

Weekly Retrospect.

Much maligned November, with its fogs and gloom, is now a week old, and still the expected grumbling has not commenced. How we look back with regret for the lovely October days, now past forever, with their hazy sunsets and many hued leaves rustling in the wind. Now we must begin to stuff all the chinks and crannies against the cruel north wind, which will soon pay its round of visits.

"For mellow pears we have gathered in,
For rosy apples, and well filled bin,
That tell of a fruitful year;
For golden grain that is stored away,
For fragrant piles of the clover hay,
Let us thank our Father dear."

Many may not have been aware that every evening all through the month of October Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given at half-past five in the monastery chapel of the Precious Blood. It was so restful and soothing, after the work and trials of the day, to drop in just at this hour, when the tapers had been lighted, the priest at the altar steps, and the sweet notes of the beautiful hymn, "O Salutaris," were breaking the stillness of the early twilight. O Saving Host! how many weary hearts seek Thee, and how many more would do so if they but knew what love, rest and peace are to be found in Thy Presence. Percy Fitzgerald, in "Layman's Day," says: "How appropriate and direct is the Salutation, as the door of the tabernacle is opened, and Our Lord is revealed, 'O Salutaris Hostia!' So do we humbly greet the 'Host' that saves, that saved, and will save us. 'Quæ celi pandis ostia,' which throws wide open heaven's gates to us! Many come bringing their troubles and trials with them, here to find comfort and relief. 'Bella premunt hostilia,' enemies assail us and are pressing us; but we can ask for strength: 'Da robur, fer auxilium.' Then we present our gratitude, praise and thanks, 'Uni trinoque Domino,' to the Lord, One, yet Three in One, to Him be everlasting glory given; 'qui vitam sine termino, Nobis donet in patria': who life unending shall give to us in our own fatherland! There is a melodious charm in these words, as of hope and comfort, with the idea of peace and home awaiting us in that far off country. Much more than is popularly thought is bound up with these touching words, which it is fine to hear a full congregation voicing with one unanimous accord. The good old simple Gregorian hymn, which fits the words exactly, and seems like speech rather than song, should ever be used. The fantastic flourishing of modern operatic settings are truly incongruous."

One of the many pleasant events during Lord and Lady Aberdeen's short stay in Toronto was their visit to Loretto Abbey. All who were so fortunate as to be there that morning had a rare treat indeed. There was a look of pleasant surprise on Lady Aberdeen's face as she entered the hall, and saw the happy pupils, in their black uniforms, with sashes of Gordon Tartan looped over the left shoulder. The sweet singing of that pretty old Scotch ballad, "Mary of Argyle," quite touched the hearts of the listeners, and in fancy we heard the "Mavis singing" too. It made one feel proud of their alma mater to see such exquisite taste displayed: the order and modesty of the numerous pupils reflected the great care bestowed on their training by their teachers.

The Catholic Young Ladies' Literary Association was re-organized for the coming season a few weeks ago. A full course of work has been laid out, and promises to be very entertaining as well as instructive. Arrangements are being made for a lecture on the 20th instant by Rev. Father Ryan S.J. In our next issue, we will be able to dwell more fully on the progress of this praiseworthy Association.

Last week we spoke of cosy corners, and now we have seen some very pretty

designs in the *Ladies' Home Journal* for November, and at a very moderate sum anyone who is fortunate to possess a grate in their drawing-room could easily have at least one of these ornamental and useful corners. Winter is marching slowly along, and preparations must be made to receive him. It is with regret we bid good bye to the pretty summer and early autumn gowns, and don those of heavier and more substantial material. Dark moire-antique, brown, green or wine red will rival velvet for calling. Trimmings are of velvet of the same shade, narrow bands of fur of a contrasting color, and white lace. A green moire gown imported from Paris has a skirt of five breadths, four yards at the foot, with two full back breadths, the other three gored and darted at the top to fit the figure; the whole hanging free over the foundation skirt of silk, and lined with foundation muslin not very stiff. At the foot the moire is in ten large tabs edged with a brown sable band two inches wide, and overlaid through the middle with narrow pieces of leaf patterned lace. Green velvet sewn underneath shows like a founce in the spaces beneath the tabs. The bias waist, with only under arm seams, laps to the left in front over a fitted lining, and has an added basque of six tabs of moire trimmed like the foot of the skirt. A soft belt of green velvet hides the joining of the tabs to the waist. Some pretty brides' travelling dresses are given in some of the English journals; a description of two or three might be of interest to our fair readers. A costume of fine tan face cloth and brown velvet, handsome mantle to match, trimmed with fine mink tail. Brown velvet 1830 hat ornamented with brown feathers and a pale blue rosette placed under the brim. Another bride's travelling dress of shot blue and brown material trimmed with blue velvet and silk brown feather, hat to match. Another of brown tweed cloth trimmed with black braid, brown felt hat trimmed with black moire ribbon and coque feathers.

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