

AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

Catholic Education Triumphant. Canada to the Front.

DEAR SIR,—Such is the greeting bestowed on our educational exhibits as seen at the World's Fair, by the Catholic Mirror of Baltimore, under date, August 9th, and reproduced from that journal, into the Catholic Record of London, Ontario, under date, August 26th, 1893. The same magnificent article is to be met with in the Catholic Universe of Cleveland, Ohio, in the TRUE WITNESS of this city; in several of the French papers of the Province, and notably, in most of the leading Catholic and Protestant journals of the United States. In looking at the heading of the article, I was constrained to say, surely, Canada must feel proud of the honor bestowed upon her educational system, when judges of the exhibit have pronounced "Catholic education triumphant."—"Canada to the front." But this praise would be misleading to those who would content themselves with reading only the heading in large capital letters. To fully appreciate the article one must read the text and context. Therein, he will find that it is the religious schools that have made "Catholic education triumphant," and that it is the same schools which have brought "Canada to the front." Most assuredly this consensus of public opinion, expressed through the press of North America, is the greatest tribute of honor and distinction yet paid to the religious orders for their system of education. But, what about the secular schools of this Province? What about the religious and secular teachers' mission? When I try to evolve it from the article in question, I am confronted with the following terse piece of logic:—

"It is needless to say that the work from their schools (the religious) is superior to that from establishments in charge of seculars. It cannot be otherwise. I hold it as a psychological axiom—the soul unfettered by natural affections is best fitted to lift other souls to higher things. Now, the secular teacher is weighed down by the cares of life, the love of wife and child. The religious educator is as free as the brown-winged lark that, shaking the dew from his wings, mounts to the sky and sings her matins to God. His one business is education. He does not teach to-day and take a wife to-morrow and go into business the third day. Teaching with him is not as it is with the secular. He teaches for Christ's sake; the secular for mammon's."

This is very strong language, but its truth is fully established. After contrasting the difference in the amount of salaries paid to religious and secular teachers, the writer goes on to state that:

"These same Christian Brothers that receive a paltry \$250 for their year's service, have sent the work that makes the exhibit of the Province of Quebec the magnificent triumph it is."

These words should be written in letters of gold, and hung up in every public building in the Province as a mark of appreciation for the Brothers and as a reference for the future historian of Canadian education. I shall now turn to the other side. What a deplorable—a disgraceful picture we find of the Catholic secular schools! Schools that have cost the public millions of dollars already, and hundreds of thousands annually for their support and administration. Let us hear what the writer of the article has to say on this matter. It is an objection to the taxpayer—crystallized, and clothed in the simple language of truth. Here it is, take note of it all ye taxpayers!

"And these seculars that receive their \$400 to \$1,000 a year have sent work that better had the great mass of it never been sent at all. It would be a wise thing if the Roman Catholic Board of School Commissioners of the Province of Quebec would, as a body, come to the fair and see what returns they are getting for an expenditure of \$400 to \$1,000 a year, contrasted with the work done in the class of a religious teacher with a paltry salary of \$250 a year." A fair invitation, gentlemen, accept it. Do not leave the report work for the two delegates you sent at the public expense to Chicago. Go by all means at the same expense and see for yourselves. Some years ago you sent an embassy to Paris on a similar mission, and if current report speaks truth, all you received in

exchange for the princely bill you had to foot, was a few half yards of ribbon, more or less, and the satisfaction of having given your ambassador a "jolly good" time in Paris, together with a health-giving tourist's trip. Gentlemen of the Board! if my words reach you, I would strongly advise you to make a trip to Chicago and see if there is any truth in the writer's assertion, when he states if they (the Commissioners) were on the ground:—"I am certain that 99 per cent. of the work from these secular Catholic schools would be ordered home. And it should be. Catholic pride makes me speak thus." Now, gentlemen, here is a request followed by a challenge. Do you accept or reject it? Remember the eyes of North America are now focussed on your schools and educational system as seen through the columns of the press. The comments of La Verite, and the English Catholic and Protestant press of this continent, have opened the eyes of the taxpayers of Montreal to the difference in quality and cost between religious and secular education. There is a certain admiration for costly buildings in the article from which I have just quoted so freely, but as will be seen there is nothing short of contempt for your system of education. "There are schools of this class (secular schools) in the City of Montreal that, I am told, are regarded with admiration—looked on as the acme of perfection. I saw some of the work they have sent. Thus, I thought to myself, as I looked at it, *even Canada does the fine building, the beautiful property, give a glitter to the sham within.*" (The italics are mine.)

Contrast the following with the foregoing:—

"Verily, their display, (the Christian Brothers), is the crowning glory of the schools and colleges for boys in the Catholic Province of Quebec."

I will not follow up this subject at greater length, as I fear I have already trespassed too far on your columns; but, I cannot close without calling the editor's notice to the powerful lever this article on "Catholic education," should prove in your hands in your demand for an English Inspector of English schools. I do not hope to see the present worthless school system and the insane extravagance on school buildings regulated all at once. But, I do hope, to see without delay, the appointment of an English inspector, in deference to the wishes of the English speaking Catholics, who contribute to the civic treasury much more than one-third of all the taxes contributed by all the other Catholics of the city.

NOW AND THEN.

Montreal, Aug. 27th, 1893.

THE ARCHBISHOP'S CIRCULAR

An Appeal on Behalf of Indian Sem-
inaries.

Archbishop Fabre has issued to his clergy an important circular concerning the establishment of seminaries in India, and also touching upon benefit societies. The circular orders that the clergy every year take up a collection on the feast of the Rosary in every public church and chapel, on behalf of the establishment of seminaries in India for the training of local clergy. This is in accordance with the wish of the Pope, who has requested all the bishops in the world to help him in the movement. The scheme of Indian seminaries was adopted by the Indian synod in 1887, but hitherto it could not be carried out for want of means. In speaking of benevolent societies the Archbishop states that he has always given his encouragement to such societies as furnished sufficient guarantees as to faith and morals, and then goes on to say that, unfortunately, regrettable abuses have crept into some of these organizations, in the shape of noisy gatherings and frivolous amusements, got up for a pecuniary interest, such as picnics and balls, and which are a source of great danger to morals. He calls upon the clergy to use all their efforts towards putting a stop to such a state of things, and to remind the members of benevolent societies that they must consider it a sacred duty to preserve the character of Christian charity associations, and to banish from their midst all that religion forbids, or at least tolerates but with regret.

A GRAND EXCURSION.

The Young Irishmen's L. & B. Association.

On Thursday last, 24th August, the members of the Young Irishmen's L. & B. Association, had their annual grand excursion. This year it was to Lake St. Peter and back. The steamer "Three Rivers," was chartered for the occasion, and the attendance was large. In spite of the very unfavorable weather the great number of the excursionists had a most enjoyable time. A splendid orchestra was in attendance and the president, Mr. Edward Halley, assisted by the officers, made everything most comfortable and enjoyable for the patrons of the event. On the return trip on board the steamer, most select music and exceptionally good vocal pieces were rendered. In a very happy and timely speech, Mr. Halley, the genial and popular president, thanked all present for their attendance and for the great encouragement that the Association received at their hands. It is a well known fact that whatever the Young Irishmen undertake al-

ways turns out a success. The rapid strides with which the Association has advanced; the concerts, the excursions, the demonstrations have all been equally marked with the seal of an energy that foretells at future most brilliant. In the city to-day there is not another society that stands upon as solid a financial basis as does the Young Irishmen's L. & B. Association. The property they possess has been secured by means of good organization and unceasing watchfulness and energy. Great is the credit due to the actual President Mr. Halley and to the present officers for the manner in which they have brought their organization to the first rank of national societies.

On Monday evening a meeting of the Association was held, under the presidency of Mr. Halley. The question of another excursion was brought up. The matter was discussed at length, and it having been proved that many members of the Association, as well as many hundreds of their friends, had been prevented from attending, the Association resolved to incur the additional expense necessary to secure an outing for its members and friends. The date selected was Monday, September 11, when the steamer Three Rivers will leave at 1.30 p.m., returning about 8 o'clock in the evening. This undertaking means a good deal of expense to the Association, but the "boys" feel that under the circumstances, and with favorable weather, their annual outing will far surpass any record of the past.

OBITUARY.

The Late Dr. D. O'Brien, of Ottawa.

We are called upon to record this week the sudden death of one of Ottawa's most prominent citizens and one of the foremost men in the medical profession in Canada, in the person of Dr. David O'Brien. On Thursday last the Doctor was, as usual, attending his immense number of patients; that evening he was taken suddenly ill, and on Friday he passed calmly away, amidst his sorrowing family and relatives. Dr. O'Brien was born in Appleton, Lanark County, Ontario, was educated at the University of Ottawa, and became a graduate of McGill University, Montreal. For several years he practised most successfully in the village of Renfrew. In 1887 he took up his residence in Ottawa, and almost immediately secured a most splendid practice. He was a very popular man, in every sense, and one of the Capital's leading Irish Catholics. He leaves a widow and one son, a young and promising man of eighteen years. He married, while in Renfrew, the youngest daughter, by first marriage, of Mr. John Foran, lumber merchant, of Aylmer, P.Q., and was therefore a brother-in-law of Mr. T. P. Foran, Q.C., of Aylmer, and step-brother-in-law of Mr. J. K. Foran, editor of THE TRUE WITNESS. Dr. O'Brien was physician to the Water street Hospital, the University of Ottawa, the C. M. B. A. and the Catholic Order of Foresters. The funeral, which took place on Sunday afternoon, was very largely attended by members of these different societies and by a vast concourse of citizens. Last summer the deceased, who was of a strong build and an apparently good constitution, felt it necessary to take some relaxation from the constantly increasing calls upon his services, and in consequence had a trip to Europe. He returned vastly improved in health, and to all appearances was destined to have a long lease of life. But suddenly and most unexpectedly the Angel of Death hovered over his new and beautiful home, and in the shadow of its wing the spirit of a good father, a fond husband, a popular and leading citizen, and a thorough Catholic went forth to its reward. All that we can now do is to offer our heartfelt sympathy to the relatives of the deceased, and with the Church to pray that his soul may rest in eternal peace.

THE FUNERAL.

The following account appeared in one of the Ottawa papers of Monday last:—
The funeral of the late Dr. O'Brien took place yesterday afternoon from his late residence, 27 Nepean street, to St. Patrick's church and thence to Notre Dame cemetery. The funeral was the largest that has been in Ottawa for a long time. The C. M. B. A. and the Catholic Order of Foresters turned out in full force, the deceased having been a member of and physician for both orders. Many handsome floral tributes were sent to be placed on the coffin of the deceased. Among others a cross from Mrs. John J. Heney; cross, Miss Baskerville; star, Ottawa Chiropractic Society; crown, Ottawa Medical Surgical Society and a wax cross from the Sisters of the Good Shepherd's monastery. The pallbearers were Dr. Powell, Dr. Grant, Dr. Monge, Messrs. J. M. Quinn, John Moran, Geo. Baskerville, M. J. Gorman and Ralph Slattery. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. Father Whelan, assisted by Fathers Cole and McCarthy. The church choir furnished appropriate music for the occasion. A great many citizens followed the remains to their last resting place, there being nearly 200 carriages in the procession.

The Sad Death of Rev. Zephyrin Joubert.

An impressive funeral service was performed Saturday morning in the Church of the Immaculate Conception on Rachel street over the remains of Rev. Zephyrin Joubert, a learned scholar, who was drowned on Thursday near the summer villa of the Jesuits at Maisonneuve. After the service the remains were removed to the cemetery of the order at Sault au Recollet. The deceased was in his twenty-eighth year and was a native of St. Vincent de Paul. He entered the order five years ago. At the inquest held by Coroner McMahon, it was ascertained that the deceased had gone out after dinner in a row boat to the island near by de Boucherville to bathe. When some distance away from shore he was seen to throw up his hands and disappear. His companions went to his assistance but could do nothing. The deceased is greatly regretted by the order.—R. I. P.

A Sign of the Times.

This is an age of exhibitions; from the village show-fair to the World's Fair at Chicago, there seems to be in every country and in every section of the same, opportunities afforded the inventor, the producer, the manufacturer, the artisan and the artist to display the products of their industry, the results of their skill, or the evidences of their talents. We are certain that this year's Provincial Exhibition in Montreal will be an improvement upon the splendid success of last year, and that quite a number of new and attractive features will be added to its list of exhibits. A sign of

our times is the improvements to be found in all the machinery, the new inventions, the purification of foods and other necessities, all of which mark progress and enterprise, and consequently reflect credit upon the country. There will be this year a novelty at the Montreal Exhibition. It is not a new species of intricate machinery, nor yet is it exactly an invention, but it certainly is a discovery that deserves the title of improvement. It is called Cottoline, and is soon to replace the old style lard in the cooking departments of our houses. It is the product of the cotton seed oil and bullock's fat. As to the lard, for cooking purposes, that we daily purchase, unless rendered carefully at home, no person is positive of its component parts. But here is something vegetable as well as animal, both pure and healthy. Mr. W. J. McMillan, the genial agent of N. K. Fairbank & Co., will have a lively time of it once the visitors to the grounds become aware that the Golden Cottoline is on exhibition. We wish him success, because it is to the public interest to have a good article, and we believe in the public knowing of it.



Clifford Blackman

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