enough of Irish news. Evidently he does not read the special columns of condensed information from all parts of Ireland, the telegraphic despatches, the editorials, and the whole pages that, when occasion requires, are dedicated to Irish news. The second letter, from a priest in the Alexandria district, informs us that he must return our paper "because it contains too much Irish news." He wants general items of interest. Perhaps he never read the columns of Roman, European, American and general news; nor the numberless extracts from the magazines and exchanges, from the writings of the leading correspondents of the day on matters affecting the world at large. We next come to a man who says that we have not sufficient religious news in the paper; he can get all local and ordinary items as well as articles upon social, national and political matters in the daily press; he considered it the duty of a Catholic weekly to be an extension of the pulpit. This gentleman must have never taken a copy of the TRUE WITNESS, or else he does not understand English when he reads it. In the very same mail comes a letter complaining that we have too much religious news; the writer wants to know something about the crops and about politics. He says that he gets all the religion he needs in church. We doubt, however, if he could repeat one word of any sermon he has heard—if he ever heard any—during the last ten years.

Another claims we have not as much local city news as the daily papers; yet, if we give him that material, he would call our paper a mere rehash of the others. An Ontario gentleman says we have too much purely Montreal news, and since four-fifths of our readers are from other cities and from country districts, that we should not sacrifice their interests to the one-fifth in the city—all of whom have a morning and evening press to furnish them the news of the place. Then we have a letter from New Brunswick and another from this Province, in which we are told that we publish articles too favorable to American institutions and the people of the neighboring Republic. To counterbalance all this a man from Elgin county says that he is an annexationist, and he "don't want no paper that sticks up for Canada as against a union with the States." He consequently returns the paper. We might go on for several columns giving the contents of other letters, but we will be satisfied with three: the first wants the markets in; the second don't see the use of the commercial column; and the third says we have no original jokes like the Detroit Free Press.

To cap the climax, a number insist that lengthy, or even short, patent-medicine advertisements are of no interest to them and should be left out. This we will do, and at once, if these readers will please state what class of matter they want in the place of these advertisements; and if they will guarantee us the full amount, according to our rates, for the space occupied by them. Otherwise we cannot afford the charge, even to please such reasonable people. As well ask a merchant to call in his agents or take down his sign, because the one making the request does not deal in his particular line of goods.

Let any one of these correspondents kindly place himself for an hour in our position and ask himself what course is best to pursue. In all likelihood he would fly into a rage and use expressions more graphic than elegant. Every one of these gentlemen seems to think that he could satisfy the whole world were he only editor of a newspaper; but he would soon find that he could not even satisfy himself. Nearly every person has had the experience of a severe cold. Now let a person suffering from such a trouble pick out twelve friends and go to each in turn and tell him about his illness. Each one of the twelve will give him some very sure remedy, something that never fails; yet not two of the twelve will agree upon the same prescription. Suppose that he should follow the advice of every one of the twelve, what would be the result? Very probably the cold would be intensified, and in addition he would run the risk of being poisoned or, at least, of contracting a chronic dyspepsia.

One thing we can promise our correspondents,—that no effort will be spared by us to make our paper exactly what a Catholic and literary weekly should be. Original in its editorials, exact in its expressions, select in its articles, a review of the burning questions of the day, and an organ that can be relied upon as far as its tone and spirit are concerned. We hope that all the writers of these different and contradictory letters will accept this as a general reply, and that each will remember that he is not the only subscriber to the paper.

DESPITE the uncertainty that exists still in many quarters owing to the changes and re-changes that may possibly be made in the tariff; and despite the feverish state of affairs in the American Republic, on account of recent depressions and present difficulties—not the least of them foreshadowed by the Coxe movement—we find that the solidity of our Banking system in Canada is, every now and again, more positively confirmed. Amongst the Bank dividends declared for this half year we find the following: Bank of Commerce, 3½ per cent; Bank of Montreal, 5 per cent; Merchants' Bank, 4 per cent; Union Bank, 3 per cent; Hochelaga Bank, 3 per cent and bonus of 1; Jacques Cartier Bank, 3½ per cent; and Ville Marie Bank, 3 per cent. In the case of the Merchants' Bank there has been an advance from 3½ to 4 per cent. In all the others the old rate of dividend has been maintained. Not so bad for our Canadian institutions, amidst the crash of Banks and the waves of commercial depression in other lands.

THE American Catholic Quarterly Review for April is an exceptionally fine number. The high reputation attained by all its contributors, and the importance of the subjects treated, go to constitute it one of the most valuable issues of this powerful Review that we have received for some time. The next number will contain an article from the pen

of the Most Reverend Apostolic Delegate, Mgr. Satolli, on "The True Solution of the Italian Question." Needless to say that this contribution will be eagerly awaited.

IT IS SOMETIMES very amusing to read the speeches and appeals made by a class of non-Catholic preachers, when they attempt to gather together the shattered fragments of what once was called the Reformation. The following very well directed hit was made by the Editor of the London Universe in a recent issue:

The Rev. Mr. George wishes, above all things, that Protestants should "stand fast." He neglected to mention what it is they should "stand fast" to. Having, religiously, no common hold of any one single thing the result will be their "standing fast" to nothing. It is rather late in the day after they have, all of them, been tottering from one side to the other for 300 years to cry out, "Protestants, stand fast." But perhaps the gentleman who gave this impracticable advice a few days ago at a meeting of the Church Association merely gave it out as one of the many stock phrases which always call forth a cheer, and wake up a drowsy audience. "Stand fast, sir," was Sam Weller's advice to Mr. Winkle when the latter put on skates for the first time, but poor Winkle came to grief nevertheless.

THE LACROSSE SEASON.

On Saturday a large number of people were present on the Shamrock Lacrosse grounds to witness the initial game of the season. By all appearances we think that the applause and enthusiasm that followed the Senior Shamrocks during the past few years will be divided, to a certain extent, this year, between them and the Intermediate and Junior Clubs. On Saturday many of the veterans of the field were noticed moving about the grounds, and apparently animated with fresh vigor and energy after the long rest that the winter months afforded. Amongst others might be mentioned Kelly, Tucker, Neville, McVey, Wall, Ryan, White, Walsh and many who have not participated as actively as these gentlemen in the games, but who have ever had a deep interest in the success of the Lacrosse teams. Captain Polan, like the great Corsican, seems to be actively organizing and preparing to do noble battle for the championship of the world during the coming campaign. We hope that the "Napoleon of Lacrosse" will see many a "sun of Austerlitz" gild the triumphs of his splendid Club, and that his "Waterloo" is so distant that even the most vivid imagination cannot fix its remote date down the valley of the future. One of our morning dailies has this very peculiar remark: "The wearing of the green will be a popular form of amusement this summer." We don't know whether reference is made to the singing or playing of the well-known song and air, "The Wearing of the Green," or else to the amusement of dressing in colors more verdant than has been the general fashion of late years: in either case we are under the impression that the wearing of the green, or anything else, would be a very eccentric means of amusement. But if it is meant that the boys who wear the green and play Lacrosse will likely be the most popular during the coming season, we are in accord with the statement.

THE MAPLE LACROSSE CLUB.

THE LIST OF THOSE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMING CONCERT.

The following talent will contribute their services for the benefit of the Maple Lacrosse Club:—Miss May Milloy and Miss May Kitts; Messrs. Traynor, Robinson, Parks, R. B. Milloy, H. E. Codd, the instrumental trio, Butler, Smith, and Turgeon. Mr. Ed. Brennan will act as accompanist. The concert will conclude with a farce—in one act—entitled "The Hobeaux." The following is the cast of characters: Mr. A. E. Read as *Smobey Samson*; Mr. Geo. S. McLeish as *Hamlette Platte*; Mr. W. Stevenson as *Oscar Hardwork*; Mr. Jas. G. Milloy as *Dusty Rhodes*; Mr. Tom McCarthy as *Upson Downs*; Mr. Joseph Duffy as *Mr. T. Cairne*; Mr. Chas. P. O'Neill as *Chocolate Droppe*; Mr. James

J. Nicholson as *Sponge Cake*. A most amusing and entertaining performance is promised, as the list of names alone would indicate.

OBITUARY.

REV. FATHER NOISEAUX.

THREE RIVERS, April 30.—Rev. R. A. Noiseaux, who has been a priest of St. Genevieve de Batiscan for the past thirty-one years, died yesterday afternoon at the age of sixty-eight years and ten months. Deceased was stricken with a slight attack of paralysis two weeks ago and has not been well since. The reverend gentleman was a member of the cathedral chapter of this city and was universally esteemed.

THE LATE MR. E. E. CORCORAN.

One more of the old landmarks has disappeared. Last week Mr. R. E. Corcoran, formerly of the Hudson Bay Company, but recently of the Sheriff's office, Montreal, in his seventy-fourth year, passed peacefully away to his eternal reward. The funeral was largely attended and the interment took place at Rawdon, P.Q. The solemn requiem Mass was sung by the Rev. Father Corcoran, of Joliet, a nephew of the deceased. The musical portion of the service was under the direction of the Rev. Brother Campeau. The ceremonies were most impressive, while the attendance gave evidence of the high esteem and universal respect in which the deceased was held. The chief mourners were Messrs. J. E. Rowan, J. T. Rowan, Ambrose Rowan, James Rowan, and J. H. Daly. Mr. Corcoran was a pioneer in this country, one of those men who helped in opening out the Dominion and in preparing the way for an ever expanding civilization here. He was a most genial companion, who had a fertile memory well stored with accounts of the early days of the settlements. He was a sincere and devout Catholic, a model in every sense for the younger generation, and a man who had done his duty well and truly in the sphere of his life. We desire to express our sympathy with Mr. Corcoran's relatives and many friends, and to join in the prayer that the Church pronounced over him—may he rest in peace.

RIGHT REV. FATHER SOULIER

The Right Rev. Father Soulier, Superintendent of the Order of Oblat Fathers, arrived in Winnipeg on Saturday, and was met at the station by three hundred Catholic citizens in carriages, and escorted to the Archbishop's Palace at St. Boniface. To-day he was presented with an address in English and French. Father Soulier denied emphatically that his visit was in connection with the School case.

MARRIAGE BELLS.

Miss Hortense Murphy, second daughter of Mr. P. S. Murphy, Durocher street, was on Monday morning united in wedlock, in St. Patrick's church, to Mr. Louis Terroux, third son of the late Mr. Terroux. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father Quinlivan. Subsequently the newly married couple left for New York.

Burdock Blood Bitters cure Dyspepsia!
Burdock Blood Bitters cure Constipation.
Burdock Blood Bitters cure Biliousness.
Burdock Blood Bitters cure Headache.
Burdock Blood Bitters unlock all the clogged secretions of the Bowels thus curing Headaches and similar complaints.

Bad Blood causes blotches, boils, pimples, abscesses, ulcers, scrofula, etc. Burdock Blood Bitters cures bad blood in any form from a common pimple to the worst scrofulous sore.

I can highly praise Burdock Blood Bitters because it had a fair trial in my case with wonderful success. My symptoms were dropsy, backache and sleeplessness, and all these disappeared after using two bottles of Burdock Blood Bitters. I cannot praise its healing powers too highly. GEORGINA HOLMES, Wood Point, Sackville, N. B.

When is a man sure to go to the dogs?
When he is following the hounds.