Oh, vain thou dark-browed and unbidden

guest, Weird visitant of every human heart, Claiming from every life thy lawful part, Juice of sin's grapes to lips unwilling

pressed, makest thy sad home within my I cannot weep, too strong art thou for tears, Thou shroudest all the coming tide of

years; And my soul's cry is rest from thee—aye Yet, if to clasp my hand thine own is sent, Stained from the trembling touch of one

divine,
Surely it is the holiest sacrament
When Resignation drinks thy burning

wine,
wine,
While, low in sympathy, His head is bert,
And His thorn chaplet sheds its dews on
mine,
FRANCES M. SMITH,

IN NICOLET, P. Q.

THE OLD COLLEGE OF NICOLET-THE NEW EVECHE—THE CONVENT OF THE SISTERS OF THE ASSUMPTI N—MAGNIFICENT VIEW—TWO LITTLE DOVES—PROCES SION OF NUNS-THE WANING MOON-HOTEL KEEPER-JEALOUS OLD BACHELOR.

For its size Nicolet is wonderfully well stocked with religious institutions. In our short walk from the seminary to the convent we passed the Hospics, where the good Gray Nuns carry on their works of mercy, and we also passed a fine building in course of construction, to which the Grey Nuns are about to remove, leaving their present abobe for the Sisters of the Precious Blood, who will arrive from St. Hyacinthe, to occupy it in the coming tump. Then on a corner site, over autum. Then on a corner site, over-looking the river, stands the old semi-nary, the former dwelling of the Cure Brassard. It has been kept in good repair, and somewhat modernized, and repair, and somewhat modernized, and is now used as a school by the Caristian Brothers, with the exception of one end, which still remains in the possession of the Brassard family. It seems that there was an irregularity or flaw in the will of was an irregularity or flaw in the will of the Cure Brassard, which rendered it in valid; nevertheless his brother and heir-at-law, Mr. Pierre Brassard, generously ceded his rights to Monseigneur Denaunt, reserving, however, for himself and his family, in perpet-uity, the right of a residence in one portion of the building. Which accounts for the accounts for the accounts for the accounts for the sourcest incongruity of accounts for the apparent incongruity of a fashionably dressed damsel at one window, and a serene visaged Caristian Brother, in all the glory of rabbats and three-cornered hat, at the other. Adjoining the old college is the former parish church of Nicolet now closed parish church of Nicolet now closed and in ruins. Its facade is curious and Wa were very ancient in appearance. We were told that its restoration is intended by Mgr. Gravel. Next to the old church, and situated in the midst of a pleasant shrubbery, is the red birck eveche, a brand new residence, befitting a brand new bishop, and then comes the cathedral of which the interior, as yet unfinished, is rich in old oil paintings. Beside the cathedral stands an ancient seigneurial mansion, now the mother house of the Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, an order founded in the adjoining parish of St. Gregoire thirty-five years ago next September, by three young girls of the parish, aided and encouraged by the cure, the Rev. Mr.

Harper.
Entering the Sisters sweet old fashioned garden, we passed through its shadel avenue and up the fight of steps, to ring the visitors' bell. The steps, to hing the visitors' bell. The door was opened by a gentle lady in a costume of extreme simplicity and beauty. Her dress, a full black serge, confined at the waist with a balt, fell in graceful plaits about her form; her sweet face was framed in blas folds of white linen, like that worn by the Sisters of Providence, and like them she wore a broad white band across her brow; but round her chin and across her shoulders stretched the linen guimpe or wimple of Ursulines, the Sisters of Hotel Dieu, and other cloistered orders. From her long black cap depended a long black veil, and around her neck she were a massive silver crucifix."

"Could we see the superior?"
Well! She did not know; it was the day of the monthly retreat, but perhaps as we were strangers, Mother would come; and so saying she led us into a cool snaded parlour, and bade us rest.

While she was gone to summon Mother General, we took a glance at the apartment, formerly the salon of an old Seigneur. It contained some handsome carved furniture, and various pictures.
Above the door I noticed, what I had observed in several rooms in the semin ary, a photographic representation of the intellectual and exquisitely spiritual face of Monseigneur Lafleche, Bishop of Three Rivers, from which diocese that of Nicolet was recently carved.

Very kindly the Rev. Mother came to receive us, and after some moments of pleasant conversation, she offered to show us over her new convent, which is to be ready for occupation at the close of the year. This magnificent building st.n.'s upon high land at the back of the Sisters' present residence. It is built of gray stone, and is two hundred leet in length, the breadth varying from sixty feet to seventy six.

The plan is excellent, the house well divided and admirably constructed. There are four parlors, numerous class rooms, airy dormitories, and a beautiful chapel eighty feet in length by fitty in

From the windows of the dormitories the view is magnificent. The little river Nicolet winds through its verdant banks, and coos round tiny islands. Upon its surface on that summer's eve were many pleasure seekers, their light craft darting bither and thitner at the will of the oarsmen. At the mouth of the river, on a larger isle, tall factory chim. the northward the broad St. Lawrence swept by; on its further shore glittered the tin-covered spire of the Church of Popite du Sac and after the control of the Church of the court of the pie i her way to Montreal, leaving in her wake a trail of curling cloudlets of smoke. While I gazed at the fair scene I bethought me of a day sixty eight years ago, when the great Bishop of the sound and are the statements of faith in the good God, Who gives growth and increase to the crops, and bountiful harvest to the tillers of the soil.

NATIONAL PILLS are sugar-coated, mild but thorough, and are the statements in their good God, who gives growth and increase to the crops, and bountiful harvest to the tillers of the soil.

bec, on his way home from a long and tiresome voyage to Europe, could not pass by without a visit to the little town, the little Seminary which he so dearly loved. In the words of history:

"Previous to betaking himself to the capital where he was so impatiently expected, the prelate wished to stop some days at his seminary of Nicolet, a place that he revisited ever with a more than ordinary degree of pleasure. In the midst of a numerous concourse of priests, assembled from all parts of the Province to bid him welcome, the Bishop of to bid him welcome, the Bishop of Quebec presided over the examination of the pupils, and received their felicita-tions with all the joy that a kind father exhibits surrounded by his children

after a long separation."

The Bishop remained several days at Nicolet, and then started for Three Rivers en route for Quebec, but the people of the old town were impatient and could not wait his arrival. was in those days a boat called The Car of Commerce, which was regarded as the Queen of the St. Lawrence; that boat was hired by the Catholic citizens of Quebec. Decorated with bunting, and carrying the flag of the diocese, thronged with hundreds of passengers representing the most dis-tinguished members of the clergy, the Legislature and the Bar of Quebec, the Car of Commerce reached Taree Rivers Car of Commerce reached Taree Rivers at the very moment of the arrival of the Bishop and his companions from Nicolet, What a scene it must have been that was then reflected upon the bload St. was then reflected upon the blown is.
Lawrence! the boats, the music, the flags,
the cheers, the gladness that reigned in
every heart, that beamed from every eye
—the rejucings over the return of the
beloved Bishop, the double rejoicing
because of the success of his delicate

And now all are gone! The illustrious prelate sleeps in the fortress crowned city, and over the throne that he preserved for his successors bangs the red hat of a Cardinal. The illustrious men of the second decade of our century are laid low, the Car of Commerce, with her local fame, is no more, and all is changed except the mighty river that still sweeps past Nicolet and gathers in its bosom the bright waters of her little stream, to carry them in tribute to the insatiate

While descending the stairways the R.v. Mother gave me some particulars as to her order, which at present con-tains one hundred and thirty eight the order in all; these are for the mos part in the diocese of Nicolet, Three R vers and Sherbrooke. In the house at Nicolet, to which the novitiate has been transferred from St. Gregoire, there are school here consists of one hundred and thirty day pupils. On our way from the new building to the convent we met two baby-children of about five years of age, who greeted the Mother with loving freedom. With a little bit of coaxing we persuaded one of them to begin a recitaion, which I am bound to say was unin tion, which I am bound to say was unit-telligible, wherein the other dot broke in with "No! that is not right; it is—and she proceeded to make a little courtesy and recite a little compliment to an imaginery bishop, which ended:

"O ! guardez a notre pere, La couronne de ses vertus."

As we neared the convent garden long procession left its gates. First walked the professed Sisters, then the postulants, in quaint little caps; and postulants, in quant little caps; and then the novices, their white veils falling round their fair faces and white guimpes, giving them some resemblance to the lilies we held in our hands. Taey were going, so the Mother said, in pilgrimage to the statue of St. Anne in the woods of the Seminary, and their chaplets glittered in the evening light, and ever and anon there floated to us on the air the words:

chapel, whereon the Mother promised they should silently pray for us all night, a few words of thanks and farewell-and we left the Convent of the

Assumption. The midsummer moon swung low over the cathedral tower, and we had a weary way to travel before reaching home; so we burriedly retraced our steps to the Hotel Central, where the gallant proprie tor most hospitably invited us to supper saus ceremonie" for which generosity feel that we were indebted to the fac that our fair driver was the prettiest gir in all the country side—a truly belle Can adienne. But she being of a practical turn of mind, and, having the responsi-bility of her father's best carriage horse on her mind, promptly declined the offer, and we were soon spinning along on our homeward way, without seeing anything more that was worthy of note, except, indeed, the extremely handsome modern house of a lonely old bachelor, who, so the story goes, continues in his single blessedness because of his firmly rooted belief in the fickleness of all women Not having the pleasure of this gentle-man's acquaintance, I am not justified in giving an opinion as to his character; and yet I should not feel inclined to put much faith in that man's constancy, for, in the words of the motto of the most noble Order of the Garter: "Honi soit qui mal y pense." A. M. P.

The tonic and alterative properties of Ayer's Sarsaparilla are too well know to require the specious aid of any exagger-ated or fictitious certificate. Witnesses of the marvelous cures effected by this preparation are to day living in every city and hamlet of the land.

A singular custom is observed in the early part of the month of May amongst the population of the diocese of Lyons. On the feast of the Finding of the Holy Cross, the farmers bring to Mass bundles and then placed by the farmers in their corn fields as testimonies of faith in the

GREAT NATIONAL DANGERS.

THREATENING THE HOME AND UNDERMIN ING THE FOUNDATION OF SOCIETY.

Rev. A. P. Doyle, a Paulist Father, recently delivered an able discourse on "Our Nation's Dangers, or a New View of Home Rule." After a few patriotte allusions to the great constitutional struggle that is taking place across the water, and declaring his belief that before long they will obtain what they have here long they will obtain what they have been fighting for and the great victory of Home Rule will be secured, he said:

It is not of this Home Rule that I wish

to speak to you to night, but of another that is nearer and dearer to us all in this that is nearer and dearer to us all in this country. It is the preservation of our own homes. It is the fight we are carrying on for the maintenance of the lategrity of the family. Family preservation means national preservation. The family bears the same relation to society that the bricks do to a building. As soon as the bricks begin to disintegrate we know the bricks begin to disintegrate we know the building's downfall is not far off So with society; as soon as the bonds that bind the family together are burst asun ier, just so soon will society's downfall be

near at hand.

The lecturer showed then how the family was of divine creation: "It was not good that man should be alone," so God created the family, so that as a consequence man himself is not the limit of society; because of himself is not sufficient.

For when he comes into the world he to For when he comes into the world he is met with two greatlaws—the law of sexes met with two greatlaws—the law of sexes and the law of death. These laws if allowed to work out their ends would very soon destroy man from the face of the earth, for the one separates him apart in his own nature; the other conquers him. But in the family God has united these two laws so that though in themselves they were instruments of man's destruction under the Divine hand, they become means of man's greater perfection. In means of man's greater perfection. In the family a man finds the legitimate satisfaction of all his desires and in his re-lation of father he outlives himself, and in his children has a pledge of immortal

Where the family life is perfect there is safety for the civil order, and full develop-ment of man's liberty and happiness. it is the family that makes the home. It is in the home where all that is great in a man is en-gendered and developed. The mill streams that turn the machinery of the world take their rise in these solitary places. Without the home the world would be like the earth without the sura dark, gloomy place, where all the sweeter and better sentiments would be replaced by a harsh, cynical temper Every home would be a prison cell. The life would not be worth living, death would be a welcome boon, and the grave would be a haven of rest.

omy and industry; and the virtues of com-oppose these principles are: (1) divorce, (2) Godless education, (3) intemper-ance. Here are our three great national

dangers.

The divine idea of the family is the union of one man and one woman that will be perpetual and undissolute. The perpetual undissolubility of the marriage tie is fibered in the very constitution of man himself. When the Divine author of Christianity came He put His seal on "What God hath joined together let no man put asunder."

But three hundred years ago a new doctrine came into vogue. Divorce was permitted. The evil has increased since that time so that to day in this country this most sacred bond, than which perchance there is nothing more sacred on this earth, is left to the politician who stands in the hall of legislation for the

consequent enect is the relusar to hear children, so that these people who, by pecuniary alvantages and social oppor tunities, are the better able to become the fathers and mothers of the next genera tion are deliberately refusing the burdens. But the Catholic Church steps in and by her immense power and divine author-ity she declares that never is divorce to be permitted for any cause—following literally, as Gladstone says, in his late article against lngersoil—the commands of the Saviour, and she declares also any interference with the laws of nature to be a crime of the worst kind. She stands at the door of the Caristian home and she opposes with all her influence any one who would dare enter there and destroy with foul touch the matrimonial

The second principle of vitality in the family is the development that comes from a good, sound education, for, if to the perfection of marriage there was not added the subjectuant perfection of good education, in one generation society would be plunging back into darkness. But education to be worth the name must be a thorough education that will develop a man's whole nature, his sou and heart as well as his mind; an educa tion that will not only make a child clever, but good as well; an education that while it teaches the child the science of bookkeeping will also teach him to settle his keeping will also teach him to settle his accounts with his Great Judge; that while it teaches him of the stars, it will teach him of what is beyond the stars; and while it prepares a child for his duty in this world, it will also prepare him for his greater and better life beyond the grave. Any other education is one sided, and

This religious education must of necessity be given in the school. This was the original idea of the first founders of the public school system. But since this has been perverted from its original purposes, so that unintentionally, yet nevertheless of teaching irreligion. This state of affairs cannot last long. In this country where the government is of the people and by the people, in order to exist at all

anything built on it will one day topple

it must get its strength and vigor from the morality of the citizens. A river cannot rise any higher than its source. The purity of the ballot box, the sanctity of the oath administered in our courts of law, the honesty in all our mercantile re-lations, the honor of the jury box, the in-

corruptibility of our judges, without which our Republic cannot possibly last—all depend on the morality of the citizens.
An education then that teaches no morality, that drives God and religion out of the schools, is a system that is worse than useless, for where a definite system of

morality is not taught immorality takes its place. All religious bodies have real ized the necessity of religious teaching in the schools—many have declared openly for it, as for example the Presbyteriaus in their late General Assembly, when they said "that in order for the State's own interest there should be in every school maintained by the State inculcation of such principles of dependence on God and sphication to them, as are essential to sound learning, safe character and sound ciriz-uship." But it is the Catholic Church that has had the courage of her convictions. She has at a great cost to berself built up a system of the time and the courage when the same than the courage of her convictions. Christian schools where the young might be trained in the ways of virtue, and might be developed into good, law abiding and God fearing citizens. She has done it from the most patriotic of reasons

because she loves this country and she has at heart the premanence of the in-stitutions here, under which she has re-ceived her greatest expansion. She will continue to support her own schools though they are a big drain on her re sources, until the fairmindedness of the American people sees the justice of her position.

The third great principle of vitality in

the family is its preservation that comes from the great virtues of industry and economy. The great evil that is sapping the life of these virtues is intemperance. Here the lecturer discoursed eloquently on the great drink plague and the ravage it has produced. He showed how, when the demon of drink comes into the family, the argel of peace departs. Poverty and destruction follow in its wake. Its foul touch blasts all that is good and noble in the family life, and one might just as well try to raise a harvest on a volcano that is ever belching forth its fiery lava and clothing its sides with a fiery mantle, as to cultivate Conistian virtues in a home where the demon of drink dwells.

One of the great causes of the wide-spreadedness of the drink evil is the mul tiplicity of the saloons. The saloon is set over against the home as perhaps its greatest enemy. If we would then pre-serve the sancity of our homes let us fight these three great evils—divorce, the Godless school and the saloon. It is only The three principles that give vitality to the family are (1) the principle of creation of marriage; (2) the principle of development of education; (3) the principle of preservation or the virtues of econics do the work she is destined to do among the nations of the earth-that of diffusing a broader liberty and a higher happiness among men.

The proof of the pudding is the eating, and the proof of the extraordinary power over pain of Polson's Nerviline is in using it. Polson's Nerviline never fails to per form wonders in every case of pain. I cannot fail, for it is composed of powerfu of Christianity came He put His seal on pain-subduing remedies. It goes right to the natural contract and declared that the bottom, and pain is banished at once. Nerviline cures all kinds of pain, internal or external. Go to any drug store and get a bottle, and be delighted by its promptitude in doing its work.

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A Japanese proverb says that a friend "Bonne Sainte Anne price pour nous"

And then came a few moments of rest in the old convent parlour, and a hospitable tray of refreshment, an offering of our lilies for the altars of the little change of the little and breadth of the land. Here in fat. at hand is worth all your relations at a and breadth of the land. Here in fair New Ezgland alone 3,000 families at least are destroyed by the divorce abomination every year.

A twin evil of divorce and very often a consequent effect is the refusal to bear children, so that these people who, by pecuntary alvantages and social opportunities, are the better able to become the fathers and mothers of the next genera. was to put out our hands ; we are fed and clothed as if by a miracle, and it surely is a miracle if the bill is paid in due season To contract a bill is to contract an obliga tion, to give another the advantage; we believe that half the forgeries and embezz'emen's in the country are the direct result of debt. Half the paralysis and heart disease which end men's lives in their heydey may be traced to the worry consequent upon debt; worry kills mere people than work, love, or any disease It writes wrinkles on the face, it discolor the skin, makes the hair fall out and ncourages dyspepsia.
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S'eep on, O. I From earthly Our freighted Beyond tife's In every Iris Where praye Is built an al A cross above No more the Your humble No more you The beads of The mirth th Lies buried i Down where

Who gather g
O, pligrims b
Who succor g
And ye, who
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Pour forth ye
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