

CRITICISM AND RIDICULE.

Another Able Article From the Pen of a Talented Correspondent.

At first sight there appears to be no connection between the terms criticism and ridicule, nor in reality is there any; yet, as a matter of fact we confound them with one another every day. For instance, a person is given to picking out the flaws in a neighbour's manner, speech, mode of dressing and so forth, and holding them up to ridicule. Before long such a one is dubbed a critic by her little circle and is either admired or detested by her companions very heartily. I say her, because just now I am writing for the benefit of my own sex. That men can do and see their neighbors faults and gossip about them with a certain amount of relish I am very well aware, nor are their attentions upon this point confined exclusively to members of their own sex, on the contrary. But, as Josiah Allen's wife says, "I am a epiisodin, and to reason." In every little social circle we find one or two who have obtained the character of critics by the facility they display in seizing upon and holding up to derision the mental, moral or social weak spots of their neighbors. It may be well to remark just here that this character is not an enviable one and is much harder to sustain than that of being a humorist, which everybody knows is hard enough. Having once obtained the reputation we feel ourselves obliged to find fault with everything. It is expected of us. Do we attend a party, we are expected to pull our hostess and the entertainment to pieces as soon as we leave her house. In our little circle no one presumes to praise until we have spoken, they wait to hear our verdict. We may have qualms of conscience or of honor and feel that we are doing rather a mean thing, but the temptation is a subtle one and we generally go down before it; then our companions laugh and say, "what a critic you are, you see through everybody," and we feel flattered and elated when we should feel ashamed of ourselves. But this is not really criticism, it is only ridicule. Criticism would see the good points as well as the bad ones of the object criticised and would treat both impartially, while ridicule is blind to the good and takes a magnifying glass to discover the bad. Any one can be a critic of this kind. It does not require education, sensibility, sympathy or insight; indeed those things would be rather in the way as tending to weaken that eagle-eyed penetration which detects the spots upon the sun and wonders where the daylight comes from. The desire to be thought cleverer and smarter than our friends is the origin of the ridiculing critic, if I may be allowed to use such a designation. To have a clear idea within us as to the locations of Lisbon and Madrid while we hear some less fortunate neighbor mixing Spain and Portugal gives us a thrill of superiority that we always find pleasant. This would be harmless if we confined it to our own breasts, but there would be no fun in that; so we communicate our neighbor's ignorance and, incidentally, our own knowledge, to another neighbor at the first opportunity and the process of ridiculing begins. I wonder how we would feel if suddenly called upon to state the location of any of the hundreds of places in the civilized world that we don't know anything at all about beyond having heard their names. I'm afraid we'd be vexed if laughed at by the questioner for our ignorance.

All this is small; pitifully small. What is the knowledge of the most learned man on earth when weighed against what he does not know? Does not daily experience teach us that we have hardly mastered the alphabet of our own narrow lives yet, without venturing to glance at the vast abysses of science and natural history that the touch of modern research is beginning to light up? And if this is true of the finite world we inhabit, what shall we say of that other whose meanest inhabitant possesses an intelligence before which the learning of all the philosophers and scientists and wise men who have ever lived shrinks into nothing?

Little can be said upon this subject that has not been said before. It is as old as the hills. Man's ignorance and man's vanity. The theme is almost worn out and we have not yet learned the lesson it would inculcate; that he who possesses the widest and deepest learning looks with lenient eye upon the ignorance of his fellow mortals, and the

one who holds that ignorance up to ridicule proclaims aloud the narrow and cramped environments of his own soul. KATHARINE ALLAN.

ST. ANN'S Y. M. S.

Interesting Monthly Meeting.

On Sunday afternoon the St. Ann's Young Men's Society held their regular monthly meeting, which was largely attended, over two hundred members being present. Amongst other matters transacted was the election of a new secretary. The choice fell upon Mr. P. Bergin, one of the most popular young men in the society, and certainly one of the most competent to fulfil the duties of that important office. It was announced that the St. Patrick's Night entertainment had been a grand success, financially as well as otherwise. Also, it was made known that the Society had secured the splendid steamer "Three Rivers" for an excursion on the 24th of May next. Great exertions are being made to have a most successful day of it, and no pains are being spared to prepare well for the occasion. It is to be hoped that the excursion will in every way be up to the expectations and anticipations of the society.

BLAKE'S GOOD WORK.

Banquetted by the Manchester Reform Club.

On the 15th of March Hon. Edward Blake, M. P., was the guest of the Manchester Reform club, at a banquet, with the president of the club in the chair. In introducing Mr. Blake, the president of the club said the British Liberals welcomed Mr. Blake at a powerful ally in the great political conflict they were now waging. One of the most remarkable things in the recent development of the Irish question was the way in which the men of high capacity and statesmanlike mind united in the cause. Nothing was more full of hope for the future than the fact that such men had ranged themselves on the side of the Irish people and were prepared to take their part in the government of the country. Perhaps no maiden speech had ever produced a greater impression than that delivered by Mr. Blake. It had lifted him at once into the front rank.

In reply to the toast of his health, Mr. Blake made a splendid speech upon the political situation in the United Kingdom, which is fully reported in the Manchester Guardian, the leading newspaper of the city. Dealing editorially with Mr. Blake's speech the Guardian says: "Even more important than these acute suggestions was the large faith and high enthusiasm of the speech. Mr. Blake himself belongs by birth to the minority, to the old party of ascendancy; and though he has learnt to put away those childish things and to be an Irishman in the full meaning of the word, he still would be the last man in the world to accept a scheme which he believed would result in the 'oppression' of the class and creed from which he sprang. So also Mr. Blake is very evidently a loyal subject of the Queen and heartily attached to the great empire in which he has played no unimportant part. Bearing these facts in mind we shall more fully understand the meaning and value of his 'fundamental objection to the whole course of action on the part their political opponents.' This fundamental objection was that 'they insisted upon two propositions which he wholly denied. The first was 'that there existed an irreconcilable division and alienation between the people of Ireland and the people of Great Britain, and do what you would, you could not obtain a better state of feeling. The second was that 'between the majority and the minority in Ireland there was a division incapable of being removed.' Experience, in Mr. Blake's opinion, will remove it. When the majority and the minority have to live together in Ireland, without constant reference by the latter to the mother-in-law over the water, they will live altogether, and not before. We know that the Union in its present form has not made Irishmen loyal subjects of the common empire; we need only read the reports of these 'Unionist' meetings now going on in Ireland to see that it has not made them understand or trust one another. From both points of view, then it is a failure, and so great a failure that nothing worse is possible. Home

Rule is an experiment, no doubt, but as Mr. Blake said, it is a noble one, an appeal to those 'better feelings of humanity' to which appeal is seldom made in vain, and we share his conviction that faith in human nature will once more be justified by the result."

CATHOLIC NEWS

Socialists at Roubaix, France, attacked a Catholic church last Sunday threw the priest into the street, dispersed the congregation, and broke up the furniture.

It is reported that a Dutch Protestant who was recently converted to the Roman Catholic faith while on a visit to Laudes has presented the sum of 3,000,000 francs to the Bishop of Tarbes for the completion of the parish church of that famous place of pilgrimage.

Bishop Howley, of St. George, Newfoundland, who was recently the guest of the Jesuit Fathers of Boston College, was surprised a few days ago to receive a present of a beautiful gold watch from some of his Newfoundland friends in Boston.

The next great feast of the church comes on Ascension Thursday, which follows forty days after Easter, and will, therefore, fall this year on May 11. Ten days after the Ascension comes Pentecost, or Whit Sunday, May 21, and a week later will bring Trinity Sunday and the close of the Paschale season, May 28.

His Holiness Pope Leo XIII. has on recommendation of the Most Rev. Dr. Sheehy, Lord Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, conferred the degree of Doctor of Theology on the Very Rev. W. H. Sheehy, President of St. John's College, Waterford. At the Cathedral on Friday evening the Bishop read the Papal mandate, after which Father Sheehy made a profession of faith.

Monseigneur Capel, who has been dwelling in seclusion for some years back out on the Pacific slope, appeared in public print last week, his communication having reference to the absurd claims of the Ritualists that mass is celebrated in their churches. The monsignor does not seem to have accepted that invitation which was said to have been extended to him by Cardinal Vaughan to return to London, and it is an open question if such invitation was ever seen.

The Passionist Fathers, Mount Argus, Dublin, are engaged in collecting materials for a life of the late Father Charles. The fathers would feel deeply grateful if those who have received letters from Father Charles, which might be considered suitable for insertion in the biography, would kindly send them to Mt. Argus, or any other information calculated to facilitate their labors.

After Easter we may obtain some definite information from Rome regarding the many episcopal nominations which the country has been expecting for some time past. There are quite a number of such appointments to be made now, the most important ones being the St. Louis co-adjutorship, which may entail other nominations; the Fort Wayne bishopric and the vacant see of St. Joseph. The Dallas diocese is also without a prelate, since it is authoritatively stated that Bishop Brennan has resigned that see.

The daily press corroborated the other day the statement made in this column last week that the principal motive of the western trip which Monseigneur Satolli will undertake shortly after Easter is to be the present as the Pope's representative at the opening of the World's Fair at Chicago, May 1. The apostolic delegate is to stop first, at Cincinnati, Archbishop Elder of that city having extended him some time ago a pressing invitation to visit his archiepiscopal city and see for himself in what a prosperous condition Catholicity exists in Cincinnati. The Monsignor will also visit Columbus to arrange for the transfer to the Propaganda of the institution in that city known as the Josephinum.

ARITHMETICAL EXAMINATION.—School Inspector: Well, my little girl, how many inches to a foot? Little Girl: Twelve, sir. School Inspector: Right. Now, boy, what does a yard contain? Little Boy: Well, sir, ours contains a tool house and a chicken run, to say nothing of a broken swing and a dust-bin.

A Member of the Ontario Board of Health Says:

"I have prescribed Scott's Emulsion in Consumption and even when the digestive powers were weak it has been followed by good results." H. P. YEOMANS, A. B. M. D. 27-2

ROMAN NEWS.

(Gleaned from the Universe and other sources.)

The King of Roumania has sent Cardinal Rampolla the grand cordon of the Star of Roumania.

The German Emperor has intimated to the Pope that he and his wife will pay him a solemn visit at the Vatican at the end of April.

The Sultan has conveyed to the Holy Father his conviction that the moral power of the Papacy would guarantee the European social order.

Mgr. Lasagna has been consecrated by Cardinal Rampolla, and will leave on the 3rd of April with thirty missionaries for his diocese in Central America.

The Empress of Austria has presented the Holy Father the sum of one hundred thousands francs to defray the expenses of the new reading-room lately added to the new Vatican library.

Mgr. Toulotte, Bishop of Tagaste, has been appointed, on the suggestion of the Propaganda, Vicar Apostolic of the Sahara. This ecclesiastic was formerly auxiliary to Cardinal Lavignerie.

The Bishop of Grenoble has been warmly received by the Pope, who expressed his paternal feelings towards France and advised her to follow the pathway traced in his instructions.

The Dutch Minister of War, Colonel Seyffert, has issued an order that Catholic soldiers shall be exempt from duty on all holidays of obligation in their Church, although the dates may not be legal holidays. They are more tolerant in the Netherlands than in some Catholic countries.

The Papal Jubilee was celebrated on Sunday throughout Belgium. There was much pious rejoicing, and exhibition of acts of zeal and munificence for the glory of the Church and in honour of the Pontiff. Te Deums, services, processions and exultation were the order of proceedings.

The solemn beatification of the Venerable Leopoldo Gaiche, professed priest of the Order of Reformed Minors of St. Francesco, took place on Sunday in the Vatican. The Archbishop of Perugia was present. In the afternoon His Holiness visited the Hall over the portico of the Basilica to venerate the relics of the beatified.

The Countess de Hahn of Copenhagen, daughter of Baron Hedemann, a former high functionary of the Danish marine, has taken the veil of novice in the Convent of Augustines at Meran, in the Tyrol. The lady is aged 70. Of Protestant origin herself, her husband and three children were converted to Catholicity. Having lost the companion of her life, the Countess determined to give herself up entirely to God.

The Papal Jubilee has been kept on Mount Lebanon with extraordinary enthusiasm. Prince Hossen de Khazen, belonging to the most illustrious of Maronite families, desired that every homage should be rendered to the eminent successor of St. Peter. Illuminations on a grand scale were given after a service in the Church of St. Anthony of Daraoun, and immense crowds separated to cries ten times repeated of "Long live Leo XIII."

The Scotch pilgrims who were received by the Pope on Sunday, the 26th of February, at 4 p.m., numbered about two hundred persons, and were presented by the rector of the Scots College, Mgr. Campbell. The Archbishop of Edinburgh, the Most Rev. Dr. Smith, and the secular chief of the pilgrimage, Lord Ralph Kerr, read addresses in Latin. The Holy Father replied in the same tongue through the medium of Mgr. Mery del Val, his cameriere segreto partecipante, his physicians having absolutely forbidden the fatigue of oratory. His Holiness granted the usual Pontifical indulgences, and gave the priests permission to give the Apostolic Benediction to their congregations upon their return to Scotland.

REGULAR PROGRAMME.—Little Mabel: If you don't stop. I'll tell mamma, and she'll tell papa, and then papa will whip you. Little Johnny: Then I'll cry, and then grandma will give me some chocolates, and I won't give you any.

BEWARE OF CHOLERA.

The healthy body throws off the germs of cholera, therefore, wisdom counsels the use of Burdock Blood Bitters this spring to purify the blood, regulate the system, and fortify the body against cholera or other epidemics.