

NOTES FROM QUEBEC.

(By our Own Correspondent.)

NIGHT REFUGE. — A meeting of the united conferences of St. Vincent de Paul Society was held recently in the Salle du Patronage and the matter of founding a night refuge discussed and finally decided on. Rev. Abbe Nunevais explained the necessity of such a refuge and its functions. An institution of this kind is absolutely necessary in all large cities. The refuge will provide a temporary home for those who while in search of work, are without money to pay for bed or board. It is thought the refuge will be opened by the month of June.

TOOK THEIR VOWS. — On the 18th instant a very impressive ceremony took place in the chapel of the Hotel Dieu Hospital, when two Sisters took their final vows. They were Sisters Alice Halle and Amelia Jacques. The former took the name of Sister St. Barthelemi and the latter Sister St. Jean Evangelist. This is the fourth of the Jacques family to enter the religious life. Sister St. Wilfrid, of the Sisters of Charity, and Sisters Ste. Eugenie and St. Ignace, of the General Hospital, all professed nuns, being Sisters of St. Jean Evangelist.

MAY DEVOTIONS. — The solemn opening of the month of May will take place in St. Patrick's Church on Sunday evening next. There will be a procession in the Church in which the boys and girls of the parish will take part, and a statue of Our Blessed Lady will be carried by four of the oldest girls. There will also be a sermon and solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. At Grand Mass on Sunday, Rev. Father Delargy urged the congregation to show their love for our Blessed Lady by attending these daily devotions in honor of our Heavenly Queen to obtain her constant protection, and enumerated the indulgences which may be obtained by all those who honor her in a special manner during this month.

A EUCHRE. — On Wednesday evening the Young Men's Sodality gave another of their enjoyable euvres in St. Patrick's Hall, which was well attended by members and their friends. A very pleasant evening was spent by all. Refreshments were served, and several songs sung. This is the last of a series of entertainments of a similar nature given during the winter months.

THOMAS D'ARBY McGEE. — A correspondent writes to the city press advocating the erection of a monument by the Irishmen of Canada to perpetuate the memory of the late Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee, one of the fathers of Confederation. The erection of such a monument would undoubtedly meet with the approval of Irishmen generally. But there is

NOTES FROM IRELAND

THE ROYAL VISIT. — It was somewhat as a surprise, for it had not been widely announced, when the newscame that the King, Queen and Princess Royal, with their suites, had gone off to Ireland. There was a kind of "sans ceremonie" about the whole affair that would naturally attach to a flying visit to Scotland, or to the continent. It would seem that Edward VII looks upon Ireland as being as much his home as any other section of Great Britain, and that he intends going and coming whenever the inclination, or any special event, arises, and in the same manner as he would go from Windsor to Cowes, or from Buckingham Palace to Balmoral. This is certainly an innovation. Heretofore the people of Ireland have been accustomed to the systematic absence of the Sovereign from their country, and when at long intervals of decades the Royal head of the State did condescend to visit Ireland, it was with more ceremony, circumstance and precaution than if the visit were paid to a foreign and hostile land.

After his accession to the throne the present King visited Ireland in a somewhat official manner: now he runs over there to attend the races,

another monument which has been talked about from time to time for many years past, and strange to say without anything definite being done, viz., a shaft at Grosse Isle to mark the graves of the thousands of men and women of our race and religion who fell victims of the ship fever while fleeing from famine and persecution to the hospitable shores of Canada, and whose remains lie buried in the trenches at Grosse Isle, awaiting the sound of the last trumpet. At present the small piece of ground in which these martyrs are buried (for martyrs they really were) is nothing more nor less than a pasture field. It is only within the last decade of years that Rev. Father Rossback, C.S.S.R., then Rector of St. Patrick's Church, assisted by a number of his clergy, blessed their unmarked graves and chanted a Libera, they at the time of their death being deprived of even Christian burial. It is certainly not to the credit of the Irishmen of Canada, and in fact of America, that this spot, which should be sacred to each and every one of them, should remain in its present condition, and that the erection of a monument of some kind should have been so long deferred, and one would think that this matter would have a prior claim on their generosity and patriotism. It is earnestly to be hoped that some of our leading Irishmen will again interest themselves in this important affair, and not grow weary in their task, but bring it to a successful conclusion.

THE PAINTERS' STRIKE. — The latest development in the struggle between the master painters and their former employees is that the latter have been notified by some of the former that they will be prosecuted for desertion of service, intimidation, etc. It is stated that the employers have been forced to cancel contracts, being unable to complete them within the specified time. Some of the men have started business on their own account and are employing their former fellow-workmen. The strike is now on since April 1st, and both sides are apparently as determined to hold out now as they were the first day. The general opinion is that steps should be taken to bring about a settlement by arbitration or otherwise.

ST. BRIDGET'S BAZAAR. — The ladies of St. Patrick's congregation are already organizing for the annual bazaar in aid of that truly deserving institution, St. Bridget's Asylum, which provides a comfortable home for old men and women as well as for orphan boys and girls. It is in charge of the Sisters of Charity, and is a credit to the Irish people of Quebec. As the proceeds of the annual bazaar is its main revenue, it is to be hoped that the efforts of the charitable ladies who undertake this work year after year will be seconded by the public, and that a good round sum will be realized.

to enjoy a round of festivities, to frequent the theatres and to blend with the people. There are no heralds running ahead for months to announce his coming and to see that the path is safe. He has no need of protection and he knows it. There is more good to be derived from this course than we can well calculate. It is the novelty of the situation that attracts attention and that gives to this special visit of the royal party a significance of a promising character. The reports of events that marked the visit will be highly interesting when they come to us through the local Irish press.

EMIGRATION. — On this subject a correspondent of the Catholic Times, of Liverpool, says:

Evidence is not wanting that the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, conducted by Sir Horace Plunkett and his huge staff of highly paid officials, has failed in its mission to keep the people at home, which was the great object for which it was ostensibly founded. Emigration continues unchecked. The season for this year opened last month, when 2389 men and women, mostly in the prime of life, fled the country, as compared with 2244 for the corresponding month of last year. Needless to say, the emigrants were nearly all Catholics. In view of the

already depopulated state of the country it is simply deplorable to see the people going in such numbers. Not even the work done by the Anti-Emigration Society seems to have any effect in checking the exodus. It must now be evident to all that the sole remedy for the terrible evil is to provide employment for the masses of the people who are unable to obtain work. It is no use appealing to the sentiments of hungry people. They will fly from the troubles they endure in the hope—it may be a vain one—of bettering their condition.

HOME INDUSTRIES. — Mr. Charles Dawson, at one time Lord Mayor of Dublin, delivered a very able lecture in Limerick, his native city, on Wednesday evening, in the course of which he said that he wished others would follow the example of the late Mr. McCann, M.P., and invest their super-abundant capital in fostering Irish industries. It would be better than a hundred shows. The stone and building materials of the country were not sufficiently developed. No doubt they had been largely used in the building of churches, and sometimes the caustic critics of the number of those structures forgot the clear proposition laid down by the Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer, that if money had been spent on them it went to pay for Irish material and employ Irish labor. There was an exquisite proof of how the marbles and stone of Ireland could be used in the Church of the Catholic University, Stephen's Green. The promotion of their industries and the development of their resources depended upon three factors. The first was the responsible Government of this country, the next was the action of the County, Borough, and Urban Councils, and finally there were the people themselves, the pros and supports of that platform.

GOLDWIN SMITH AGAIN

(By a Regular Contributor.)

No man on the two continents has ever obtained as much praise as has Prof. Goldwin Smith, and none was ever so over-estimated. He was an Oxford Professor and a life long contributor to magazines. He has the reputation of being a perfect writer of English, so much so that when his blunders rhetorical and at times grammatical appear they are classed as original style or put down to typographical errors. He has expressed opinions on every imaginable subject, whether conversant with it or not, and all that he has said passes current. He claims to be a writer of history, despite the fact that he has read history through the colored glasses of his prejudice. He is called a philosopher, although not one of his attempted syllogisms would stand the test of the elementary rules of logic. He has been lauded as a political economist, and an authority upon things political in general, yet he has never laid down a single principle from which he did not at once deviate. A British Professor, he prefers colonial life in Canada, and here he is an American annexationist; he advocated autonomy for the Boers; and at the same time is a deadly opponent of Irish Home Rule. Finally, he poses as a theologian, and blunders into nonsense the moment he attempts to treat any subject touching upon Catholic dogma. His latest wise remark when referring to the Papacy was to the effect that "it has consummated its pretensions by the usurpation of Infallibility and completed its defiance of fact by the promulgation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception."

Now in two instances in this short sentence Mr. Smith is at sea. Firstly, the "usurpation of Infallibility," an absolute contradiction. What he means is its "pretension to infallibility." He does not believe in the Infallibility, therefore he claims naturally that the Papacy wrongly pretends to its possession. But he says that the Papacy usurped Infallibility; then the Infallibility really exists, no matter how the Papacy came by it. It matters not whether the Papacy obtained it by a free concession or secured it by usurpation—that is another issue entirely—the fact remains that Prof. Smith acknowledges its existence; or else his very beautiful English is rank nonsense.

Then he speaks of the Immaculate Conception as a defiance of fact. But this we suppose that he means that the dogma is a contradiction of some fact. That cannot be; for if the dogma is wrong, the Immaculate Conception does not exist. What then is

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the fact that a nonentity defies? It is quite clear that he does not know what he is writing about. He imagines that the dogma refers to the Conception of Our Lord in the womb of the Virgin Mary. The editor of the Sun, who got tired, we suppose, of receiving letters of reply to Mr. Smith's remarks, gets angry himself and says: "For example, they all assume that Mr. Goldwin Smith is ignorant as to the character of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception promulgated by Pope Pius IX in 1854. Of course it is an absurd assumption. The definition of that dogma is in every considerable dictionary and it is more precisely explained in all the current cyclopaedias. Only an unlettered man is excusable for ignorance as to its meaning. Of course, Mr. Goldwin Smith requires no information on the subject from men whose religious, philosophical and historical studies have been narrow and superficial as compared to his own. The text of the decree is easily accessible and its dogmatic utterance is unmistakable—that "the Blessed Virgin Mary, from the first instant of her conception," was "kept free from all stain of original sin." To suppose that Mr. Goldwin Smith needs instruction as to that matter is like assuming that he needs to be told of Newton's law of universal gravitation."

In the first place, definitions of Catholic dogmas to be found in dictionaries and cyclopaedias are not always exact, and more frequently wrong than otherwise. The one who learns his Catholic theology from a dictionary is like a man who learns his science from the index to the contents of a volume. But even with all his study and general reading the fact remains that Professor Goldwin Smith did not, when he wrote, thoroughly grasp the meaning and the full purport of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. And what is more, we do not believe that he knows anything, beyond a very superficial gleaning, that he possesses, about the doctrine, and especially about the spirit of the Catholic Church. He is able to treat of the Papacy as did Macaulay and many others, from the historical standpoint. But as far as the unbroken chain of logic that binds all the dogmas together and unites them all to the one great source, is concerned, he has not the faintest conception of it. This we do not say because he wrote the passage above quoted, but because we have had, in the past, numerous occasions of detecting the grave errors into which he fell when attempting to deal with subjects beyond and outside the limits of his attainments. It is, moreover, amusing to read the wrangling of non-Catholics about Catholic dogmas; they do not and cannot be expected to grasp them—for they have not the Faith.

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