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## Our Churches.

### ST. MARY'S.

When not under repairs, this is an edifice to be seen from afar off with the naked eyes, but the outside view does not do justice to its interior; it strikes one in the matter of situation as being a round peg stuck into a square hole, looking indeed as it was all front. This idea, though, becomes dispelled on entering, for we see that length or depth have not been left out in the builder's calculations.

Again I have to make my modest growl. Whether it will "make the welkin ring" to such an extent as to do good, remains to be seen. Where, oh, where, on entrance, was that should-be-ubiquitous being, the verger? With the same kind of a 25-cent piece as usual in my hand, and the will in my heart to give it away, I stood, a sight for the gods, waiting for some one to advise me in what direction to make a move. Eventually I found a haven of rest, and looked about me, for which I trust I may get absolution. How different is the behaviour of the congregation in a Roman Catholic than in a church of any other denomination! How different the whole surroundings! The congregation of a Roman Catholic church seem, to use a worldly expression, "to settle down to business," and take an interest in what is going on. This is carried out in its entirety away from the church. Who has heard in Halifax of anything undertaken by this body that did not turn out a success? Whether this is brought about by a better appreciation of what is right, or from fear of what their spiritual pastors and masters may think, it is not for me to say; the fact certainly remains that the behaviour of a Roman Catholic congregation is far more reverential than that of any other body. One reason, I think, can be put forward for this, and that is that the service is a shorter one, and that there is always something going on that appeals not only to the heart, but also to the eye. Naturally it will be said, "What good to appeal to the eye?" Just this good—that our audience is kept awake, and therefore is in a position to pick up any spiritual crumb of comfort that may strike them. Another reason is that this church has generally better singing, and more of it, than the others, again claiming attention by the sense of hearing. The singing on the occasion of my visit was indeed well worth the talk, and the 25 cents to hear. I, personally, am not a Roman Catholic, so it cannot be said that I have written as above for the sake of this church, but I am simply putting in print what came under my individual notice. If I am not believed as to this matter of behaviour, let non-believers go and judge for themselves, take a look, go back to their own places of worship, and do likewise.

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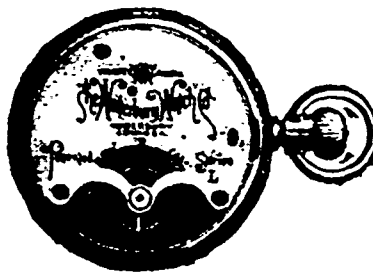
## English Jottings.

Lord Dufferin is reported to have "scored heavily" in a recent contest with Signor Crispi on a point of etiquette—or rather good manners. Our Ambassador called on the Italian Premier, and was ushered into a room where the latter was seated at a table examining some documents. He raised his head, and seeing the visitor, waved his hand in welcome, and uttered the stereotyped "*Buon giorno*"—without rising. Lord Dufferin maintained his position at the doorway immovable. Again the informal greeting was repeated by the Italian, but still the visitor remained at the door. Then (blushing) Crispi rose from his seat and bowed a welcome; the bow was gravely returned, the visitor entered, and the interview commenced.

In fact, our Ambassador at the Court of King Humbert is far happier in Society than he is in diplomatic difficulties. Not long ago an officer of the British Navy who occupied an inferior rank was to meet Lord Dufferin at a social reception, and expressed some anxiety to know how the Ambassador would converse with one in his position. His anxiety was soon set at rest. The introduction over, Lord Dufferin remarked affably: "Ah! In the naval service, I believe? I am very glad to meet you, and to have a chat with you. I find I can always learn something new from sailors." A simple speech, but one that showed the refinement of courtesy.

I hear, on very good authority, that the Inman Steamship Company is about to place two orders for ships of the size of the City of Paris, and that the vessels are to be built in America, the company having decided that, with the same horse-power, the superiority of the American model would give an additional speed of one, if not two, knots. This is in direct line with the experience of all persons who have given attention to the subject. The English designers are hide-bound by prescription, and their models have not improved since the days of the earlier Cunarders. There is the same long, straight side, the same short hollow ends and the same rather square, heavy counter. If Cramp could have the order for a ship as long as the City of Paris, and give her as good a shape as that of the Philadelphia, for example, in my judgment twenty-one knots would be only her ordinary sea speed.

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