



**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

WE RECEIVED a letter of eighteen pages, signed "Evangelical Christian," which purports to be a reply to our editorial on "Adoration." It would be entirely out of the question to publish such a lengthy communication even had it any bearing upon the subject. Moreover we cannot open our columns to such communications; the result would simply be an unending series of replies that would in no way either benefit or interest our readers. The letter in question may be a very fair explanation of what an "Evangelical Christian" believes, and why he does not agree with Ritualism; but in no way does it touch upon the question of our editorial. In closing that article we said: "Until the non-Catholic can learn to appreciate the all importance of a sacrifice, as an act of adoration, it is useless arguing with him upon the question of the Catholic's attitude towards the saints." The writer of the letter neither grasps our idea, understands our argument, nor appreciates the significance of the difference between veneration and adoration. He may know the Scripture by heart, but he is incapable of constructing a philosophical syllogism. We must decline such communications.

OUR ATTENTION has been drawn to a suggestion made in the Charlottetown (P. E. I.) Watchman, with regard to the establishment of a Canadian Catholic Summer School. Our correspondent asks for the TRUE WITNESS' opinion on the subject. As to the idea of a Catholic Summer School for this country we are entirely in favor of it, and have not the slightest hesitation to say that eventually we shall have one on a solid basis. However, we doubt if the movement would be opportune at this juncture, or for a short time to come. In the first place every effort has been made during the past couple of years to establish firmly the American Catholic Summer School, and it will be a year or so before it is in perfect working order. All the assistance that can be given to our co-religionists in this undertaking, we think, should be extended. In the second place this year's meeting will be almost upon our border line, at Plattsburg, N.Y., and facilities will be afforded all interested Canadians to attend and there glean ideas as to the working of the institution. We do not believe in undertaking too much at once; but by keeping the idea of an ultimate summer school of our own in view, much and important benefit may be derived. We would suggest that all interested Catholic Canadians should attend, if possible, with a view to making use of it later on in the establishment of a permanent summer school of our own. The day is rapidly approaching when every important division of this continent will have its Catholic Summer School.

"THE BELGIANS have wrested the boon of popular suffrage from the aristocrats. By the new law over 1,000,000 names will be added to the voting lists of the

Kingdom. The doom of serfdom in Europe is sealed." Such are some remarks of the Boston Republic on the important political event that recently took place in Belgium. Our Daily Witness could not allow the event to pass without stating a deliberate falsehood. It thus displays its ignorance and prejudice:

"The Clericals, who have governed Belgium for the last ten years may take a long leave of power after the motion becomes law. They have done their best to keep the people ignorant and illiterate by blocking all educational movements. The rule of the Socialists, whose advent to power, universal suffrage will, it is feared, render certain, is to be preferred to that of the Clericals."

History, and that of Belgium in particular, directly contradicts this theory. It is a well-known fact that the Belgian clergy have ever been in the vanguard of liberty and popular rights. This recalls Thomas Francis Meagher's "Sword Speech," in which he says: "Abhor the sword! Stigmatize the sword! No, my Lord! For it armed the insurgent chivalry of the Belgian priests, who drove the Dutch marauders back into their phlegmatic swamps, and knocked their flags, and their laws, their arms, and their legions into the sluggish waters of the Scheldt. Sir, I admire the Belgians; I honor the Belgians; I love the Belgians for their courage, their bravery and their patriotism, that secured for them a Citizen King and a Chamber of Representatives. The lessons of liberty I learned were not in this hall, but upon the battlements of Antwerp." How blind and how stupid bigotry can be!

We understand that a company with a large capital, is in progress of formation to go into the watch case industry in this city. Competition is the life of trade, and we always welcome any steps that may tend to improve the chances of the workman and the tradesman. Hitherto, like many others, this important branch has been a monopoly in Canada. It has been in the hands of one company which has amassed large fortunes out of it. We trust that the time is at hand when a sufficient amount of competition will exist in all the industries of our country, the more the better, especially for those engaged in trade and for the working people.

ONE COLONEL C. P. DAWNAY—called Honorable—an ex-member of Parliament, and one who saw fit not to run at the last election, announces the formation of "a corps of gentlemen in Yorkshire, with the intention of joining the Ulster Unionists in armed opposition to the Irish Home Rule." This must be a cheering piece of news for the Orange disloyalists of the North. This fierce military character spent twelve years in the Coldstream Guards; why he left that regiment is not stated. He evidently is a knight-errant seeking some guerilla means of gaining notoriety. The British Government must be in great dread of the Yorkshire bombast. If Mr. Dawnay wanted a really useful mission he should

undertake to drill his Yorkshire compatriots into some kind of education. To dispel the cloud of ignorance that hangs over Yorkshire, and for which the men of that country are proverbial, would be far more beneficial to the British Empire, than the destroying of the certain approaching political dispensation—Home Rule.

Mr. T. V. POWDERLEY, in speaking of the drinking habit, makes a very striking and well-timed remark upon the folly of treating. It is indeed worthy of reproduction.

"If men must drink—and I know of no reason above ground why any man should drink—why not transact that business as they transact other details of every-day life? If a man wishes to buy a pound of nails, he will not stand for half an hour on the street corner waiting for an acquaintance to come along that he may invite him in to sample nails with him. If it becomes necessary to purchase a pair of boots or shoes, a friend is not invited to try them on or pass judgment on the quality of the leather. If a man feels unwell and intends dosing himself, he never lingers before the door of the drug store until some neighbor or passer-by may be invited in to swallow castor oil or epsom salts with him."

The above is a text for a good sermon on the follies of intemperance.

THE MOST peculiar train that ever drew out of the Pennsylvania station was that which started for Chicago on the 17th April. It is called the "John Bull Train."

It consisted of engine No. 1 of the Pennsylvania Railway and cars Nos. 3 and 5. Engine No. 1 of the Pennsylvania is also engine No. 1 of the United States, being the first locomotive used on this side of the Atlantic. It is called "John Bull," and it has started to puff its way laboriously to the World's Fair, where it will be an object of wonder to millions. "John Bull" shows no sign of his great age, except his antique construction. He is painted and polished so that he shines as fair as the latest born of modern locomotives. The coaches look like stage-coaches on railway wheels. They, too, are in gala attire, being painted a bright green with the inscription "John Bull Train." The train is manned by veteran railroaders.

WE ARE INFORMED that three carloads of Russian immigrants passed through Windsor, Ont., last week on their way to Dakota. They informed Mr. Don, the station agent, that they were driven from Russia because they were Roman Catholics and would not join the Greek Church. This we firmly believe. We have scarcely any idea of the persecutions and disabilities to which the Catholics, in the land of the Czar, are subjected. The fact is that the Catholic and the Jew are both objected to by the dominant church of Russia. This is very natural in an autocratic land where the "one man power" of barbaric times still obtains. Napoleon's saying was true, "Scratch a Russian and you will find a Tartar." Why Catholics and Jews are equally abhorred might be explained in the reasoning of a Hebrew who was holding a discussion on the Bible with a Protestant. "If" he said,

"Christ was not the Messiah, I am right; if He was the Messiah, the Catholic is right; but Messiah or no Messiah, you are wrong." Probably the Russians feel themselves between the horns of the same dilemma.

THE Abbots of the Benedictine Order have assembled in Rome to lay the foundation stone of a college dedicated to St. Anselm which the Holy Father is causing to be built, at his own expense, on the Aventine. The plans are by Dom Hildebrand de Hemptinne, Abbot of Mardesous. The college of St. Anselm that was dissolved in 1687 by Pope Innocent XI, on account of the troubles in that day, was restored two hundred years afterwards—1887—by Pope Leo XIII. The Abbots of the old and new worlds have been summoned to attend. They will also have a Parliament of the Order; this will be the most important Chapter held since that of Constance, and the famous one of St. Petersburg in 1417.

NOW THAT the Home Rule Bill has passed its second reading, it may not be uninteresting to recall the words of the veteran Head Centre, James Stephens. Speaking at Sutton, near Dublin, on April 11th, Mr. Stephens spoke as follows:

"I have no hesitation in saying that the Home Rule Bill ought to be accepted, but at the same time I must take certain reservations, especially with regard to the question of finance. The financial proposals made appear to be most unjust. If anybody asks me the question, 'Will the bill pass?' my answer is an emphatic 'Yes.' And I will add that if the Irish people are given the control of their own government they will surely not abuse their power."

Evidently, age has not dimmed the old patriot's mental vision. The Irish American, speaking of him says: "Stephens is a resident of Sutton, where he lives in a pretty cottage, about six miles distant from Dublin. He is 71 years old, but still hale and hearty, and thinks nothing of walking thirty miles a day." What wonderful men the older generation produced! Physically and mentally they seem to be fresher and stronger than the most energetic of our day.

MISS CUSACK has again delivered herself of a speech against Home Rule. The person who occupied the chair, upon that very momentous occasion, stated that "the object of their gathering was to get a sum of money for an annuity for Miss Cusack." The London Universe in speaking of this lecture states that the foregoing remark takes all the sting out of the succeeding business, as reported from St. Leonard's, and renders the lecture itself, which otherwise would be utterly incomprehensible, intelligent to the dullest. We read in "Washington Irving," that after his final defeat El Zagal "wandered about, an object of mingled scorn and pity, and bearing above his raiment a parchment, on which was written, 'This is the unfortunate old King of Andalusia.'" Why would not Miss Cusack sit at the lecture hall door and hold a placard on which would be written, "This is the old unfortunate Nun of Kenmare?" The shackles might drop in more abundantly!