

said with a winding mildness of tone and manner: "My friend, I am a Jesuit. [At this avowal all eyes were turned upon the speaker.] I have been one for three and twenty years, and if there were one word of truth in all you have just said, I should never have been so long a member of the order; on the contrary I would quit it at once. [Here there was a general and strong sensation among the passengers, who came crowding round from all parts of the boat.] Your tirade was a tissue of misstatements. If such are the sentiments which the University puts into the mouths of her students, no wonder that all France is fast becoming disgusted with the University monopoly,—no wonder that she is demanding, together with the freedom of teaching the right of religious education, and that the Jesuits begin to be so generally chosen by parents, as they have been already by the many families who send their children to the Colleges of Fribourg, of Brugelette, and other similar establishments. These institutions, spacious as they are, cannot nearly accommodate the pupils who flock to them from all quarters; so that the question is becoming to the University one of money and profit and loss; nothing else. I am aware, gentlemen, that it is the commonest thing in the world to find the Jesuits attacked by persons who know nothing about them, and I have no doubt that this is the case in the present instance. I am, probably, the first Jesuit the most of you have ever seen."

All the by standers, not excepting the oldest among them, confessed very good humouredly, that it was so.

To cover his defeat, the young man insisted that there were among the Jesuits many conspirators and political incendiaries; and quoted in proof of this the assertions of the newspapers. The good father replied that, in the first place, if any persons of that description were discovered in the Order, they were expelled forthwith, and in the next place, that if for every falsehood asserted by the newspapers a handful of sand were cast into the Rhone, the boat which was at the moment making such headway would very soon run aground.

The laugh was now on the side of the Jesuit, a thousand apologies were offered, a thousand expressions of kindness and good-will, and every body in the crowd (which by this time included almost every passenger on board) was anxious to know "who could the priest be?"

Of course they were not long in finding out that he was Father de Smet, a Belgian Jesuit, and a missionary among the Flat Head Indians, whom he had converted. They learned also from the impressive but simple narrative of the good father, that in the Rocky mountains his labors had been crowned with the same magnificent results, which the philosophers of Europe could not help recognizing and admiring in the republics of Paraguay. Farther details of the greatest interest respecting the North American Indians and the incredible toils of the Catholic missionaries in their efforts to

convert and civilize them, soon won the admiration and respect of the whole company.

The Missionary happened to speak of a war dress of an Indian chief with all its accoutrements, &c, complete, which he was bringing as a present to the superior-general of his order; and on all sides there was the most lively desire to see such curiosity. The good father consented at once, and the captain of the boat was kind enough to have the baggage searched for the package containing it. The dress had belonged to a warrior more than six feet in height, a great chief of the *Black-feet*, slain in battle by the *Flat-heads*, who presented his spoils to their missionary. Its novelty and beauty were the theme of general admiration."—*N. Y. Freeman.*

CATHOLIC INSTITUTE.—The committee held the meeting for October on Wednesday last, Mr. Barelli in the chair. A letter was read from the Rev. T. J. Butler, President of the auxiliary branch of the Catholic Institute, at Richmond, Van Dieman's Land, inclosing a remittance of £10, the amount of subscriptions from the members of that branch for one year. Mr. Butler expresses a hope to be able in future to send an annual subscription regularly, and that the number of members at Richmond, amounting to thirty-two, will be gradually increased. The secretary stated that he had lately had an interview, at the Horse Guards, with Lord Fitzroy Somerset, military Secretary, on the subject of the detention of the Catholic orphan, McCann, in the Protestant Asylum, at Madras, by the military authorities, and that he was referred by his lordship to the military department of the East India House—that he had accordingly visited that department, and by advice of an official gentleman, had drawn up and transmitted a statement of the case, accompanied by certain documents received from India, to be laid before the Honourable the Court of Directors. Several matters of routine having been disposed of, the meeting separated.—*Tablet.*

A meeting of the committee and collectors of the Association for the Propagation of the Faith will be held in the New Vestry on Monday evening next, at 6½ o'clock.

The monthly meeting of the Teachers of the Catechetical Society, will be held in the New Vestry, on Sunday next, immediately after Vespers.

THE CROSS is printed and published every Friday afternoon, by John P. Walsh, at the very low rate of ONE DOLLAR a year. Office—Hollis-street, No. 3, Kinnear's Buildings.