

"Only in part, if even that," said she slowly.

"Let us keep this theme, then, for another time. Now for ces messieurs. I am to invite them?"

"If there was time to ask Miss O'Shea to cover over—"

"Do you not fancy, Kate, that in your father's house, surrounded with your father's servants, you are sufficiently the mistress to do without a chaperon? Only preserve that grand austere look you have listened to me with, these last ten minutes, and I should like to see the youthful audacity that could brave it. There, I shall go and write my note. You shall see how discreetly and properly I shall word it."

Kate walked thoughtfully toward a window and looked out, while Nina skipped gayly down the room, and opening her writing-desk, humming an opera air as she wrote:

"KILGOBBIN CASTLE.

"DEAR MR. WALPOLE—I can scarcely tell you the pleasure I feel at the prospect of seeing a dear friend, or a friend from dear Italy, whichever be the most proper to say. My uncle is from home, and will not return till the day after to-morrow at dinner; but my cousin, Miss Kearney, charges me to say how happy she will be to receive you and your fellow-traveler at luncheon to-morrow. Pray not to trouble yourself with an answer, but believe me very sincerely yours,

"NINA KOSTALERGI."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Owing to crush of matter, and the late hour at which the following letter was received, we were obliged to omit it last week. But the material of it is even more applicable to-day, since another week has gone past and the paper to which it was originally sent has not given it publication.—Ed. T. W.]

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

SIR,—The original of the annexed letter, which is slightly extended for purposes of clearer explanation, was personally left at the Gazette office for publication, fully endorsed with my address, on the evening of the 24th inst. As it has not appeared in the columns of that paper up to date, kindly make space for it in your next issue, for the correction of a slander, no doubt reported in good faith by the Gazette, but in which it has now shown bad faith, by refusing to publish the rejoinder. K.

Montreal, 29th May, 1893.

A Member of the Council of Public Instruction, Diplomas and the Christian Brothers.

To the Editor of The Gazette:

SIR,—As a subscriber and a constant reader of the Gazette, kindly allow me space to remove a mischievous and gratuitous piece of information which appeared among your local items of this morning. Among other matters, your informant, who is stated to be "a member of the Council of Public Instruction," is reported to have said, in speaking of the defeated Masson motion:—

"The Sisters were all willing to pass the examination for diplomas, but the Brothers of certain schools were afraid to pass them."

It appears to me, from the tone of the above quotation, that your informant is none other than an ex-School Commissioner, one of the most pronounced enemies the Christian Brothers have in the Dominion. His hostility to religious teachers is the counterpart of what one might expect from the infidel centres of Europe. But enough of this for the moment at least. Who gave this "member of the Council of Public Instruction" information to state so emphatically, through the public press, that the Brothers were afraid to pass the examinations for diplomas? Is it not manufactured out of whole cloth—a creation of his own exuberant fancy? Does not a public pronouncement of this nature cast a grave reflection on the abilities of the many ex-B's in the employ of the School Board? What object has the "member" now in view for offering this insult, through the columns of the Gazette, to men who are debarred by their religious calling (as he well knows) from defending themselves? Should he want to provoke a discussion on old lines and revive memories of the buried past, I fear he has struck a wrong chord? Now, I wish it to be understood I am not an apologist for the Christian Brothers; I am not in their councils, nor have I been

asked to take up their defence against a malicious slander. My action in the premises is spontaneous, pure and simple; and whether well or ill-advised is for your readers to judge. This much, however, I am willing to state on my own responsibility:—As soon as a law is in force in this province, requiring the religious of either, or both sexes, to pass examinations qualifying themselves legally for the teaching profession, none will be found wanting in submission; all will be found amenable to its provisions—none will be found afraid to face the provisions of a just and honorable law of their country. Would the Christian Brothers be afraid to legalize themselves under such an examination as I am now called upon to speak about, or rather would it not disgrace the Order to do so? The examination in question was indeed a special (?) one, held some seven or eight years since. Our "Member of the Council of Public Instruction" was at that time, I think, a member of the Catholic School Board. He will remember that about the time mentioned all public school teachers who had not already diplomas were called upon by a law (long in existence, but not enforced in Montreal, at least,) to pass a prescribed examination, to entitle them to legally participate in the provisions of the "Pension Act" and to a legal status in the teaching profession. It is unnecessary to enquire, at this date, how many men were then exercising the duties of teachers under the Catholic School Board, without legal status. It would be no exaggeration to say, however, fully two-thirds of the staff. But this is not the point at issue. What is wanted is, to know the lines upon which that (special) examination was conducted, and its effectiveness in testing the abilities of men recognised as teachers, but without the legal Provincial status. According to the programme laid down for Model School and Academy Diplomas, the number of subjects required is quite numerous, and their range fairly high. Did the examiners take the number and range of subjects prescribed by law, for the granting of Model School and Academy Diplomas of the highest class, on that (special) occasion? Not at all! But let the public learn and appreciate. The candidates were subjected to this most difficult (?) programme of examination: A simple dictation, such as would be given to a child in the Third Reader, and a few oral questions on some primary subjects that would provoke the mirth of a school-boy of nine or ten summers. Such, then, is the history of that wonderful, that profound examination, as related in the columns of the Evening Post of the period. So outrageous and sublimely ridiculous was the enacted farce that the late Mr. William Doran, then an examiner on the Board (but in justice to his memory he was absent on that occasion) resigned his position, and no inducements could get him to withdraw, or even reconsider, his resignation on the Board of Examiners. As before queried, need the Brothers of any school fear an examination such as described? If length of service and experience in the art of teaching was sound presumptive evidence that the abilities of those candidates were sufficiently high for all or any grade of diploma, why not confer them, without insulting the intelligence of men? If, on the other hand, length of service and experience, together with permission from a high source, gave the examiners a prescriptive right to override the provisions of the school law, and to adopt a formula of examination for the granting of diplomas to Montreal public school teachers, ergo, the same prescriptive rights should apply to Brothers in the same category. But any examination of the kind could only carry contempt in its wake; and therefore I have no hesitation in stating it would not be acceptable to either the Brothers or Sisters. I will just give a further illustration of what is thought of the standard of present examinations. It will give a good idea of how they are appreciated by a young man of mind and intelligence. An ex-Christian Brother, at present a public school teacher, who was a candidate for a Model School diploma, last year, wrote afterwards to the Press, thus:—

"The method of examination followed to-day by the Board of Examiners is as crude and primitive as one might expect to have found it in the days of Jacques Cartier; every question put to the candidate is taken from a child's Catechism of the subject in the hands of the examiner—a truly novel method of discerning a man's intellectual abilities and sending

him forth to the world with full credentials to teach the rising generation."

Apologizing for so lengthened intrusion on your valuable space. K. Montreal, 23rd May, 1893.

NEW YORK.

Contesting for Army Cadetship.

On Saturday, May 27th, two interesting contests for positions in West Point Military Academy took place. Messrs. Fellows and DeWitt Warner, members of Congress, offered a cadetship each to the boy who would make the best showing in a competitive examination. Twenty boys, between 16 and 18 years of age, assembled in De La Salle Institute, Central Park, South New York City, to try their intellectual skill for Mr. Warner's prize.

Superintendent Sanger, of the Public School Board of Education, with Bro. Neal, Principal of De La Salle Institute, were the supervisors of the examination for Mr. Warner's candidate, the papers being corrected by Assistant Superintendent of Public School Education, Mr. Lea, Professor Kellog, principal of a private academy, and a Brother of the Christian schools from Manhattan College.

The candidates were from the New York Free College and public grammar schools, and the principal schools of the district.

The examination began at nine and continued till six, with an hour's intermission at noon. The papers were corrected on the spot, and the results were known about 10 o'clock the same evening. To each boy a number had been assigned; the examiners were in absolute ignorance of the name of any candidate whose paper they corrected. When they had completed their work the successful numbers were sent to Mr. Warner, who then compared the numbers with the corresponding name which he had, and the successful competitors were discovered.

The first five contestants held the following positions: Mr. Hunt, 744 marks out of a possible of 800; Master Hughes, 738; Coughlan, 729; McVeak, 727; Clearman, 719. Master Hunt is debarred by a missing inch in stature; so Master Hunt is the successful candidate. The first four boys are from the Cathedral Parochial school; the fifth from the Free College, New York City.

In the contest for Mr. Fellows cadetship fifty-seven candidates competed. The first of the fifty-seven is also from the Cathedral Parochial school—Mr. Brennan. Several of the next in merit are also from the Parochial schools.

We congratulate the successful candidates, and trust that whenever called into honest competition that our Parochial schools will show equally successful work, and that in our case, whether successful or otherwise, they will prove themselves worthy representatives of schools in which religion holds the first place and brings a blessing on all other subjects taught.—Com.

Mothers, and especially nursing mothers, need the strengthening support and help that comes with Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It lessens the pains and burdens of child-bearing, insures healthy, vigorous offspring, and promotes an abundant secretion of nourishment on the part of the mother. It is an invigorating tonic, made especially for system, as it regulates and promotes all the natural functions and never conflicts with them.

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"Hallo, old chap—looking for fresh lodgings?" "Why so?" "Oh, for two reasons. First, because my late landlord's daughter played the piano all day long, and, secondly, because he turned me out for not paying my rent."

The Language of Flowers.—Fair one, I want to send him a flower that shall tell him to begone. What flower will be? Absurd Male Creature. I really don't know. Why not try him with a begonia?—Funny Folks.

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