

ing which he had such prosecutors as Burke and Sheridan. He spent the larger part of his fortune in his own defence, and had to pass the remainder of his life depending upon the company for which he sacrificed his name, and which stained a career which otherwise would have been one of the most illustrious in history. He died in 1818.

T. J. O'NEILL, '11.

Catholic Libraries for Catholic People

THE Catholics of Canada have witnessed within the past year the inauguration of a praiseworthy movement which has for its purpose Church extension. The work of the society bearing this name lies in fields hitherto untilled, or, at one time abandoned. Its chief endeavour is to carry the Gospel into regions remote from the large centres of population, and to bring back sheep strayed from the fold. In our opinion a movement of another kind might be started in the cities and towns of our country, the object of which would be to preserve the faith and morals of Catholics. The time is at hand when a decided step must be taken to remove the serious disabilities of Catholics with regard to books and libraries.

In Ottawa we have a public library. We suppose similar establishments exist in many of our cities and towns. We cannot dispute the benefits of libraries when properly conducted. But we must find fault with many of them as they exist. There are one or two things we may say without fear of contradiction: Firstly, in most of these libraries are found books which are decidedly pernicious; secondly, many of these books are given out to the public indiscriminately. We will not be guilty of exaggeration in saying that at least 10% of books in actual circulation cannot be safely read, save by the strongest, mentally and morally. We cannot be accused of mis-representation, in view of the revelations of last summer, in saying that these books are given out with little discretion to all comers. It is quite true that Voltaire will not be placed in the hands of a child; but a substitute in the form of a romance, whose characters are the personifications of the sardonic infidel's vicious principles, will be given him. Apart from the really bad works there are legions of others which are absolutely useless as means of education. The reading of them leaves no good impression. There is nothing in