

Note and Comment.

The society novel and society verse are growing in popular favor with the American reading public. Mrs. Hodgson Burnett and Mrs. Burton Harrison have contributed their share to this class of literature, and the group of society verse makers that supply the magazines with graceful, airy lines woven with fanciful, bright and pretty as golden gossamer, and not more substantial, satisfy this craving of society's votaries and worshippers. Now the Catholic reader is demanding a taste of this delectable literary nutriment from the Catholic literary world. Dr. Egan has been appealed to for a fictional work that will deal with the life of a Catholic. The principal difficulty of such an accomplishment seems to be the impossibility of delineating a type that would be recognizable in Boston or Chicago as well as in New York or Philadelphia. American society is rather a disintegrated mass, and he would be a genius indeed who could, from the scattered fragments of local characteristics that distinguish the social centers of American life, create a society heroine that would become an ideal for Catholic American womanhood.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Newark (N. J.) free public library it was decided to exclude the New York World and Journal from the list of newspapers kept on file in the reading room of the library. The directors decided that these papers on account of their sensational nature might have a contaminating influence on the number of boys and girls that attend the reading room. Speaking of these papers one of the directors characterized them as "a stench in the nostrils of civilization."

Commenting on this the New York Post says: "The example of the Newark institution ought to be imitated by all library and reading-room associations throughout the country, and extended to all newspapers which are lowering the tone of the community, wherever published. People often lament the low estate of the press, and then ask what can be done about it. The Newark people have shown. Every self-respecting person can use his influence to have incivili newspapers banished from institutions which have reading rooms. There are colleges and universities whose faculties have allowed the trustees of the Newark library to initiate a movement which ought to have started in our seats of learning."

The Buffalo Evening Times says: "The Donnelly Contracting Company that loudly boasted that it would pay their common laborers \$1.25 a day, is either employing or permitting sub-contractors to employ this 90 cent labor and the men who receive this pitiful wage are compelled to work all day knee deep in water until too often their overtaxed frames are racked with the pains of death-dealing disease, such as pneumonia and kindred ills. The city of Buffalo pays \$1.50 a day for its labor. Why should these contractors be permitted to pay such starvation wages as 90 cents? For a driver, wagon and two-horse team the city of Buffalo pays at the rate of from \$4 to \$4.50 a day. These canal contractors pay from \$2.50 to \$2.75 for such service."

Even considering the prices offered by the city authorities, it would appear that the neighboring republic is by no means a land of promise for labor.

The managers of the South Metropolitan School District, who govern the poor law schools at Sutton, Middlesex, have passed a strange resolution. It was to the effect that every man, woman and child in the schools should be appointed rat-catchers to the institution, and that 3d per head should be paid for each rat caught. The schools have been for some time past pestered with the rodents, and all conceivable means have been adopted to get rid of them. In the course of the discussion the Rev. Brooke Lambert trusted that care would be taken to prevent the boys from making a market in rats by purchasing them outside the school at a head and selling them to the superintendent at 3d. Dr. Massey mentioned that when the professional rat-catchers were engaged they frequently got paid twice over for the same rat. Formerly the rat-catchers had been allowed to take the rats caught out of the institution, and they obtained 4d apiece for them.

T. P. O'Connor in the London Weekly Sun says: I have only a few words to say on the important movement which is going on in Ireland in favor of reunion. I was a reunionist before reunion was even mentioned, and I have never receded from the position I took up in the speech I delivered on the subject more than three years ago to my own constituents in Liverpool. I thought then, and I think now, that a reunion of the National forces of Ireland would accelerate home rule by many years, and would make life once more worth living for every man who prefers the interests of Ireland to personal ambitions or personal hatreds.

The Niagara Index has something to say about the "New Journalism" that revels in numerous sheets covered "with column after column of distorted fact, of nauseous description, of the vivid detailed narration of crime, of the obscene portrait, and of every kind of moral abomination," and very wisely prefers to cling to the old common sense practical and cleanly form, than to don the mud-beattered voluminous garments of the new newspapers that are seeking sensations or advancement, are advised "to startle the world by freeing themselves from the power of trusts and corrupt politics, and by emancipating themselves from the thralldom of fierce party partisanship and becoming the champions and creators of a healthful public opinion."

Boston is to be provided with a new system of postal delivery and house-to-house collection of mail matter. Residents within the postal districts will be furnished with mail boxes in which

the householder as well as the carrier shall make mail deposits, and if stamps are required by any of the residents they simply place an envelope in the box, with details of the number and denominations required, and at the next regular delivery the carrier leaves the supply. This system will do away with the danger of a letter remaining entombed for weeks in the depths of a man's coat pocket.

Street mendicants are one of the blots on our city's civilization and they should not be tolerated. The spectacle of a poor unfortunate seated on a scant piece of carpet in the snow is a sight that awakens more feelings than charity. Surely, in a city provided with so many charitable institutions, there is no excuse for such spectacles of wretchedness and helplessness on our street corners.

There has been a good deal of discussion at the meetings of St. Patrick's Society of Brooklyn, recently, regarding the question of inviting women to the annual dinner on St. Patrick's night. The matter was referred to a committee who disposed of the vexatious subject by making a report to the general body that there was no hall with sufficient accommodation to carry out the project.

The trained nurse has raised the ire of Lady Priestly, who aims her grievances against the profession in The Nineteenth Century. This titled censor has observed that young unmarried men are "not imbued with any wild desire for cohabitation," but are content to feed on gelatine-covered decoctions when cared for by the charming nurse garbed in a picturesque uniform. Lady Priestly should be commissioned to select a special corps of unattractive Sairey Gampes who would administer the old nauseous compounds to accelerate the recovery of the invalided young man.

Dr. Zahn, the learned Catholic scientist, at a recent meeting of the Archaeological Society in Athens, showed a newly found potsherd inscribed with the name of Themistocles at the time when that great general and statesman was exiled, in 471 B. C. Dr. Zahn is an adept in the unearthing not only of mouldy potsherds but also of shining truths from among the rubbish of false reasoning and thought.

Max O'Rell is about to abandon his profession of lecturer for that of a dramatist. Next March he will come before the footlights in a comedy adapted from one of his own writings, entitled "On the Continent." As a lecturer the witty Frenchman was a great success, and his new career will be watched with interest.

Archbishop Gross of Oregon, who will celebrate his Silver Jubilee, was born in Baltimore, sixty years ago, and was ordained priest in 1863. He entered the Redemptorist Order and in 1873 was consecrated Bishop of Savannah, and later, in 1884 was appointed, to the Archdiocese of Oregon.

Nansen, the African explorer, has dedicated his new book, "Farthest North," to his wife in this pretty fashion: "To her who christened the ship, and had the courage to wait." Madame Nansen is herself a celebrity, being well-known as a professional singer and during her visit to London will probably sing before the Queen.

That was a particularly sad and pathetic funeral that wended its way to Cote des Neiges bearing the scant remains of poor Mrs. Murphy's body to consecrated ground. The devotion of her children is at last rewarded and all shadow of doubt dispelled from their minds regarding the fate of the mother for whom they have testified the tenderest filial affection.

Tea-smokers are the latest addition to the ranks of American female addicts. Green tea cigarettes are becoming an after-dinner requirement for some ladies of the Republic, and tea-smoking parties are quite the correct thing. What next, America?

Since the accession of Leo XIII. to the Papal throne one hundred and eighteen Cardinals have passed away. Time deals kindly with the illustrious Pontiff who is the intellectual centre of the world's life to-day.

In a Columbus, Ohio, court a motion has been filed to compel the plaintiff in a suit for damages for \$10,000, to submit to an examination under the X rays, in order to determine the nature of his alleged injuries.

Palmer Cox, of Brownie renown, is a Canadian by birth. In his native town of Lucknow, Ontario, he was more famed as drill sergeant of the first volunteer corps than as a knight of the pen.

What a great Thanksgiving it will be when the Powers roast the big gorged Turkey and have a little Greece in the dressing of it.

Clement Scott, the veteran dramatist of the London Daily Telegraph, is a convert to Catholicism.

A Letter of Thanks.

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

DEAR SIR,—It is with the sincerest feelings of gratitude that I wish to thank you for your kind efforts in promoting the success of the entertainment given in my behalf on Monday evening last.

I also wish to thank the many friends who gave their assistance and hearty support to it, amongst whom may be mentioned Mrs. Bacon, who has always shown the kindest of interest in the welfare of one who, in his gratitude, can only remember her in his prayers.

D. J. McLEARN.

Montreal, Feb. 24th, 1897.

The preliminaries in the annual debate with Bell Telephone for cheaper rates and better service started before the committee on mercantile affairs at the State House, Massachusetts, last week.

OUR PARAGRAPHER

The Indifference of Irish Catholics Dwelt Upon.

The Practice of Criticizing Spiritual Guides Condemned.

ALBANI'S RECENT VISIT.

The Vacant Office of Secretary of the Road Committee.

What are our Irish National Societies doing in connection with the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the erection of the first home of Irish Catholics in Montreal, St. Patrick's Church, which will take place on the 17th of March?

What are our Irish Catholic professional and business men thinking about in the same direction?

Is it not time for action? Are all the stalwarts of the sturdy race in Montreal dead?

The fashion that has recently come into vogue, in the somewhat circumscribed circle of bumptious and lukewarm Catholics, to publicly criticize the bishops and priests of this overwhelmingly Catholic province, and to use the columns of the secular press to ventilate what they, in their disloyal temper, call a grievance, is one which should not only merit the severest censure of the religious authorities, but also call for a public condemnation from all loyal Catholic citizens.

Albani, the great Canadian cantatrice has been with us again, and received a flattering reception in the Monument National last Thursday night. That popular hall was crowded to the doors, and never did the great songstress sing to better advantage or in greater tones. She aroused and shared in the enthusiasm of her vast audience, and responded to the oft-solicited encores with seeming pleasure and without the slightest sign of reluctance. She appeared pleased in gratifying her enraptured listeners. May her wonderful voice long be preserved to charm the musical world.

From present appearances neither political party will nominate an Irish-Catholic in St. Lawrence or St. Antoine division. In both these constituencies the Irish Catholic vote is very large, but, as in every place else, there is a lack of union amongst our people. We need never expect to get our proper proportion of parliamentary representatives through the gratuitous justice of the dominating politicians of to-day. It is to be attained only through a unity of Irish Catholics whose strength will command attention. We must demand our rights in one large harmonious chorus. Discordant sounds are unintelligible. Of course, if we prefer to stay as we are, not sufficiently represented in public affairs, overlooked in Municipal and Government patronage, ignored as a factor in politics, why each one of us must just continue to "paddle his own canoe." A large French intrigue or a ponderous English man-of-war may run us down in the sands and sink us with disdainful easelessness, but a few of the race may survive to tell the story of the ancient glory and vigor of the Irish Catholics of Montreal, their relapse into supine indifference, their decline as a distinct people, and their final submergence in the deep sea of heterogeneous humanity.

Now that Alderman Prefontaine has returned from Europe, it will be in order for the Road Committee to appoint a successor to the late Patrick O'Reilly. Perhaps the chairman has brought a suitable person back with him.

WALTER R.

Madame Albani's Tribute to a Canadian Piano.

Queen's Hotel, Toronto. Messrs. Heintzman & Co., Pianoforte Manufacturers, Toronto.

Gentlemen—I must thank you very much for the Piano supplied to my rooms, as also for the Grand Pianoforte used in my concerts here. It is really an excellent instrument, and the tone and quality of the instrument eminently satisfactory in every way.

Yours sincerely,

E. ALBANI GYE.

The Heintzman & Co. Concert Grand Piano supplied by C. W. Lindsay, 2366 St. Catherine street, near Peel street, for the Albani farewell concert in Monument National, Thursday evening, the rich tone of which fully filled this large hall, is the same instrument that was used at Albani's concert at Ottawa, Toronto and other points of the Canadian tour.

A gentleman having prematurely gray hair remarked that he would give \$1,000 to have it restored to its original black. "I'll bet you a champagne dinner," said a friend, "Luby's Parisian Hair Restorer will accomplish the desired result in a month." The other accepted the bet, incredulously, but nevertheless lost it to his intense delight. Sold by all chemists.

A bill in the Wisconsin Legislature, aimed at department stores, divides merchandise into seventy-eight classes and arranges these classes in twelve groups. A merchant may deal in any one class without a license, but to deal in more than one class he must pay a license fee, to be fixed by the city authorities, but not to be less than \$500. The penalty for a violation of the act is a fine of from \$5 to \$200, and imprisonment for from one day to a year for each day the "nuisance is maintained," conviction to be accompanied by the requirements of a bond of \$5,000 that goods will not again be sold in violation of the law. A

dampener was put upon some advocates of the law when it was pointed out that it would bear hardest on the general country stores.

REV. HENRY HUDON, S. J.

Sketch of the Life of a Remarkable Man.

After a long and well filled career, the Reverend Henry Hudon, S. J., passed away in death on Friday, 26th, at the Jesuit Scholasticate, Rachel street, this city. He was seventy-four years of age, fifty-four of which he spent in the Society of Jesus.

Father Hudon was born in 1823, at Rivière Ouelle, Que., being a descendant of the Hudons of Anjou, in France, who emigrated to Canada in the seventeenth century. He studied classics at the College of Ste. Anne de la Pocatière, and at the age of twenty entered the Jesuits. The last surviving member of the old Order in Canada, Father Casot, died in Quebec, in 1800, and an interval of forty years had elapsed before efforts were made for their return to Canadian soil. In 1841 the saintly Bishop Bourget recalled the Jesuits and the following year two young men sought and obtained admission into the Order: one of these was Augustus Renier, the other, Henry Hudon. The Jesuits were en-



joying the hospitality of the Hon. Mr. Rodier at the time, and it was in the house of that distinguished and charitable citizen that Henry Hudon spent the two years of his novitiate.

He was sent to Louisville, Kentucky, in 1845, to complete his education. A year later he was recalled to Fordham College to pursue his philosophical and theological studies. He returned to Montreal in 1850, and was one of the professors of St. Mary's College during the early years of its history.

But it was in New York city that he distinguished himself as a college ruler. He was twice vice president of St. Francis Xavier College, in West Sixteenth street; his second term of office he filled for eight years, when, in 1870, he was named Rector of that flourishing institution. He held this Rectorship for ten years, a record that none of his predecessors or successors has equalled or approached. He built the reputation of St. Francis Xavier's Day College, so that it became second to none in the United States. He ruled with a firm but gentle hand the five hundred students who frequented the College halls, and many of those students have made names prominent for themselves in the ranks of the Clergy and the liberal professions.

In 1880, Father Hudon was named Superior-General of the Jesuit Order in Canada, and held the office for seven years. Rapid strides were made by him in spreading the influence of the Order for good during that time. In 1882, he established the House of Higher Studies for the theological and philosophical students of the Order on Rachel street. This quarter of Montreal dates its progress onward from that year. Father Hudon opened houses at Three Rivers and Charlottetown, P. E. I. In the interests of colonization he named lecturers among the Jesuits to support the movement, then taking root in the province, and he acquired a large tract of land at Lake Nipissing, in the north, and started a colony there, which, owing to increased railway facilities, is prospering.

In 1884 he accepted Archbishop Tache's offer of St. Boniface College, and in the following year manned it with a staff strong enough to compete with other College forming the University of Manitoba. In the summer of 1891 Father Hudon was named Rector of St. Boniface College, and he ruled that institution for three years with his old-time gentleness and firmness. In 1893 he celebrated, in St. Boniface, the golden jubilee of his entry into the Jesuit Order; he was the recipient of innumerable good wishes from friends all over the continent.

Besides the institutions already named, Father Hudon began the parishes of North Bay, Sturgeon Falls, Sudbury, now flourishing parishes. He reopened Sault Ste. Marie and Brandon and established Missions at minor places along the Canadian Pacific, like Chapleau, Cartier, Schreiber, etc.

After a life worn out in the service of God, the holy priest has at last gone to his reward.

The funeral was held last Saturday in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Rachel street, whence the body was taken to the Jesuit Cemetery at Sault au Recollet.

OBITUARY.

MR. A. G. GRANT.

One of the best known interpreters of sacred music, and the most genial of choristers in St. Patrick's parish, passed away on Saturday last by the death of Mr. A. G. Grant.

Mr. Grant's name has been connected with many of our educational establishments and choral organizations for a period of well nigh a half a century. He was a man of scholarly attainments and possessed a knowledge of the doctrines of the Catholic Church, which he frequently demonstrated in the columns of THE TRUE WITNESS, when zealous and

bigoted non-Catholics, at intervals, endeavored to propagate error through the chance of a prejudice.

Mr. Grant's last contribution was in support of the claims of the Catholic minority of Manitoba. As a member of St. Patrick's Choir the deceased endeavored himself during his long career to priest and layman; young and old all revered him as the patriarchal figure of the congregation. Amongst the ranks of the rising generation Mr. Grant was a welcome guest, as he was always prepared to interest the boys in the recital of some stirring event of the early days. In the circles of St. Patrick's Choir, Mr. Grant will be sadly missed, because he was the means of infusing a spirit of confidence into the work of those surrounding him at rehearsals or in the course of the regular ceremonies. His perfect knowledge of music and his talented and cultivated sense of judgment in all matters appertaining to sacred song was highly appreciated by all the young men with whom he came into contact.

Mr. Grant was an exemplary Catholic: in private and in public he was proud of his convictions. When communicating his views to the press he never took a huge behind the screen of a *non descript*. Many a young Irish Canadian has profited by the splendid example which this grand old Scotch Catholic so silently gave to them.

His funeral took place yesterday, at St. Patrick's Church, where a Solemn Requiem Mass was sung by Reverend Father Driscoll, S.S., at which all past and present members of the choir assisted and rendered the choral portions of the Service under the direction of Prof. Fowler. At the close of the ceremony the casket reformed and wended its way to Cote des Neiges Cemetery.

Rev. Fathers Quinlivan, S.S., and McCullen, S.S., assisted at the singing of the Libera in the Church.

When Prof. Fowler learned of the death of Mr. Grant, he consulted some members of the executive of the Choir, and it was decided that instead of following the usual custom of sending floral wreaths as a memento of their respect for the dead, an arrangement would be made to have Masses said for the repose of the soul of their deceased fellow member.

MRS. COYLE.

The TRUE WITNESS extends its sympathy to the friends and relatives of Katie Riddiph, beloved wife of John Coyle, and daughter of the late Thomas Connolly, who died at her late residence, 23 Cuthbert Street, on the morning of the 26th of February. The deceased was a true Christian wife, and a loving mother to her two little children, and her devotion as a daughter is evidenced by the fact that she was caring for her mother, who was dangerously ill, at the time that she herself was stricken with the fatal disease, pneumonia, that removed her from the centre of her happy home circle, while her widowed mother was spared to mourn over the loss of a cherished daughter.

Public Legislation.

Mr. Hardy, Premier of Ontario, in the Legislature last week introduced an Act of great interest and importance, which makes better provision for the keeping and auditing of municipal and school board accounts, authorizes the Lieutenant-Governor to appoint an officer to be known as the Provincial Municipal Auditor, and confers powers upon that officer to frame rules, with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor, to regulate the form of books of account to be kept by Treasurers and the system of bookkeeping to be adopted, and the manner in which securities and moneys of municipalities and school boards are to be kept, and the auditing of the said accounts; that the Auditor shall prepare sets of books for use by the various classes of

municipalities; except cities, and when approved by the Lieut. Governor in Council these books are to be procured and used in these municipalities. The Auditor may also, if directed by the Lieut. Governor in Council, prepare books of account for the use of school boards. The Auditor may at any time on his own motion, when requested by a member of the Municipal Council, if directed by the Lieut. Governor in Council, or if required, by requisition in writing signed by thirty ratepayers, make a full audit and inspection of the books and moneys in the hands of the Treasurer or collector, or the Auditor may authorize the work to be done by some person to be approved by the Lieut. Governor in Council.

One of the besetting sins of American life is its willingness to call very little things by very large names. Its tolerance of imposition and fraud. It is the mission of the scholar to combat fraud, to show men "facts amid appearances," to say that a popgun is a popgun, though every one else may be calling it a cannon. As our country grows older perhaps the number of bladders will diminish. If not let us have more pins.

You can't go on losing flesh under ordinary conditions without the knowledge that something is wrong, either with digestion or nutrition. If the brain and nerves are not fed, they can't work. If the blood is not well supplied, it can't travel on its life journey through the body. Wasting is tearing down; Scott's Emulsion is building up. Its first action is to improve digestion, create an appetite and supply needed nutrition. Book free.

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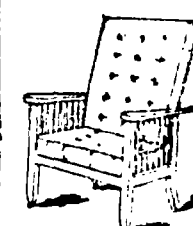
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Ladies' Black Figured Alpaca Skirts, lined throughout, velvet bound, cut in the latest style. Special at \$1.45. Fine Mohair Skirts, full gored and full sweep, lined throughout, twilled percale, velvet bound. Special at \$2.50.

NEW CORSETS.

The rapidly increasing business of our Corset Department necessitates bigger shelf and counter space. Out of the cases has come order again, and the best line of Corsets in Montreal are ready for your approval. Our special for this week, the celebrated corset C. B., a la spiritie, in black, white and grey, at \$1.10. "We permit no overstatements in our advertisements." If goods are not satisfactory, your money back. Mail orders solicited.

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