

SCHOOL INSPECTION.**BEST MEANS TO SECURE THE DESIRED RESULTS.**

THE QUESTION OF TEACHERS' SALARIES; THE STANDARD TO BE RAISED; VARIOUS IMPORTANT POINTS CONSIDERED.

On August 21st, under the presidency of Mr. de la Bruerie, the assembly of School Inspectors, at St. Hyacinthe, discussed some very important questions. That of the best means of securing the observance of the official programme of instruction was continued by M. Nantel, who contended that the official programme could not possibly be carried out in the hands of very young teachers, and argued that the point from his own experience. Mr. J. Z. Dubois, of Ste. Anne, Kamouraska, followed in the same strain. Mr. J. M. Carot said that two great necessities to the obtaining of the desired end were better pay and a better class of teachers. They should enlist the best talent obtainable for the work of education. Mr. J. G. E. Belcourt, having spoken, Mr. J. de la Bruerie, seconded by Mr. Dubois, moved that in view of the critical condition of the inspector should as far as possible endeavor from his first visit to classify the scholars, after the programme of study, and give the teacher all necessary explanations to make the programme of studies most effective. A lively discussion ensued. Messrs. Stenson, Lippens, and Beaulieu contending for different sides of the question. Mr. de la Bruerie pointed out that there were many views represented, and they were not tied down to one resolution.

Mr. Stenson moved that a committee composed of Messrs. Brault, Lefebvre, Stenson, Lippens, Nantel, Dubois, Carot and Belcourt draw up a resolution which should be satisfactory to all parties.

Mr. J. N. Miller pointed out that no time was fixed for the committee to report, and that whatever was done must be done quickly.

The discussion was continued by Messrs. Vallee, Dupuis, View and Gay. Mr. de la Bruerie said he desired some expression of opinion from the convention, which he could lay before the Minister.

A suggestion that Mr. Parmelee's name be added to the committee, brought forth a request from the secretary of the department that he should not be named, as being an inspector. The Government were anxious to learn what the inspectors thought necessary from the experience they gained in going up and down through the country.

Mr. Donners thought Mr. Parmelee's name should be put on. The committee was then appointed to report this afternoon.

Mr. Hewton suggested that the committee should consider the class of school that failed to carry out the programme, the particular subjects in which such failure occurred, and where and when the teacher obtained his or her diploma. He found that the schools which were weakest were the backward schools, with a three or four months' term, and second schools where the teachers had obtained their diplomas years ago. The schools which were up to the age were those where the teachers had obtained recent diplomas. Raise the standard of the diplomas, and the standard of schools will be raised. It was said that teachers could not be secured. If the pay was sufficient they could secure plenty of teachers, but not at the starvation wages they have heard so much about. If they once got to a point where sufficient teachers entered the profession, which should be the noblest of the world, they would soon have the programme as it hung upon the wall carried out.

Mr. de la Bruerie introduced the second subject—reports concerning colleges, means of avoiding differences between the annual report and the inspector's report.

A discussion ensued, in which Messrs. Lefebvre, Lippens, View, Ruel, Beaulieu, Tremblay, of Charlevoix, and Dupuis, took part.

Dr. Harper, inspector of superior Protestant schools, said the inspectors visited the schools in May and October, and it was impossible to harmonize the figures taken then with those given at the end of the year. If a report was sent in by the teacher immediately after the visit of the inspector, accurate calculations could be made.

Mr. Parmelee said he was proud of the province of Quebec, and often felt grieved at the exhibition made by the figures given in the Dominion Year Book regarding education. According to statistics twenty-five per cent. of the gross population of the Dominion was receiving education, whilst in Quebec only nineteen or twenty per cent. were attending school. This meant that either children were not attending school or were leaving too early. Their statistics were somewhat defective. In the statistics of Montreal and Quebec, at all events, on the Protestant side, there were a large number of private schools. As soon as any attempt was made to enforce any course of study people sent their children, as they had a perfect right, to one of these schools. Thus there was on the Protestant side a large number of children receiving education, but the schools refused to give statistics to the inspectors. There were some notable exceptions. Accurate returns would make a great difference. If a similar state of things exists on the Roman Catholic side—and it was said to be more—the province is greatly maligned. Any institution receiving the Government grant should make all reasonable return to the Government. It was difficult sometimes to secure them, but the law should cover these cases.

Mr. McGregor introduced a school in Montreal where statistics were refused. Dr. Harper said the Department would have to make the first attempt to obtain correct statistics.

Finally the question was referred to the same committee as the previous question.

Mr. de la Bruerie introduced question 3. Should it be proposed to replace the first annual visit of the inspectors by a series of conferences to the teachers?

There appeared to be only one view held on this question and that was strongly in the affirmative.

Messrs. Lefebvre, Lippens, Beaulieu, View, Hewton, Carot, and Rev. E. M. Taylor, all spoke strongly in favor of the change.

Rev. E. M. Taylor argued that they

should leave details, and pass a unanimous resolution. He moved, seconded by Mr. Stenson, "That in the opinion of the inspectors assembled it is desirable that the inspectors be required to make one visit, instead of the two now made, and that the first visit be replaced by conferences held amongst the teachers of the municipalities in their several inspectorates." This was carried unanimously.

Question 4. "Payment of teachers; would it be opportune for the law to fix a minimum?" was then taken up.

Mr. Stenson said no doubt it was desirable, and instances cases of teachers who only receive a small present on their birthday.

Mr. Lippens also spoke in favor of the affirmative, holding that from the day a minimum was fixed it would prove a success. He incidentally mentioned that in his opinion it was desirable that School Commissioners should, at least, be able to read and write. Some of the richest municipalities paid the lowest salaries. St. Antoine paid only \$100, and St. Julie \$130.

Mr. Lefebvre argued that moral suasion was preferable to force. Some municipalities that could pay more would be content with paying the lowest.

The convention then adjourned till next day.

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A TIMELY ARTICLE.**The Opening of the Schools.**

The re-opening of the schools throughout the country this week makes a few words to parents and teachers opportune.

We would remind the former of the duty of sending their children to school. The education of their children, in a manner in keeping with the parents' state in life, and with the place which the children themselves are likely to occupy, is a very solemn duty of parents—one of the most important of all the duties devolving upon them. In our country the State has for so long assumed the duty of educating, or at least of partially educating, that parents are apt to forget altogether that it is, by the very law of nature, a duty devolving upon them, and one of which they can neither divest themselves nor be divested by any earthly power, however exalted. The State's assumption, then, of the work of education cannot possibly be an excuse for the parent's neglect of that all-important duty. Let the parents consider this carefully.

But not only should they send their children to school, but they should, when possible, send them there from the very beginning of the year. The work of the early days of the school is the most important of the year; for it is, as it were, the foundation for all that is to follow. When a pupil misses this work, either he has to proceed without it, or the teacher has to go over it again for his benefit. As it is the latter that usually takes place, the whole school is thus retarded by the failure of some pupils to enter at the proper time.

And now as to the teachers, upon whom some portion of the parental authority and responsibility devolves, though neither can ever devolve in its entirety. As there is much more that we should wish to say to them than can possibly be contained within the limits of a single article, we shall confine ourselves for the present to that which is of greatest importance.

Now we want to impress it upon the teachers that it is their duty to build up the character of the children intrusted to their care. They are to educate, not merely to instruct, their pupils; and this term includes the training of the intellect as much as it does that of the intellect. They will confer but a sorry benefit upon those whose lives they are inevitably to influence for all time and eternity if they but sharpen their wits without training their hearts.

And with regard to this character-building, the teacher should remember there are different types of character. We are apt to imagine that all men agree as to what constitutes "a good moral character," but this is by no means the case. The Christian and the non-Christian differ as widely in what they each understand by this expression as they do in their respective beliefs. A man of great natural probity—honesty, upright, truthful, generous—may be a reprobate in the eyes of God; for he may, for example, be proud as Lucifer. The distinction need not be elaborated: all who know aught of the Christian teaching regarding virtue will understand it. Now it is the Christian character that teachers must strive to build. And to build it in others they must first have reared the edifice within themselves. Hence the vital importance of the teacher's character.

There is much in connection with this character-building that we should wish to touch upon, did space permit. There is one matter, however, which from its awful importance needs particularly to be brought to their attention. It is that the school be not the means of tearing down instead of building up a virtuous character. Let teachers see to it that no vices prevail among the pupils. We fear that too often no attention whatever is given to this matter, and that the consequences are appalling. Teachers should know what the nature of the conversation is which obtains upon the playground. This is a phase of the subject which cannot be minutely discussed; but teachers, who have been pupils themselves, may know something of the awful dangers that beset the path of innocent childhood on the school-grounds. Let them ponder the awful consequences of their failure to do all in their power to shield that innocence.—*Antigonish Casket.*

PRIESTS WHO WERE MARRIED.

A Baltimore correspondent writes:—"It may be something of public interest to state that there lived some years ago two prominent Jesuit priests in this

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archdiocese who had been married men with families. They were Rev. Fathers Virgil Barber and George King, who, after an amicable and entirely satisfactory arrangement, parted from their wives and in due time were ordained priests in the Jesuit Order. Their wives became nuns of the Order of the Visitation, and lived for several years at the Georgetown Convent, where they died and were buried. Neither husbands nor wives ever saw each other after their mutual separation and had respectively entered into the religious state. Father King died in 1855, and his son, Charles, who also became a Jesuit priest, died in 1878. The grave of Father Barber is at Georgetown College, and that of Father King at Bohemia Manor, Cecil County, Md.

"There have been cases of men becoming priests after the death of their wives, a somewhat prominent one being that of the distinguished Passionist, Father Fidelis (Kent Stone), whose two children reside, I believe, in California, but I have no knowledge of such cases as those of Fathers Barber and King being paralleled in this or any other country—I mean where both husband and wife, after separating, were consecrated to God's service." Notwithstanding this correspondent's lack of knowledge of such cases, they have occurred in all Catholic countries. Nevertheless they are extremely rare.

THE VIRGIN'S RING.

It is Viewed by Cardinal Gibbons in Perugia.

While Cardinal Gibbons was in Perugia he had the privilege of viewing the esponsal ring of the Blessed Virgin. The relic is in the Cathedral and is exhibited to the public gaze twice in the year. It is preserved in a safe to which there are fourteen keys which must all be brought together to the opening. These keys are held by fourteen different societies and religious brotherhoods. The Archbishop holds one, the municipality another, the merchants' guild another and so on. Some of these keys are excellent specimens of the locksmith's art in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. All having been produced here at about 11 o'clock in the morning the shrine was opened in the presence of a notary from the municipality, who made a record of the event, a process verbal as it is termed, and of the cause for which it was opened, namely, the visit of Cardinal Gibbons. This notary remained during the ceremony until the most interesting relic was restored to its original place and closed up again.

The ring of the Madonna hangs from the top of a little temple-like shrine formed of four tiny columns supporting a small cupola. Between each pair of columns a seated statue of a prophet wrought in the best style of art adds a marvellous beauty to this very artistic work. The shrine was made in the very best period of Italian renaissance art, close on the end of the fifteenth century, and is distinguished by the reserved and tasteful application of very excellent ornaments.

The ring itself is entirely formed from one piece of Oriental alabaster, and was not intended for constant wear, but was only used as a ceremonial ring. It is remarkable for the beautiful opaline tints it has, which shine from it as it is moved about in the light. The tradition of it goes back to apostolic times. As related to the Cardinal in Perugia, it was given by the Madonna to St. John the Evangelist, who preserved it until his death. After this event it passed into the hands of a Jew, from whom it was obtained by St. Mustiola, who brought it to Rimini, where she was put to death as a martyr for the Christian faith and became the saintly patroness of the city. Here it remained until 1473, when it was taken away by a Franciscan friar named Fra Wintheius, of Mayence, who brought it to Perugia, where it has since been preserved with great honor and devotion. In the Canonica—the residence of the Cathedral canons—an inscription placed in the wall relates the bringing of this ring to Perugia by Fra Wintheius.—*Philadelphia Catholic Times.*

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A REMARKABLE INCIDENT.

Mohammedans Honor the Devotion of Sisters of Charity.

Only the blind bigot can fail to be impressed with the lives of self-sacrifice and the Christian charity of Catholic religious orders. Even in Mohammedan lands the Sisters are held in reverence, as the following incident will show:

The want of a city hospital in Jerusalem has long been felt, and recently the Governor, Ibrahim Pasha, after having completed the building begun by his predecessor, turned his attention to the question of its management. To whom should the care of the sick be intrusted? Finally, it was decided to intrust them to the Sisters of Charity, and the president of the city council, accompanied by two officials, went to Sister Zion, the superior, and obtained her consent to undertake the task.

On the opening day of the hospital a great reception was given. Just as the clock struck one, the Pasha, with the city officials and the officers of his scraglio, entered the hall. As the Sisters were driven up the entrance the Turkish band began to play, and on every side were heard the ringing shouts of "Long Live the Sisters of Charity." As they entered the hall everyone rose to his feet, and the Pasha, advancing, said, in excellent French, "You are heartily welcome." Then, turning to his retinue, he asked if any changes could be suggested. The chief rabbi, who was present, replied: "For my part, I think the Sisters themselves are the fairest ornament of this hospital; for five years we watched them at their work; we have learned to value them, as we have seen their true motherly and sisterly devotion, irrespective of race or creed."

Again the cry rang out, "Long Live the Sisters of Charity." After this official greeting, the Pasha resumed his place on the divan, in order to take part in the Turkish religious ceremony that was to follow. At the call of Allah! Allah! every Moslem present stretched

forth his arms to invoke the blessing of God upon the Sisters and the patients. After the officials had congratulated each Sister individually, a very striking scene took place.

The president of the city council bade the entire personnel of the hospital, from the doctors and druggists to the nurses and kitchen maids, gardeners and porters, swear to treat the Sisters with proper reverence and obedience.

In conclusion the Pasha said: "I hereby entrust to you, my Sisters, this house and its inmates. I know it is needless to beg of you to be true mothers to these poor children."—*Providence Visitor.*

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RELIGIOUS NEWS ITEMS.

Half the population of Albany is Catholic.

Loie Fuller, the actress, has become a Catholic.

The school bill in Belgium, in spite of the Belgian Apatists, passed the chamber of representatives by a large majority.

It is rumored in Rome that the Pope is at work on another encyclical on the conditions for the reunion of Christendom.

A Sister of Mercy attached to the military hospital of Romans has been appointed a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

There is a lack of priests in France owing to the arbitrary action of the Government in forcing ecclesiastical students to perform military duty.

The Italian prelates are in a clear majority in the Cardinalial College at the present time, numbering thirty-three out of the sixty members of that body.

The most extensive chime in this country is in the tower of the Catholic Cathedral at Buffalo, and contains 522 bells, ranging in size from 5 to 4000 pounds.

It is understood that the Sultan is favorable to and promises to give his support to the Papal scheme for the reunion of the Eastern and Western Churches.

Intimation has been received in Belfast of the selection by the Pope of the Very Rev. Dr. Henry, president of St. Malachy's College, Belfast, for the Bishopric of Down and Connor.

Rev. Patrick McGovern was ordained to the priesthood Sunday morning in St. Philomena's cathedral, Omaha. Father McGovern is the first native of Omaha ever raised to the priesthood.

The Congregation of the Holy Cross, whose chief establishment in this country is at Notre Dame, Ind., will open a house of studies at Washington next month, in affiliation with the Catholic University.

It is reported that Mgr. Lazzara Mladonoff, who formerly held the rank of Titular Bishop of Satala and Vicar-Apostolic of the Greco-Bulgarians resident in Macedonia, has been reconciled to the Church.

The Vicar-Apostolic of the Copts in Egypt announces the conversion of four hundred schismatics. He further says that two villages are awaiting his arrival to make their abjuration. The town of Sohag has asked to be received into Catholic unity.

Pope Leo has appointed Rev. Francis Mostyn, of Birkenhead, the first vicar-apostolic of Wales. His titular bishopric is Ascalon in *partibus*. The Catholic Church is progressing in Wales to a far greater degree than any other church. The Episcopal church, despite the support of the government, is falling behind.

The Prefecture of Rome has forbidden the production of Bovio's Christ at the Feast of Purim in the Eternal City. The Prefecture in so acting has been in consonance with the attitude of the authorities of the Vatican, with the opinions of the educated and respectable society of Rome and with the conventions of decency and the traditions of reverence of holy things.

Members of two prominent Orders arrived in this country. Six nuns of the Catholic Order of the Holy Heart of Mary, five of them on their way to Haverhill, Ill., arrived in New York City from Paris, on the steamship La Normandie, August 11. They were Sisters St. Paul, the superior; Blondine, Candide, Delphine, Yolande and Marie Paula. All except Sister Marie Paula are French. There were also on the steamship nine nuns of the Sacred Heart, who had been to Paris to take their final vows.

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At the Convent of Notre Dame in Baltimore, thirty-seven young ladies were received into the Order on July 31.

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There were 136 failures throughout the United States during the past week as compared with 229 the corresponding week last year.

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At the October county courts in Ireland there will be thousands of eviction suits. The potato blight is spreading over the country.

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The re-opening of the Classes of the Catholic Commercial Academy, and all the other Schools under the control of the Board, will take place on Monday, September 2nd. For all particulars, apply to the Principal or the Director of each school.

Mount St. Louis Institute,

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This Institution will re-open Tuesday, September 3rd. Pupils of last year and new applicants as boarders or day pupils will be received on Tuesday.

Day pupils of last year, on September 4th, at 9 a.m.

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This, one of the largest and best organized Commercial Institutions in America, will open Aug. 25. The course comprises book-keeping, Arithmetic, Writing, Correspondence, Commercial Law, Short-hand, Typewriting, English, French, preparation for Civil Service, etc. A thorough drill is given in Banking and Actual Business Practice. Six specialists devote their time and attention to the advancement of students. Separate rooms for ladies. Write, or call, for Prospectus. CAZA & LORD, Principals.

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This well known and popular institution will re-open on Monday, the 2nd day of September next.

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The parents are requested to send the pupils as early as possible. 49-13

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