



EDITORIAL NOTES.

A GIGANTIC pilgrimage passed and re-passed through Montreal, on the way from New York State to Ste. Anne de Beaupre, and on the way home. There were about 800 pilgrims coming from all directions, Ogdensburg, Plattsburg, Rouse's Point, from Malone, from along the shores of Lake Champlain, from Chasm Falls and from still further back in the Adirondacks. There were a devout and happy assembly of men, women and children. Rev. Father Devlin, from beyond the line forty-five—(not Father Devlin, of Montreal), led one contingent, and Rev. Father Holland, from his far-off mountain home headed another phalanx; and Rev. Father MacDermott, of Chasm Falls, was the soul and life of the great religious *Anabasis* and *Katabasis*. We are exceedingly well pleased to learn that the excursion was a success and that the pilgrims enjoyed their visit to Montreal, Quebec, and especially the far famed Shrine of La Bonne Ste. Anne. Much credit is due to Father MacDermott for the pleasure and benefits derived by the pilgrims from the great exodus. There is a fervor of faith in the mountain-inspired children of the Adirondacks, and a glow of solid religious instruction in the lives as well as in the words of their priests. We might remark that one young lady, who sang Gounod's *Ave Maria*, at the Shrine of Ste. Anne, took the *habitués* of the grand Basilica by surprise, rarely were finer vocal notes ever heard in the historic church.

WE HAD a visit last week from our friend and correspondent Walter Lecky. It was a real and unexpected pleasure to meet and speak with the keen critic, the versatile scholar and able essayist whose numerous contributions to THE TRUE WITNESS have so charmed and instructed our readers, and whose writings are so appreciated that they have been reproduced in a number of our American contemporaries. Lecky enjoys the fact that his sketches are of benefit to others but beyond that unselfish pleasure he seems to be more desirous of doing justice to and securing recognition for deserving writers, than in securing praise or fame for himself. Like the monk wears his cloak, Lecky dons his *nom de plume* as a protection against any danger of pride or self-consideration. However, we owe him a deep debt of gratitude not only for all he has done for THE TRUE WITNESS through the means of his articles, but for all the benefits he has conferred upon our readers in general. When next he writes it may be from an Irish jaunting car, or a London Museum, from a gondola in Venice or a camel's saddle by the Nile; but no matter from where, at what time or upon what subjects he writes, the name of Walter Lecky will be ever a welcome signature to the readers of THE TRUE WITNESS.

In another column we publish the resolutions of condolence passed by the officers of the Customs Department upon

the death of Mr. John Cox, the popular member of that staff. In Mr. Cox the Customs Department loses a most efficient, honorable and painstaking officer, one who was ever at the post of duty and whose career was a credit to himself, to his friends, to his creed and nationality, as well as to the Canadian Civil Service. The death of Mr. Cox leaves an important place to be filled, and in all probability the appointment of his successor will soon be made. The place belongs to an Irish Catholic and we can positively say that men of Irish blood and Catholic faith are not wanting, men competent in every way to assume the responsible duties of that office. If we might mention one in particular, we would say that in the Department today there is no officer, who by rights of service and of adaptability, would be more entitled to the appointment than Mr. W. J. McKenna. Decidedly Mr. Cox must be replaced by a man of his own creed and nationality, and in no branch of all the service is there a more deserving and more competent man than Mr. McKenna for the place. We hope that it will require very little argument and no pressure to convince the authorities of the advisability, yes, of the justice and imperative necessity of Mr. McKenna's promotion.

MONSIGNOR SATOLLI, the apostolic delegate, being asked his opinion upon suicide as a crime, stated that it was always criminal, and that no possible conditions could make it otherwise. The words of the high prelate are of such importance that we will give our readers the benefit thereof. After stating that only in the case where the country demands the sacrifice in its defence, or that in which the Faith requires a man to accept death for the glory of God, can a person be justified in giving his life, the learned representative of the Pope continues thus:—

"Even when a man takes his own life in order to relieve his beloved family from the sufferings of poverty by endowing them with the money for which his life has been insured, the criminality of the act is in no wise mitigated; his duty to God is higher than that to his family. Life is a God-given gift, and He alone, except where the law declares it forfeited, has the right to take it. The Catholic Church doctrine on this point is clear and unalterable, and will remain so until the Almighty rescinds the commandment: 'Thou shalt not kill.' This the Church interprets to mean the murder of another or one's self. As many countries have no laws penalizing suicide, as did the old English laws, the Church has adopted a policy which is believed to be an important deterrent to self-destruction; it does not permit the burial of the suicide in consecrated ground, as it holds that by this act he has voluntarily excommunicated himself."

IT HAS BEEN OUR intention to write a few articles on the important question of divorce, but a crush of more local and more immediate subjects has prevented the work; however, we hope to touch upon the matter in our next issue. Meanwhile we were forcibly struck by an editorial in the Boston Republic of last

Saturday upon "Divorce in Italy," and considering that the Italian Admiral of the Etna stated that his men were Catholics—that is to say, Catholics who disagreed with the Pope on the question of temporal power—and whose Catholicity is proven by the fact that the vessel carried no Chaplain, and the men "were permitted, if they saw fit, to go to church when on shore," we deem it opportune to reproduce a few lines from our esteemed *confrere* of the Republic. "When Italy," says that organ, "followed Garibaldi and his horde of atheists in their assault upon the Pope and the Catholic Church, she sowed the seeds of disorder and demoralization which are now bearing fruit. The first institution to be attacked was that of Christian marriage. Whenever a nation breaks away from religion she lowers the standard of domestic morality and virtue and sets up divorce as a special establishment. This Italy has done, with the result that a terrible sacrifice of female purity has followed. A herculean effort is now making to stem the tide before it submerges the entire country. A petition has been prepared for the abolition of divorce by legal enactment; this has been signed by 60,000 women, among whom are some of the most aristocratic in the land. It is doubtful whether this will be heeded. Wherever civil marriage prevails and is recognized there also must be divorce. "Whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder" is a Christian precept which is binding only where marriage is held to be a sacrament. Whom the State hath joined together the State may separate, is the modern doctrine of Protestant and atheistical countries. Italy abandoned the true Church, and she is now suffering the penalties. Only when she retraces her steps will she be free from dangers of socialism, domestic infidelity and the destruction of the family by indiscriminate divorce." We are exceedingly well pleased to find that we are not alone in our opinions upon divorce and upon religion in Italy. The Republic well and truly states the case. Divorce is pagan, not Christian, atheistical, not Catholic.

THE news of the "Shamrock's" victory in Chicago has spread joy on all sides and is the subject of conversation in Montreal. The magnificent trophy which the boys bring home with them has been well, squarely, and honorably won. Never, perhaps, were lacrosse played before a more important audience. Truly there were about five or six thousand spectators, but in reality the whole of the civilized world looked on, for almost every nation had its representative amongst the number that witnessed the game. Most heartily do we join in the congratulations that the Shamrocks are receiving from all sides, and we only trust that they may again carry off the championship to place beside the grand trophy from the World's Fair.

THE Colorado Catholic tells a story that certainly is amusing and from

which no end of conclusions may be drawn. It appears that a Colorado Orangeman, one William Nesbit was recently tried in Denver for the murder of a Roman Catholic woman, Mrs. Elizabeth Irwin. The plea offered for the murderer, which is unique in the annals of American jurisprudence and without precedent perhaps in the world, set forth that the accused was an Orangeman, "with whom hatred of Catholics" was a virtue which had been religiously "instilled into his nature by his mother" when he was a child in Ireland. It was "intimated that he had as a child taken an oath to hate, detest and despise the name of Catholic. Hence, when a difficulty arose between him and Mrs. Irwin, who was a Catholic, and when he "walked into her bedroom and deliberately, with malice aforethought, shot her down in cold blood, it was but a natural consequence of his early training, and an act for which, his lawyers claim, he was irresponsible." In spite of this most original plea the jury brought in a verdict of guilty. So much the better; that one act of justice should weigh heavily in the balance against the lynching crimes that have recently brought disgrace upon that section of the Republic.

THE OTHER DAY, in our rambles, we happened into the church of St. Henri, outside Montreal. We were astonished beyond expression on entering that apparently ordinary temple. The paintings, decorations, Stations of the Cross and statues are beyond all question the most splendid we have ever seen in Canada. The work of decoration is yet unfinished, but through the scaffolding one can catch glimpses of majestic processions, on either side of the church, moving up towards the celestial scene that overhangs the choir. Hundreds of saints, martyrs, virgins, confessors and innocents move in solemn file along the galleries and carry their palms of triumph and crowns of glory. High up in the vault is the Eternal Father and His heavenly attendants; over and behind the High Altar is a most wonderful group of priests, bishops, cardinals, kings, princes, peasants and pilgrims receiving the Apostolic Benediction from the venerable Vicar of Christ. The paintings of the Stations of the Cross are surpassingly fine and very large. In fact we are not yet able to give an accurate account of the details nor an appreciation of the work; but from what we have seen we can vouch that no church in all Canada will surpass that of St. Henri in its artistic attractions. It is a credit to the congregation, an honor to the pastor, and an ornament to the archdiocese.

The visitor to the World's Fair frequently meets there bands of nuns, usually connected with schools and academies, who come to see if there is anything to be learned about the latest and best methods and appliances in the education of the young.

A great Catholic Congress which recently met at Cracow sent a telegram to the Holy Father warmly protesting against the restrictions on his liberty.