

OUR ROMAN LETTER.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Rome, June 4, 1899.

If a breach had not been made in the city walls, near the Porta Pia, on the 20th of Sept., 1870, Rome would have held last Thursday, Feast of Corpus Christi, or would behold today, a procession quite different from the one which is, at this very moment, passing through its streets. The King is reviewing his troops and from early morning people congregate on the principal streets to witness the review and the passing of the King and Queen. Such demonstrations on Sunday will cause a large number to miss Mass. How much better it would be for poor Italy if the King of Kings could receive in Rome the public honors that are paid to Him in other parts of the world to-day. The Corpus Christi procession in St. Peter's last Thursday was very solemn indeed, although it lacked all the public solemnities which Catholics would look for in Rome. The procession in St. Peter's took place after High Mass. It proceeded from the Altar of St. Peter's Chair in the Apsé, down the epistle side of the church, across the vestibule and returned, by the Gospel side, to the Apsé. The procession was headed by a bearer of a gorgeous mace, following which was a congregation of men and boys dressed in red soutanes and long rabats. The Basilican choir, forty in number and wearing navy blue soutanes and laces surplises, next appeared, chanting the Pange, Lingua, as they moved down through the long aisles. Then came the students of the Vatican College and behind them the Canons of St. Peter's. Many Archbishops and Bishops were among the Chapter of Canons. His Eminence Cardinal Rampolla carried the Most Blessed Sacrament beneath a very rich canopy of white silk. The church was profusely decorated with red damask. Although St. Peter's issued forth from the intellect and imagination of a Bramante, a Raphael and a Michael Angelo and from the sculptor's chisel in a state of decoration as magnificent as permanent, notwithstanding all this, it suits Italian taste and excites Italian fervour on the great feasts to cover exquisite workmanship in marble with red damask.

As the most Blessed Sacrament passed through the Vestibule the Italian Gendarmes gave the military salute. There was a very large concourse of people present among whom were many generals and soldiers of the Italian Army.

prevailing seems to have no effect on the Holy Father's health. He granted a long audience to the Fathers of the South American Council during the past week. It certainly consoled Leo to learn that the Republic of Peru, had paid the expenses of all the Peruvian Bishops assisting at the Council. Among the theologians who accompany the South American Bishops there is one who must have received very special marks of affection and sympathy from His Holiness, because the priest in question has suffered, for religion's sake, the tragic death of his father. The latter was a Deputy in Ecuador and in Parliament stood firmly for those Catholic principles which made Ecuador under Garcia Moreno's presidency, one of the most prosperous nations on earth. The Deputy was consequently barbarously assassinated by a mob. His wife broke the news to her son, now in Rome with the Council, and immediately dropped dead. Deprived of his father and mother, the heroic priest was still destined to endure other cruel losses; his sister and his aunt were also murdered. Finally, and most insignificant of all, some 50,000 francs were confiscated from the family's fortune by the Government. Such are the causes that must have endeared the learned theologian to Leo's fatherly heart.

The time is not yet come to enter into the details of a recent event which is destined to be of the deepest interest for Catholics the world over. Suffice it to say, for the present, that a short time ago a lady from the United States came to Rome, suffering from an incurable paralysis of the body, and from a still more lamentable paralysis of the intellect. She was an Agnostic, or Atheist in other words. While in Rome, this lady saw the Blessed Virgin several times. The Holy Mother of God told her to enter the Catholic Church which the lady finally did. She then had three Roman doctors examine her and they signed a statement declaring her condition absolutely incurable. Incurable was her condition perhaps as far as human science was concerned, for the lady went to Lourdes and was restored to perfect health. More details could be furnished on this subject, but a request has been made to not anticipate the authentic report which a learned English-speaking Passionist is making. This report will be forwarded to the "True Witness" as soon as it will have appeared.

During the illness of His Holiness last March, it was reported that henceforth pilgrims to Rome, would not be admitted to an audience with Leo XIII, but instead the Holy Father would only receive the directors of a pilgrimage. This arrangement whether true or not, was never carried out, and only a few days ago, an entire pilgrimage from Holland, with Mgr. Farassini, were received in audience by His Holiness. The heat now

Last Monday, Rev. Father McShane, of Montreal, passed a very successful examination for the degrees of Doctor of Divinity. This title comes as a fitting crown to the many honors which Father McShane, when a boy, won in the Christian Brothers' Schools in Montreal and, later on, when a student in the Montreal College. Father McShane will spend next year at Issy, near Paris.

CONTROVERSY AT HINCKLEY.

Serious as the Catholic priest always is, yet no man is generally better able to seize the point of a joke, or to fall into the humor of a laughable situation. One of the best illustrations of "laughing a case out of court," that we have ever read, is that contained in a letter recently sent by Rev. Father Procter, O.P., to the "Catholic Times." It is a splendid example of the folly of newspaper religious controversy, and apart from its serious aspect; its rich humor and quaint description of a funny situation would make it highly interesting and amusing. It is for these reasons that we reproduce it in full. Father Procter wrote:—

"A Baptist pastor named Mr. Williams lately originated a controversy in the 'Hinckley Times' by delivering a lecture on 'Popery.' Father Greenough of the Priory, thereupon wrote to the 'Hinckley Times,' suggesting that the reverend gentleman should try to learn something about his subject before preaching on it. He informed him that he was incorrect in his lecture in calling the Mass a Sacrament, a Rosary, 'a book,' and an indulgence a remission of sins, and assured him that a Catholic child in the first or second standard would not be guilty of such mistakes. Mr. Williams in reply admitted that the Rosary was 'not literally a book,' but still contended that it was 'a sort of prayer-book,' and wrote much more in the same style. He stated that the Council of Trent called the Mass a Sacrament. A writer under the name of 'Veritas' showed the inaccuracy of this statement. The controversy then assumed large proportions. 'Veritas' did excellent

service on the Catholic side. Amongst other writers, a certain anonymous correspondent signing himself 'Nonconformist' took part in the fray, and quoted what he called 'an extract from some of the writings of the present Pope' and an extract from a Roman Catholic journal, both calling for the persecution of heretics. Then Mr. Dudley Baxter, of Colchester (who is the most direct descendant of the greatest Nonconformists, Richard Baxter, and a convert), challenged both quotations. 'Nonconformist' in regard to the first admitted that it was not a quotation from the present Pope at all, and apologized for his 'mistake,' declaring it was taken from 'the work of St. Thomas Aquinas (page 16)!' The second quotation was from 'La Bandera Catolica.' In the same letter he quoted from Mr. Wylie's 'History of Protestantism' to prove that the Dominicans were divided into two bands, the business of one being to preach and that of the other to slay heretics.

This brought Father Procter, O.P., on the scene, and in a long but delightfully humorous letter he made immense fun of 'Nonconformist.' He challenged him to prove from a reliable historian that any single Dominican acting under the instructions of the Order had slain a heretic under any circumstances, and promised that if this were proved he would give a guinea to a local hospital. He offered to help 'Nonconformist' in finding the quotation of St. Thomas, as the Saint's works are in the library of the Priory, but frankly said that, though he had made a life study of the Saint, he could not find it if he only 'got

such a reference as 'the work of St. Thomas (page 16)!' He then gives him confidence to accept the invitation to visit the Priory: 'I would rather, however, see 'Nonconformist'—his help in finding the words would be invaluable. He really need not be afraid: 'Veritas' does not live here. The 'band of merciless ruffians is on strike.' The old story—they want a penny a throat more, and I really can't afford it. There is another Dominican father here whose name is familiar to your readers, but he is very difficult to rouse. It is only when people call the Rosary 'a book,' or 'the Mass a Sacrament,' an indulgence a remission of sin,' that he puts on his war paint; and they have not repeated these things of late. As for me, it is true, I belong to the merciless band called Dominicans, but alas! business has been slack lately. I am out of practice in murdering, slaying, and throat cutting. I do not believe that I have cut three throats

within the last three weeks. Perhaps that makes me thirst for the blood of 'Veritas.' 'Nonconformist' is quite safe. Writers of his style are of immense help to the Catholic Church in England. There is an old saying: 'Qui nimis probat nihil probat,' which means 'He who proves too much, proves nothing at all.' Having to give up the quotation from the Pope to our old friend 'La Bandera Catolica' (which, as we have shown, was condemned by the Bishop of Barcelona, and was altogether a mare's nest), 'Nonconformist' was not eager to accept the proposal to investigate St. Thomas for the purpose of finding his quotation. So the invitation to the Priory he declined. But the challenge as to the murderous work of 'the merciless Dominicans' he could not well shirk. He promised to give chapter and verse to prove what Father Procter required, and we shall be curious to see what the result will be."

ST. ALOYSIUS.

By H. C. SCHUYLER.

A mighty mountain, thou, to Heaven's height
Upraised, whose peak no misty mantle
ever hides,
But ever brighter gleams the sun-
bathed side;
And strangely, too, e'en in the dark-
est night,
There plays about the lofty crown a
light
Supernal, glittering constant far and
wide;
And many, weary pilgrims bless that
guide,
For else their feet had wandered from
the right.

Unullied soul, youth's special pat-
ron pure!
The heart that ever bright examples
sway,
Most needs in early years from pas-
sion's lure,
A life ideal to guide with steady ray.
A beacon bright, as thine so truly
sure,
Unfolding in itself the perfect way.

LEARNING GREEK.

There is a column of "Questions and Answers," in the New York Sun, in which at times, the foolishness of the questions are only equalled by the nonsense of the answers. Here is a sample, and the questioner has assumed a very suggestive and fitting nom-de-plume:—

"Is it possible for me to acquire by self-culture a knowledge of Greek, so as to be able to read the New Testament Scriptures in the original? I work every day but have some leisure time evenings.

IGNORANT.

We can understand such a question being asked, but we fail to see the wisdom in giving an answer like the following:—

We think so. Get a Greek grammar, in which you can learn the letters and the conjunctions of verbs and the declensions of nouns and adjectives; then get a good-sized Greek Testament, and Liddell and Scott's lexicon."

If the editor of this question column shows no more wisdom in his replies upon other subjects, we really think that the greatest boon he could confer upon his readers would be to pay no attention to any more questions. If some person were to ask us if it were possible to acquire a knowledge of blacksmithing sufficient to enable a person to shoe a horse, we might reply that "we think so. Get a shop, an anvil, some iron, a forge, a bellows, a ton of coke, a few sledges, a small hammer, a box of horse-nails, a draw-knife, an apron, and a file. Then secure a horse that needs shoeing, and you may go to work and shoe him." Doubtless our friend would have all the implements, utensils, and other necessities. Possibly he might be lacking in a knowledge and a practice as far as their use is concerned; but that is none of our business.

Get an Arabian Grammar, containing the alphabet and the significance of each letter, the conjugations of the verbs and the declensions of the nouns and adjectives; then secure an Arabian-English lexicon, or vocabulary, and if you have the time, the aptitude, the patience, (and good instructor), provided you possess the necessary ability, you may eventually succeed in reading the Koran in the original.

PATENT REPORT.

Below will be found a list of United States Patents granted to Canadian Inventors on May 30th last. This list is prepared by Messrs. Mar-

ion & Marion, Solicitors of Patents and Experts, New York Life Building, Montreal.

625,732—Robert S. Anderson, Toronto, Can., back pedaling brake.

626,138—Samuel W. Butterfield, Three Rivers, P.Q., log thawing machine.

625,932—Israel Kinney, Burford, Ont., boot or shoe cleaner.

625,887—Paul Lair, Lethbridge, P.Q., engine.

626,070—Thomas Mason, Montreal, P.Q., railway axle box.

625,815—William M. Thawley, Toronto, Can., advertising sign.

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Jas. McCann, Secretary.

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MONDAY, the 3rd day of July next

The Transfer Books will be closed from the 15th to the 30th June next, both days inclusive.

By order of the Board.

H. Y. BARBEAU, Manager.
Montreal, 31st May, 1899. 47-5

PATENTS PROMPTLY SECURED

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NOTICE is hereby given that Albertine Brabant, wife of Edward Kierman, of the City of Montreal, in the Province of Quebec, will apply to the Parliament of Canada, at the next session thereof, for a Bill of Divorce, from her husband, Edward Kierman, of the said City of Montreal, on the ground of cruelty, a hulkery, and desertion.
Filed at the City of Montreal, Province of Quebec, this ninth day of March, 1899.
L. W. M. E. MOUNT.

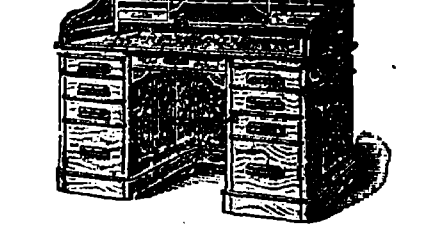
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PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, DISTRICT OF MONTREAL. } SUPERIOR COURT No. 997.
Dame Helen Kissock Lloyd, wife common law to property of Horace Benjamin Lambé, of the City and District of Montreal, Grocer, duly authorized to enter on justice, Plaintiff; vs the said Horace Benjamin Lambé, of the same place, Defendant.
An action in separation of property has been instituted in the above case.
Montreal, 27th April, 1899.
SMITH, MARKEY & MONTGOMERY,
45-5 Attorneys for Plaintiff.

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PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, DISTRICT OF MONTREAL. No. 1140.
SUPERIOR COURT.
Dame Sarah Trudel, wife of Philip Monette, of the City and District of Montreal, Plaintiff, vs. the said Philip Monette, Defendant.
An action for separation of property has been instituted in this case.
Montreal, 10th May, 1899.
BRAUDIN, CARDINAL, LORANGER & ST. GERMAIN,
46-5 Attorneys for Plaintiff.

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Q-No-96