



EDITORIAL NOTES.

ONE of the most widely known and most charming Catholic writers of America is, without a doubt, Dr. Maurice Francis Egan, of Notre Dame University, Indiana. His name is a household word in every Catholic family on the continent. As a poet, essayist, novelist and general contributor to the press and literature of the day, Dr. Egan has excelled in every branch. It is always a treat to meet with his able articles, his beautiful sonnets, or his interesting stories. The *Avs Maria*, that charming publication of Notre Dame, teems with brilliant effusions from his facile pen. It is with no small degree of pleasure that we learned of Dr. Egan's intention to visit Canada during the coming autumn. We are positive that the presence of such a distinguished gentleman in our midst will be a piece of welcomed news to many of our readers. We are also informed that Dr. Egan will deliver a couple of lectures at St. Laurent College, during his stay in Canada. This is a program that we fervently hope will be carried out, as it would be a great treat to hear the author of so many splendid Catholic works. We may state that the Reverend Fathers of St. Laurent are of the same great teaching order as that which controls the rising University of Notre Dame. There is consequently an affinity between the two admirable institutions, and we might say that Dr. Egan will, for the time being, form a living connecting link between Canada's College and Indiana's University. At all events our readers may rest assured that Canada, and especially Catholicity in this country, will be the gainers by the proposed visit of Dr. Egan.

IN LAST WEEK'S issue we published a letter that appeared in the Memphis Catholic Journal on the School exhibit of our Province, at the World's Fair. This week we give our readers another article—this time from the Chicago Inter Ocean—on the same subject. If ever our system of Education, (we speak for the Catholics) received a thorough vindication against the attacks that some of our would be learned ones are making upon it, that vindication most decidedly lies in the fact that our exhibits at the World's Fair are attracting the attention of all America and Europe. The success that attends the efforts of our Catholic Commissioners from Quebec is really phenomenal. Thousands of visitors throng the aisles of the department wherein the evidences of the work done in our colleges, convents and religious schools is on exhibition, and the thousands pause, study, and are astonished. All Canadians who have come back from Chicago speak in terms of unmeasured enthusiasm on the subject. As may be seen by the articles we reproduce, the great organs of American public opinion find no language exaggerated that may serve to lavish praise upon our institutions and the results that flow from them. High above any-

thing in Canada and superior, we believe, to all outside competitors, rises our Educational System of Quebec. Let the cynic sneer, the disturber boast, and the incredulous scoff; but there are the patent facts, laid before the most impartial and universal jury on earth, and these facts cry out, with no uncertain sound, and proclaim the glory and perfection of our Catholic System of Education in this Province. Deep and hearty thanks for such an honor are due to the institutions of the land and to the worthy Commissioner who has brought them before the eyes of the world.

THE long and tedious process of passing the Home Rule Bill through the Committee of the House of Commons, is now over; the Bill, as amended has been voted upon clause by clause and adopted in Committee. In August the report will be made to the House and then the final vote will be taken, the result of which is a forgone conclusion. The next step will be to send the measure up to the Lords. The Committee arose on Thursday night, after the last clause was passed, and arose amidst considerable confusion. If we are to trust the despatches sent out there was a regular "set to," between members on either side. However, making full allowance for the inevitable exaggerations, we may say that Mr. Joseph Chamberlain succeeded in securing himself the unenviable title of "Judas;" Mr. Saunderson, the pugnacious Unionist, got a fair opportunity of displaying his prowess and the only advantage he took of it was to secure a black-eye; the poor chairman of the committee must have thanked his stars when Speaker Peel to the chair and relieved him of further obligations regarding the management of the House; and, cheers and howls were the order of the day. This little *seance* at the closing of the Committee's labors gives a pretty fair evidence of the vexation and wrath of the Tory party. Disappointed rage, and impotent desires for vengeance, have combined to set the poor fellows wild. They see with horror the steady and certain approach of Legislative independence for Ireland and they strive by all means, fair or foul, to frighten away the "Phantom of the Threshold." The gaze of the world, so long centered upon the House of Commons, will now be fixed upon the House of Lords. The general opinion is that the Lords will reject the bill; we have grave doubts on that score.

SNUFF is a splendid thing in its way; it is very good for severe headaches, if not indulged in too freely. Before smoking became so common it was almost universal as a habit. Amongst the wealthy, a century ago, it was not the snuff that attracted half so much as the fashion of carrying a snuff-box. In the salons of the high-toned, in the parlors of monarchs even, a gentleman seemed out of place if he had not his elegant snuff box, and was ever ready to offer a "pinch" to his neighbor. It was much

less injurious than the present custom of treating; yet it was somewhat expensive in a way. So great became the craze that hundreds of pounds were often spent on an elaborate snuff-box. These things may sound very like fables in the ears of our modern men of the world; yet there is no exaggeration in the fact that most costly jewels have been purchased to adorn the snuff-boxes of great men, princes, commanders, kings. Ladies, in the olden time, often spent all their "pin-money" on beautiful snuff-boxes for their chivalrous admirers or defenders. Of the olden customs there ever linger, amongst a few, certain remnants, and it is so with the snuff box. We were upon the mountain the other evening and Dame Rumor was abroad, and in the whisperings of the breeze she gently hinted that she had heard a strange story about a not unrecient revival of the olden habit of ladies presenting most elaborate snuff-boxes to gallant knights. In fact she heard—and yet she may have been deceived—that a prominent jeweller of Montreal, received an order from a certain class of ladies, for a gold snuff-box, ornamented with rubies and diamonds. These ladies (?) paid him \$150 for the said box; and then presented it to a most prominent gentleman, in recognition of great services rendered, in the way of protection. Now Dame Rumor may have only been in a gossiping mood, and thus invented the story; however, from an historical standpoint it is most interesting, and shows that "old customs die hard."

WE NOTICE that a couple of our American confreres speak very sneeringly of the "Catholic" Lord Mayor of London. We have not the honor of a personal acquaintance with that gentleman and cannot vouch for his pronunciation; but we do know, that, no matter what his political leanings may be, what party he follows, or what kind of accent he affects, he is beyond all doubt a sterling Catholic. When asked if, according to custom, he would attend the services in the Anglican church, he had the firmness to say "no"; when a public occasion arose, on which he was called upon to give expression to his believe in the supremacy of the Roman Pontiff, in matters spiritual, he did not hesitate to give Leo XIII the preference of honor over even the Queen of the realm. We also know that he is an honor to the high post of responsibility to which he has been raised, and that he has set more than one example, that might be very profitably taken to heart and acted upon by numerous Catholics moving in far inferior circles. We respect and honor the man who has the courage of his convictions.

WE ARE informed that an award of \$50 falls to the share of the person who detects or arrests or causes to be arrested any one found sounding a false fire-alarm. There is a story told of a strange incident to which this very just regulation gave rise some time ago in Montreal. The story would be funny if it had not a

very serious side. A high official drove along with a friend through the East End. For purposes of his own he got out of the cab and sounded a false alarm. An Irish policeman at the corner stepped up and arrested both official and companion. The former proclaimed his identity and said that it was in the course of his duty he was giving the alarm. The policeman said that it was in the exercise of his duty that he arrested them, and forthwith he did arrest them. The \$50 award was fully won and was received. Of course no more was said about the matter. But very soon the policeman got his "walking-ticket" for having performed his duty.

THE Daily Witness speaks as follows of the Catholic Sailors' Club, one of the youngest and already most popular institutions in Montreal:—

"The Catholic Sailors' Club, established in May last, is now in full swing. Situated in the midst of the many dram shops which thrive on the indiscretions of poor 'Jack,' this club is battling nobly with the sailor's great enemy on its own grounds. The large number of sailors present on Thursday night sat at the regular weekly concert is a proof of the successful work the club is doing. A long programme of songs, choruses and instrumental music was gone through and was thoroughly enjoyed by those present. Mr. P. J. Gordon, chairman of the entertainment committee, occupied the chair, and at the close of the programme Mr. J. F. Feeley, the president, delivered an address on the work and aims of the society. The meetings are held on Thursday evening so as not to clash with the Sailor's Institute, which holds its concert on Friday night. Thus the sailors are kept out of the grog shops on the last two and most important evenings that they are in port. The rooms are open from 8 a. m. to 10 p. m. every day. There is a good supply of papers, magazines and books for free use. The club is supported entirely by the Catholic citizens of Montreal and not a cent is required from the sailors."

IN referring to the A.P.A. attempts to antagonize Protestants and Catholics in the United States, the New York Catholic Review points how many of their neighbors, whom the A.P.A.ists expect to have on their side are really opposed to them, and it quotes from the Christian Register, which says:—

"The cultivation of the perpetuation of race prejudice is both un-American and un-Christian, and, withal, bad policy. We are all, by birth or descent, foreigners on American soil. We or our ancestors, every one, have gone through the processes of mental and moral acclimation. For those who seem now to us to be foreign the process of Americanization may be helped or hindered by the influence of the social conditions which we provide for new comers. If we meet them with hatred, regard them as obtrusive strangers, we can indefinitely postpone their amalgamation and acceptance of American citizenship; but given welcome, fair play and good treatment, new comers will at once take pride in their new home, and their children will rejoice in becoming more American than Americans." And there are many more patriotic papers that are on the same road as the Register and that will antagonize any secret treasonable organization that is laboring against the widest possible civil and religious liberty."