

fact worth observing that those students and their parents travel altogether in Protestant company; they attend the shortest Sunday morning mass; only specially impressive ceremonies, or the mother's new sealskin sack, could induce them to visit the parish church any other time. We hope that they may always be as well satisfied with their surroundings as they seem to be now.

THE STUDY OF HISTORY.

History is philosophy teaching by examples. Christian history should exhibit the more or less perfect application of the principles of true philosophy to the life and manners of Christian nations. Hence the immense importance of the study of history, and its influence on the serious student of philosophy. We should choose by preference the history of those writers which have best realized the high ideal of a Christian state, and have swerved least from the paths of national rectitude. First, therefore, among our historical studies should be found the history of Ireland; no other nation gives us such lessons of heroic constancy amidst the severest trials; nowhere else do we see such fierce and long-continued persecution, borne with sublime endurance for the sake of truth and righteousness. We view as little less than a crime, that Irish parents should allow their children to grow up ignorant of the glories of their forefathers; of the piety, the learning, the patriotism of which every age, yes every page, of Irish history furnishes us with numerous examples. Yet the fact is that Irishmen are, as a general rule, but poorly informed about their country's past; that they seek knowledge of her from the stranger, and take his prejudiced view as historic truth.

The same may be said of the history of Canada. Every inch of Canadian soil has been made sacred by the labors, and

sometimes by the blood of Catholic Missionaries, explorers, and colonists. Every tradition of the country is eminently Catholic. Yet the only enthusiasm manifested over Canadian history is seen among those who should find their condemnation therein if our history were written aright, but who, if left to themselves, will make the records speak the language of bigotry and untruth. A thorough course in Canadian history should be recognized as a necessity in every Catholic college in Canada; lectures on Irish history would be perhaps a luxury as yet, though a very desirable and commendable one.

We are pleased to note that the Rev. W. D. McKinnon, who organized the Business Department of our Commercial Course, has found such a favorable field for the exercise of his great talent in the practical education of youth as the St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum, San Raphael California, of which he was appointed President a year ago, by His Grace Archbishop Riordan of San Francisco. This is the largest institution of its kind on the Pacific coast, accomodating at present upwards of five hundred children, to whom is imparted a thoroughly practical training in every way suitable to the requirements of the age. The advent of Rev. Father McKinnon as President, marked the inauguration of several much needed improvements and the addition of new departments to the work previously carried on. During the past year, upwards of \$50,000 were expended in the erection of new buildings, and in the general re-furnishing of the institution. The boys are trained in all the occupations of every day life, special attention being paid to farming, and under the tender direction of the Sisters, they receive a sound moral and religious education. Over 5,000 orphan children have passed through St.