

ESTABLISHED, 1852.

The Casket

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AT ANTIGONISH BY THE CASKET PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY (LIMITED).

Terms: \$1.00 per Year in Advance.

Shall we sharpen and refine the youthful intellect, and then leave it to exercise its new powers upon the most sacred of subjects, as it will, and with the chance of exercising them wrongly, or shall we proceed to feed it with divine truth, as it gains an appetite for knowledge?

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14.

Just what the extent of the revolutionary movement in Mexico headed by Garza may be, it is yet impossible to say; but his statement that there is widespread dissatisfaction with the present Government cannot but be true.

A provincial exchange says of the New York Herald—or, which is more probable, the Herald says of itself in the editorial column of this exchange—that "its news is world wide and reliable."

Sympathy for the starving peasantry of Russia has taken practical form in the United States. An appeal has been made to the millers throughout the nation to contribute flour, and is meeting with a generous response.

The changing of an old cemetery, in a New Mexican village—about twenty miles west of Santa Fe—has brought to light a number of perished corpses.

We can fancy we hear the choice epithets that would be bestowed upon those poor New Mexicans by the "enterprising" shrewmen, to whom reverence for anything but the almighty dollar must have been the most intolerable "superstition."

Many dignitaries of the Church, Cardinals, Prelates, and Priests, have passed away during the year that is just closed. A few days before the end of the year the name of the venerable Bishop Loughlin, of Brooklyn, was added to the list of departed prelates.

Brooklyn he used the horse cars or elevated trains. He attended many imposing Catholic ceremonies in this city. On those occasions he left his house in Brooklyn, unaccompanied, carrying a big carpet bag in which were his Episcopal robes.

The last Toronto Truth contains some editorial comments on the "Pantheon incident." It is seldom that Truth refers editorially to the events transpiring in the Catholic world.

It is a pity when it does notice them that it should not be at some pains to acquaint itself with the facts. "The 'Pantheon incident' so called," writes our contemporary—"due to some French pilgrims who, after paying their respects to the pope, proceeded to act like blackguards at the tomb of Victor Emmanuel, has caused grave complications between Italy and France."

MIXED MARRIAGES.

If he [Philip Thornton, a Catholic] married this woman [Constance Irving, a Protestant], she could only touch the surface of his life: for what deep feeling or deep thought had he which was not influenced by the religion that she had been taught to reject?

The above reflections are from the admirable story, "Philip's Restitution," by that strikingly profound novelist, Christian Reid. The author, looking at the subject, as she does here, from the standpoint of mere human happiness, enforces a consideration which she well says one wonders to see have so little weight with those who contract mixed marriages.

When the future bishop was five years old there was not a single Catholic church in Brooklyn or all Long Island. Some idea of the growth of Catholicism in the diocese during his administration may be gathered from the fact that, while there were but twelve churches and 15,000 Catholics in it when he was appointed its first bishop in 1853, there are to-day no fewer than 153 Catholic churches and chapels and a Catholic population of over 300,000.

LEARNED IGNORANCE.

In a story we read lately one of the characters is referred to in these words: "He was illiterate—he didn't know a letter in the book—and yet he was not ignorant. The Bible had been read to him by his wife and daughters until he was grounded in its texts and its teachings, and he was always ready for an argument on politics or religion."

This is a correct distinction to make in the use of words. A man may be perfectly illiterate and yet be far from being ignorant. The necessity of making this distinction is all the more evident when the subject of discourse is a whole population. The illiteracy of a population, or their inability to read and write, may be learned from statistics. Their ignorance, if they are ignorant, can only be ascertained by extensive personal observation or from the record of such observation. The most charitable conclusion that can be put upon Mr. Calkin's frequent use of the word ignorant in the Geography text-book of our schools is that he confounds it with the word illiterate. Even so, however, his assertions are often inaccurate.

The political events of France as reported by cable often indicate that the old anti-religious spirit of revolutionary fame is far from dead; but we must not forget that the politics of a country is only one phase of that country's public life, and not unfrequently a superficial phase. All the while religion may be penetrating deeper and deeper into social life and social arrangements. The stage in France is often a true index of the following remarks of the London Weekly Register are suggestive:

FRANCE.

The priest is growing more and more a familiar figure on the French stage. Audiences were rather painfully moved lately by the acting of a confession scene, realistically rendered, and now a piece has appeared, "L'Abbe des Marais" in which the leading incident is the preaching of a sermon on forgiveness, a real sermon of considerable length, in which the author has not scrupled to use words and phrases of the almost solemnity of a clerical figure on the stage at all; further, the only excuse for producing a hypocrite, or the effect of contempt to be provoked by a mundane Abbe of the salons.

Catholic News.

A well-known Jesuit, the Rev. Patrick Dealy, formerly President of St. John's College, Fordham, died in New York on the 23rd of December, aged sixty-four.

On New Year's Day His Lordship Bishop O'Connor, of London, Ont., laid the corner-stone of a magnificent new Catholic hospital in that city. A synopsis of His Lordship's most appropriate discourse on the occasion is published in the current number of the Catholic Record. The new institution will be placed under the charge of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

The Rev. Dr. Messmer, of the Washington Catholic University, recently appointed to the bishopric of Green Bay, Ill., has, it is said, asked to be allowed to decline the proffered dignity, as he is devoted to his work in the University.

At a great meeting held recently in Vienna for that purpose, an address of thanks to the Holy Father for his Encyclical on labor was adopted and signed by 15,000 persons. No distinction was made among the speakers at the meeting. A working mechanic, who made a very fine speech, was followed by a prince, and both spoke in similar tones of loyalty to the head of the Church.

At the Secret Consistory held on Dec. 5th, the Pope created two new Cardinals, Mgr. Ruffo-Scilla, Archbishop of Petra; Maggioromo of His Holiness, and Mgr. Sepiaci, Secretary of the Cong. of Bishops and Regulars. Archbishop Ruffo-Scilla, who represented the Pope at the Queen's Jubilee, received a letter of congratulation from Her Majesty on the occasion of his promotion to the Roman Purple. In the office of Maggioromo he will be succeeded by Mgr. Della Volpe. Mgr. Satolli, Archbishop of Lepanto, becomes Secretary of the Cong. of Bishops and Regulars.

Isle Madame News.

There is no news in the statement that Isle Madame is an island and contains the town of Arichat. The statement is introductory—introducing Isle Madame by its better known town. Other places of note on the island are Descausse, Petite Grat, West Arichat, Port Royal and the Gully. This last named place has other names, and is one of the others being Polierville, and is noted for expert fishermen. Taking the number of new buildings and of approaching marriages as signs of prosperity, I should say that Descausse with its suburb, Polierville, is the most progressive place on the island. I forget how many more than a dozen couples were published at Descausse last Sunday. The cause of its prosperity is fishing chiefly in its fishing fleet. Nineteen fishing schooners employ two hundred men sailed out of Descausse and Polierville for the North Bay, St. Lawrence last spring. The following table shows the result of the few months they were absent:

Table with columns: NAME OF VESSEL, TONS, OWNER, CAPTAIN, and QUIL TAKEN. Lists various fishing vessels and their catches.

In addition there were two trading vessels which brought home over 700 quintals, making in all over ten thousand quintals, shipped from Descausse last season. Besides the men employed, from seventy-five to eighty women and girls are engaged in the process of curing the fish, and are paid at the rate of twelve cents per quintal. The average selling price last season was \$4 per quintal. Each vessel receives a bounty of \$1.50 per ton, so that over \$1100 comes from this source. A sum exceeding forty thousand dollars every year is quite a help in a small place. With the land which the fishermen find time to cultivate it supports at least one hundred and thirty families. In comparing the quintals of the above table with the reported catches of the Lunenburg fishermen it must be remarked that the latter weigh their fish green, whereas the Descausse men report the dried fish. A quintal of fish as they come from the water will only make about half a quintal when dried. That's enough news about fish. The other vessels owned on the island are mostly engaged in carrying merchandise of one kind or another. There are not many of them. Thirty years ago they were numerous, and very profitable; but the steamer and the railway undertook that business, and did with the schooners what the big city factory does with the country shoemaker and other tradesmen—drove them almost out of the trade. Now the young people go in large numbers to the States.

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