

not hesitate to deal with it as it deserves.

Prominence is given to a new myth in the *Mail* of the 23rd ultimo. It is to the effect that the clergy of France are entirely occupied in offering up prayers for the success of Hon. H. Mercier in the contest which is now being waged in the Province of Quebec, as the following extract from an editorial article of that date will show:

"The generally accepted theory of Mr. Mercier in France, resulting from his recent visit is that he is a great French and Catholic statesman, the preserver of French ideas in this continent, and the protector of the interests of the Church. Recently a *cure* wrote him sympathizing with him in his persecution by the Orangemen, and now ecclesiastics by the score are invoking the saints to restore him to power. Distance, no doubt, deceives the French clergy. But if the departed take so deep an interest in things mundane and political as is supposed, they cannot be unaware of the letters of credit or of the terrible condition into which the Province of Quebec has been brought through the brilliant statesmanship of the child of the people."

We are not surprised that this champion of stalwart Protestantism and pet of the parsons should sneer at the Catholic practice of asking the saints of God to intercede for those on earth, for the *Mail* has been accustomed to sneer at all Christianity, and it is but a short time since it ridiculed Protestantism itself for believing in the efficacy of prayer at all. But we wish to call attention to the wretched basis on which that journal founds its pretence that all Catholic France is engaged in praying for Mr. Mercier's success at the coming elections.

A letter was published recently in a Quebec paper from a priest in France, addressed to Mr. Mercier, and stating that he and his sister and the teachers of the parish school are engaged in offering up prayers to this effect, as the good *cure* is of opinion that patriotism and religion are the issue at stake. We are told that four other priests will follow the same course with Rev. Mr. Cantenot, the writer of the letter in question.

There is, therefore, one priest, and there may possibly be five, out of the thirty five thousand priest of France, who take a deep interest in Mr. Mercier's success. These rev. gentlemen are personally acquainted with Mr. Mercier, who has been generous in making a handsome present to the parish church of Sautueil, Rev. Mr. Cantenot's parish. They have a high opinion of Mr. Mercier, and they know of nothing which should lower him in their estimation; but are we to infer, as the *Mail* pretends, that the whole Catholic Church of France is moved to secure Mr. Mercier's triumph by their prayers? Is the *Mail* justified in asserting that "the French clergy are deceived," and that ecclesiastics by the score are invoking the saints to restore him to power?

Such statements are on a par with much of the news which the *Mail* has of late been furnishing to its readers. Their purpose is evidently by means of falsehood to excite Ontario fanatics to a hatred of the religion and people of Quebec.

It is possible that the alleged letter of Rev. Mr. Cantenot is a forgery; but it matters little whether it be authentic or not, and we have no intention to enquire into the matter. The *Mail* has become so thoroughly hostile and unreliable that any one would as readily look to its worthy comrade, the *Lindsay Warder*, for truthful news as to its columns; but the article from which we have made the extract above given excels in imbecility even what we have been long accustomed to read in either of these two literary productions.

A MISUNDERSTANDING.

An esteemed correspondent writes to us protesting against the introduction into Ontario of the plan adopted by some priests of Wisconsin, in the diocese of Archbishop Ireland, by which the parochial schools have been handed over to the control of the Public School Boards, it being understood that the strictly religious instruction should be given outside of legal school hours. He expresses surprise at, and strongly protests against, what he considers to be a recommendation on our part that a similar course should be followed in Ontario. Our correspondent makes a singular mistake. We made no such recommendation. We merely stated what had occurred in Fairbairn and Stillwater, and gave it as our opinion that in these localities, where there is no such school laws as we have in Ontario, Archbishop Ireland and his clergy, who were blamed by some journals, were justified in adopting

such a course as they considered best suited to the difficult situation in which they were placed, it being necessary for them to select the least evil among the several inconvenient courses which were open to them. The plan they adopted is merely an experiment, which they may abandon at any time if they find that they cannot carry on their schools properly as Catholic schools under it; but up to the present time we understand the arrangement has worked satisfactorily, though it certainly falls far short of our Catholic school system of Ontario, under which the schools have a proper legal status.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A VERY SAVAGE sample of Protestant bigotry is that which appeared in a letter in the *Mail* of a recent date written by Norman Murray, of Montreal. He starts out on his crusade for Papist gore by saying very unkind things about Principal Grant, of Kingston, because that gentleman favored the election of Mr. Hart, an estimable Catholic gentleman, to the local legislature. Mr. Murray proclaims it as his conviction that, no matter how great or good a man may be, if professing the Catholic faith, he is not a fit person to represent a constituency where Protestants form a majority of the electorate. We have yet to hear of the first Catholic, Bishop, priest or layman, who would favor the adoption of such a system where Catholics preponderate, and yet many there are who will declare it as their conviction that on the Protestant side of the house all is liberality, while on the Catholic side all is exclusiveness and bigotry. "While we must be just and kind," says Mr. Murray, "to the individual Roman Catholic priest and layman, let us not begin to warm the snake that has charmed them." We should be very much obliged to Mr. Murray for his proffered kindness, but we beg to submit that we can get along fairly well without either his smiles or his curses. We will be rather inclined to pay but slight attention to the intemperate utterances of Mr. Murray and all the other graduates of the MacVicar school in Montreal. Their stock in trade is noise, noise, noise. Let them remain happy in the conviction that they have the *Mail* for an escape valve when their bigotry becomes a severe strain on each square inch of their precious bodies.

WHEN the out-at-elbows colporteur is found looking about for something to turn up, he usually starts a rumor that the Catholic people of some far-off region are in a state of spiritual starvation, and simple-minded Protestant folk, who have full purses and little discretion, fit out the adventurer with a full kit of wares and funds in plenty. The Toronto medical students publish a periodical called the *Medical Missionary*, which, we are told, is devoted to the interests of "their mission in Korea." From a glance over its columns we are led to believe that the real object of its existence is not so much a love of God and the extension of His Kingdom upon earth as a hatred of the Pope and the faith of which he is the spiritual head. Fugitive paragraphs, doubtless the dreamings of the young medics, abound in the little sheet. In Cuba, we are told, the Catholics are all leaving Rome, and drifting into infidelity, and over 1,000,000 of the inhabitants have no Protestant missionary. The absence of even a semblance of proof that this condition of affairs really exists is a great drawback to its receiving serious attention. If the young medical gentlemen are really in earnest a fine field is presently open for them in Boston and its vicinity, where some of the brightest Protestant minds are seeking refuge from doubt and perplexity in the barque of Peter. If we may judge by newspaper reports from time to time, missionaries from Korea and Cuba would find plenty of work amongst the medical students of Toronto. It is not a great while since they turned out in a body to annihilate an individual who was practicing medicine contrary to the accepted methods of the profession, while on many another occasion they are found to be the roughest element in Toronto's mobs. And these young men publish a missionary paper!

Cardinal Mieczislas Lodochowski, the newly appointed Prefect of the Propaganda at Rome, is like Manning and Gibbons, a man of tall and ascetic figure. His face is broad and square, but the features are delicately cut and his eyes are luminous and penetrating. His appearance is that of a churchman of distinction and he has always been noted for elegance of speech and great dignity of bearing. In Lisbon and in Brussels as well as in Rome he is one of the most popular of prelates.

THE CUP THAT KILLS.

In the year 1883 the prelates of the Provincial Council of New York, with the foresight of vigilant helmsmen, made a stirring appeal to the pastors and flocks of that State to co-operate with them in an open and determined onset on the crying evil of intemperance in their country. It was the formal declaration of a war that in ten years time has only grown in hostility, and on the first Sunday in February of this year 1892 there were distributed no less than two hundred thousand copies of a new appeal of the same nature, in the Catholic churches of New York city alone. This is especially directed against the Excise Revision Bill now pending in the State Legislature, and which it is claimed by the plaintiffs "absolutely removes the restriction imposed by existing laws for the regulation of the sale of intoxicating drinks, and is well calculated to encourage the growth of the liquor traffic by reducing the restricted tax for hotel licenses in cities and towns to a minimum of \$30, and making a proportionate reduction for saloons."

Whether such a Bill be sanctioned or rejected by the Legislature is a question of supreme importance, not only to the friends of law and order within the territory directly involved but to the lovers of peace and prosperity throughout the entire continent. About the unmixing of intemperance, the Prelates began by admitting that it was difficult to say anything new. The marvel to the man of sense and reason is that it should be necessary to say a word at all, for what can language portray of the sorrows and miseries of the drunkard's heart and the spectacle of each does not amply and painfully reveal? The criminal apathy of the modern world to the crying evil of intemperance and the murderous abatement of its devices by the world's law-givers are things to stare at breathlessly in an age of vaunted progress like the present. One's gorge rises at the irony of such a spectacle as the nations of to-day present, so deeply concerned forsooth because such plagues as famine and disease are rampant in the world. Do they not stand by any chance in the relation of effect to cause, to the unnameable iniquities of men? Nineveh and Egypt and the cities of the plains did not stop in the days of their visitations to ascertain what was the best *bactericidal* remedy for their epidemics; they took them for what they were—the concrete expression of nature's protests and the Almighty's wrath:—and those that mended their evil ways in time escaped the impending destruction. Is there any warrantable ground for the presumption that what was worthy of such summary retribution in the days of old may now be pursued with impunity?

Of one thing in this connection we may feel morally certain, if any party or parties were known to be the wilful propagators of an evil like the present epidemic they should hardly get a Bill in any other Legislature than that of New York State to protect them in their nefarious pursuit; and yet what are the ills to which the flesh is heir compared with the unutterable and widespread ravages and the incalculable miseries of intemperance? Too much time and far too many kindly efforts have, however, been wasted upon the besotted legions hitherto. By whatever argument you seek to vanquish the drunkard he will always be able to "argue still." He is in his own conception at all times the injured person, and it is the supreme penalty of his vicious habit that it puts him sooner or later beyond the pale of sympathy or help or the most patient prayer or plea. He is a fore-doomed, self-sentenced Ishmaelite against whom the hand of every man is set! When his ignoble course is run and the hogs-heads of liquid fire which could not slake his morbid thirst have consumed all that was near and dear to him on earth, and all that he held in prospect for a joyful hereafter, where does he find himself if not where the friendly prophecy of thirty years before pointed its menacing finger? O, he knew better then! The prejudice of water-casks could not dismay him: he knew how far he meant to go. His vision was clearer than theirs, and his step was steeper—at least he tried to think they were. The warnings then were premature. Alas! there is no medium in his case, they are always too soon or too late.

It is the common error of the man who drinks to feel that every man who does not to his avowed or secret foe. He scorns the temperance advocate; he rejects all offer of material or moral aid from the preacher of total abstinence. Well, we know how to interpret his resentful attitude. We can conceive how and why he should maintain that all that is alleged of the drunkard's lot is the figment of a prejudiced and self-righteous mind. But when the confessions of a veteran inebriate tally with the allegations of the prohibitionist there must be some force in the coincidence. "The waters," writes poor Lamb, amid the ruins of his early manhood, "have gone over me. But out of the black depths could I be heard, I would cry out to all those who have but set foot in the perilous flood. Could the youth to whom the flavor of his first wine is delicious as the opening scenes of life, or the entering upon some newly-discovered paradise, look unto my desolation and be made to understand what a dreary thing it is when a man shall feel him-

self going down a precipice with open eyes and a passive will; to see his destruction and have no power to stop it, and yet to feel it all emanating from himself; to perceive all good emptied out of him, and yet not to be able to forget a time when it was otherwise; to bear about the piteous spectacle of his own self-ruins: could he see my fevered eye . . . could he feel the body of the death out of which I cry hourly with feebleness and feebleness to be delivered, it were enough to make him dash the sparkling beverage to the earth in all the pride of its mantling temptation; to make him clasp his teeth.

To suffer not damnation to run thro' em.

And then in his despite he asks and answers the one vital question:

"Is there no middle way betwixt total abstinence and the excess which kills me?" "For your sake, reader," and that you may never attain to my experience, with pain I must utter the dreadful truth, that there is none—none that I can find."

At the close of this harrowing confession which it will repay any ones trouble to read in full, the helpless penitent adds:

"There are some of the instances concerning which I can say with truth that it was not always so with me."

Such as they are I commend them to the reader's attention. I have told him what I am come to. Let him stop in time."

Where appeals like this, strengthened by observation as in the teetotaler's case, and by a sorry experience as in that of poor Lamb, fail to convince men that drinking is both a crime and a folly, it is time to apply the remedy elsewhere and make it simply preventive: and this is what the prelates of New York are now bent upon achieving. They want to see the unspeakable saloon put under some sort of decent restrictions since the law not only tolerates it but gives it actual encouragement. They protest against seeing such pest-houses erected and conducted in the vicinity of schools; they protest against their systematic and wanton violation of the Sunday; they protest against liquor of any sort being sold to persons of tender years.

In any and all of these protests there is nothing more than the elementary demands of common decency, and it is a stigma on the character of any Legislature that the necessity for such protests should arise. It is devoutly to be wished, therefore, that every right-thinking elector in the State will respond with alacrity to the prelate's appeal to counter-check by all possible pressure the odious Bill in question. The papers distributed in the churches are signed by something like one hundred and fifty priests. Surely Catholics the world over need no other stimulant than this to arouse them to a vigorous and persevering onslaught on the crying evil in question.

We wish the reverend promoters of the salutary scheme an earnest God-speed in their noble undertaking.

OUR SEPARATE SCHOOLS.

Western Division.

GENERAL REPORT OF INSPECTOR DONOVAN FOR THE YEAR 1891.

Buildings and Grounds.—This division contains 127 school-houses, an increase of 4 since the date of the last report. Of the whole number 13 are stone, 69 brick and 45 frame buildings. The newly-formed sections are No. 10 Woolwich, Ambleside, Formosa and Waterloo. The excellent character of the Hamilton buildings and the improvements made in Toronto have been already reported. The places that have erected or completed new school-houses are Owen Sound, Thorold, 10 Normandy, 2 Tiny and 12 Wellesley. Other places—Brantford, Oshawa, Port Colborne—have added to or otherwise improved their accommodations. A great deal of progress has been made in this matter, and if the accommodations are not entirely satisfactory in every case, they are (if I might judge from the interest shown by the authorities in general) steadily approaching that desirable state. In spite of every effort, the supply of adequate accommodations in the larger cities is still a problem, and is likely to remain so until those places cease to grow. Most of the playgrounds are of ample size and in good condition. It is pleasing to notice that the practice of planting shade trees is annually increasing in popularity. There are two requisites, however, that are treated with indifference in many rural sections, viz., good wells and proper outouses; but I have reason to believe that the latter complaint at least will not exist much longer. Scientific heating and ventilating do not prevail to a great extent in the rural schools, but so far as stoves and windows can do the work there is not much to find fault with.

Furniture and Apparatus.—The desks and seats are nearly all modern in style and in general fully supplied. In most schools blackboards are plentiful enough, but there are some still with only a limited quantity. A school can hardly have too much blackboard surface. Maps and globes of good quality are generally met with, and only a few schools are yet lacking these useful aids to teaching. School libraries are comparatively few—a matter of regret, because a good library is one of the most invaluable of school helps. Referring to the few libraries that exist it must be said that they are chiefly found in the schools taught by the Christian Brothers, these gentlemen making a specialty in every school of forming a library for the use of their pupils.

The Teachers.—In this division there are 292 teachers—a gain of 8 since last year. The classes of all these, with one exception, were visited once, and 13 classes were visited twice during the year, not to mention the Indian schools. Of the 292, the male teachers number 52. There are 74 teachers in Toronto and 33 in Hamilton, together making over one-third of the whole. As a body the teachers of this inspectorate are industrious, earnest and capable. I wish it could be said that their salaries were large enough to be considered equivalent to the work they perform.

The Attendance.—At the time of writing this report, the total number of enrolled pupils was 13,268, an increase of about 400 over last year. The 8 cities of this inspectorate had enrolled 6,454 or nearly half the total, and the 21 towns had 2,772. The largest rural school is at Formosa, having 231 enrolled pupils. Of the 13,268, Form 1 contained 5,092, II 3,191, III 2,730, IV 2,080, and V 175. The old complaint of irregular attendance still exists in many places. To whatever other causes this regrettable feature may be attributed, it is certain that one cause is chargeable to parents, too many of whom think more of the present services than of the future welfare of their children.

Seven Years' Growth.—The first year (1884) that I reported on this division it contained 175 teachers and 9,100 pupils—not including Toronto. In 1886 (the eastern division had grown so large that Toronto was taken off and added to the west). The following table shows the chief variations:

	1881	1891	Increase.
School Houses	102	127	25
Teachers	175	292	117
Pupils enrolled	9,100	13,268	4,168

Financial.—The returns for 1890 show that the expenditure of all the Separate schools of the Province amounted to \$289,703, and that the whole number of pupils was 34,571. These figures give an average cost per pupil of \$8.38. Seven years ago the cost per pupil was \$6.42. The chief cause of the increased cost is, no doubt, owing to the large outlay for erecting so many new buildings during the period referred to. It is altogether likely that the average for 1891 will be less.

Educational Standing.—The work of the schools lies chiefly within the four ordinary forms; but Fifth Form work has also been done in Toronto, Hamilton, St. Catharines, Amherstburg, Ambleside, No. 6 Stephen and No. 3 Mara. I find that Toronto and Hamilton have largely increased their facilities for teaching the various commercial subjects, as well as the different branches required for the departmental teachers' examinations, and with highly gratifying results. As to the recent High School Entrance examinations, though all the returns are not at hand, yet I have sufficient evidence for saying that the number of successful candidates from this inspectorate is greater than it was at the corresponding examinations of last year. On a general view of the situation, I am happy to be able to bear witness to the satisfactory character of the work of the schools of this division during 1891. Improvement in teaching methods is also steadily going on. Whoever considers that it is not a generation ago when the leading features of school work comprised a servile use of the text-book, the memorizing of useless dates and events, and the acquisition of abstract principles at the very outset, will readily appreciate existing methods under which observation, investigation, thought and judgment are cultivated and made habitual. If I do not here go into particulars it is because reports giving a fully detailed account of the standing of the pupils in the different branches of instruction (as well as of the condition of the premises) were forwarded to the Department and to the trustees, as soon as possible after each school had been inspected. It is significant that out of nearly three hundred classes there were only four that had to be reprimanded for unsatisfactory work.

Discipline.—In the matter of school government I am happy to be able to remark (as in a former report) that the discipline practised, if not perfect, is certainly worthy of high commendation. One cause for congratulation, in later years, is the steady reduction of the number of schools in which corporal punishment is a leading form of discipline; in fact such schools are now comparatively few. It is a genuine pleasure to watch the operations of a school in which the "rod of correction" has given place to the cheery look, the happy word, the gracious manner, the genuine sympathy, the calmly firm decision, and other characteristics of the principle of "sweetness and light" which make the school attractive and unconsciously train children into habits of mental and moral rectitude. In the economy of such a school as this there is no place for the truant officer.

Teachers' Conventions.—The secular teachers, as a rule, attend the county conventions; the religious communities usually hold conventions of their own. Two of the latter were held this year on a most elaborate and comprehensive scale; one in Hamilton, the other in Toronto.

The convention in Hamilton was conducted by the Sisters of St. Joseph, all of whom, to the number of over 60, took an active part, each lady performing the work assigned her on the programme in true professional style. The whole affair was admirably arranged and carried out, reflecting infinite credit on the Sisters' taste, judgment and skill. The business was divided into three parts—professional, literary and musical. The first con-

sisted of a series of illustrative lessons in all the subjects of the school programme, together with discussions on educational questions; the second was composed of essays and readings, and the third of solos, gleees and instrumental pieces, everything heretofore referred to being the work of the Sisters themselves. The Right Rev. T. J. Dowling, Bishop of Hamilton, honored the occasion with his presence, delivering more than one eloquent speech, and otherwise encouraging the teachers in their work. Other prominent persons were also present, including the Rev. J. H. Coty, local inspector, who gave a most interesting address. The convention lasted three days, July 15-17, and was pronounced by a leading newspaper to be, from its thoroughly practical character, perhaps "the most serviceable Separate School Teachers' Convention ever held in this Province."

In Toronto the Christian Brothers, according to their annual custom, conducted during the summer vacation a teachers' institute for their own members. It so happened that your inspector was unable to be present, so that no official account of this important event is forthcoming; but a well known journal in referring to it pronounced it eminently successful.

Certificates of Merit.—These were issued in June last to those pupils who in each school stood highest during the session in the score of attendance, application and conduct combined. As the measure met with full favor from both teachers and pupils it shall (with your permission) be repeated for next June. Besides rewarding merit, the purpose of this is to show that the pupil's record for the year is a better criterion of worth than the results of a final written examination alone. Examination papers for Form IV, were also issued to all the schools in the division.

Evening Schools.—A great deal of good can be done by evening schools; but in order to be truly successful they should, as far as possible, be conducted according to the regulations of the Education Department. With that view I respectfully recommend (a) that the Department give power to school boards in cities and towns to establish night schools; (b) that where established, legal qualifications be required of the teachers; (c) that the teachers register the attendance as in day schools; and (d) that a Departmental grant be allowed each school on the basis of average attendance. In reply to a short circular that I sent to the various city boards, I have learned that night classes have not yet been widely established. Hamilton has set a good example in this matter, the school board of that city having formed three evening schools for the current season.

Statistical.	
Number of pupils enrolled	13,268
" " teachers	292
" " school-houses	127
" " visits made by inspector	336
" " miles travelled	5,230

Finally, in expressing my satisfaction with the general character of the results of the year's work, I gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness to the teachers at large for their cheerful and hearty co-operation, without which my own efforts would be ineffectual.

Rheumatism,

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"One year ago I was taken ill with inflammatory rheumatism, being confined to my house six months. I came out of the sickness very much debilitated, with no appetite, and my system disordered in every way. I commenced using Ayer's Sarsaparilla and began to improve at once, gaining in strength and soon recovering my usual health. I cannot say too much in praise of this well-known medicine."—Mrs. L. A. Stark, Nashua, N. H.

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