mittee as to be useless as a measure of edification of all assisting thereat. When reform, there is little or no doubt in our the long and eagerly desired moment mind. Mr. Gladstone has, however, declared his purpose to meet the Upper Chamber with firmness and decision in the purpose, took their places in faultless case it should refuse or obstruct, or order at the Holy Table, the girls in hamper the reform in the franchise proposed in this great measure.

CONFIRMATION AT ST. PETER'S CATREDRAL.

The great festival of SS. Peter and Paul was celebrated with more than usual solemnity in St. Peter's Cathedral on Sunday last. That day had been, as stated in our last, selected for the administration of first communion and confirmation to the children of the city and parish of London, duly prepared for the reception of these great sacraments. For many weeks they had been under the charge of the Rev. Fathers Tiernan, Cornyn and Walsh, who devoted all time, care and labor to their preparation. The success of their labors is their only compensation for the solicitude and anxiety ever inseparable from work so arduous. The retreat immediately preparatory to the reception of first communion and confirmation was conducted by the Rev. Father Tiernan, who celebrated mass every morning at eight, and delivered two instructions each day, besides catechising those whose opportunities rendered it difficult for them to follow the regular course of preparation. On Saturday morning last, His Lordship the Bishop began at 9:30 an examination of the candidates for confirmation, which did not conclude till after mid-day. The examination was thorough and searching, and must have proved satisfactory to His Lordship. On Sunday morning at eight o'clock the children assembled in the beautiful new Catholic school on Park Avenue, whence they proceeded in procession along Park Ave. to Kent St., thence on to Richmond, into the main entrance of St. Peter's Cathedral. This procession of boys and girls, singing sweetest hymns to Jesus in the Eucharistic Sacrament so soon to enter their hearts, that same Jesus who of old cried out, "Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven," was most devotional and impressive. The boys were neatly attired, each bearing a white rosette on his breast and a bouquet in his hand, the girls, robed in spotless white, likewise carrying offerings of sweetest flowers. It was indeed a sight not soon to be forgotten to witness those youthful and innocent children wending their way to the temple of the most High, making the lovely Sabbath morn resound with hymns of love and joy and thanksgiving. Well indeed might these bright young athletes and fairest brides of Christ raise their sweet voices in praise of the God who divests himself of his majesty and might to make himself one with them:

What a religion, thought we, as we gazed on that impressive scene, is that of the Catholic church? We have seen the pageants of civil and military life in their most solemn forms; assisted at worldly gatherings of the most splendid, nay, enchanting and enrapturing nature. We have witnessed, time and again, the worldly displays of grandeur, wealth ce, but such displays ter? She forfeited all claims to honor leave after them no such lasting and salutary impressions as the unostentatious but touching manifestations that are the outcome of the love of God The Catholic church takes the child from its mother's bosom to lave it from every stain of primo-parental and ancestral sin. She takes that child under her protecting care. She whispers into the mother's ear the lessons of prudence that must on the one hand guide her solicitude and on the other direct her love for the child of her womb. Then, as soon as the child reaches the age of reason, the church provides for its youthful mind the instructions necessary to guard it against the dangers of the world in which so soon it must play a busy part. That child is taught to look upon the yoke of Christ as sweet and his burden light, and that the service of Satan is slavish and debasing. She directs her ministers to devote all skill and attention and solicitude to prepare that young soul for the reception of the sacrament which she administers for the infusion of grace into the human soul. And as the flower gladly opens its eager petals to the morning sunlight, so that child opens its heart to the knowledge and love of God. At the Eucharistic table it is nourished with the very bread of life, and in confirmation made perfect and endowed with the wisdom and fortitude required to battle against the dread foes

of its salvation. Such were few of the considerations that passed through our minds when we saw the children of London, to the number of one hundred and seventy, directing their steps to the table of the Lord. to be refreshed and strengthened at the very inception of their journey through life. When they had taken their places in the cathedral, Mass began, the Rev. Father Tiernan celebrant. During the Holy Sacrifice several beautiful hymns were sung by the children, to the great

for communion came the children, who had been evidently trained with care for form consecrate themselves to the groups of eight or ten on one side, the boys in like numbers on the other. ness, the most joyous of their lives. After Mass His Lordship the Bishop addressed the children. Never, we may fairly say, did His Lordship speak with The formula of the renewal of the bap-

more earnestness and impressiveness.

He said that that was indeed a happy

day for the children. They had already

received the Most Holy Sacrament of the

his hands the great sacrament of Con-

firmation, whereby they were to become

strong and perfect Christians. They were

of the Holy Ghost, that to-day infuses

Holy Ghost they were bound to keep

themselves free from the profanation of

sin. Whensoever any great crime was

our churches they lost their consecration.

and had again to be dedicated to the

service of God. If this were true of ma-

of the living temples of the Holy Ghost

which they were. Mortal sin was a pro-

fanation of the sanctity of these temples,

and had therefore above all things to be

avoided. God punished the profanation

of His temples with a just severity. It

the city of Jerusalem, carried off the

the sacred vessels from the temple.

turned into saddest confusion, when

he saw the hand of some invisible person

writing on the wall the approaching

doom of himself and his monarchy. And

that doom and destruction came in pun-

ishment for the awful sacrilege of which

he had been guilty. His Lordship then

spoke of the ceremonies wherewith the

sacrament of confirmation was conferred

was the seat of shame, and it was becom-

the evlls of the wicked associations that

lead to such apostacy. A sinful life is

indeed a contradiction of the faith that

is in them. His Lordship then exhorted

the girls to persevere in their good reso-

lutions, that they might escape the perils

of apostacy. What, he asked, should be thought of the Catholic girl, who, after

associating with a Protestant young man,

married him before a heretical minis-

and respect, for she denied her faith. He

then implored them to beg once more

the Holy Ghost to descend upon them in

the plenitude of his power and wisdom,

that they might be true soldiers of Christ,

bearing with every trial and affliction,

avoiding every occasion of sin, and over-

their fidelity to their divine Master. His

Lordship then proceeded to administer

the sacred rite of confirmation, assisted

by Rt. Rev. Mgr. Bruyere, Fathers Tier-

nan, Walsh and Coffey. While the Bishop was giving confirmation the

choir rendered some very fine hymns.

At the close of the ceremony the Bishon

again addressed the children and the

congregation at large. He exhorted the

former to perseverance and indicated

the means whereby they were to per-

severe: by prayer, by attendance at the

offices of the church, by frequentation

of the sacraments and by the avoidance

of every occasion of sin. His Lordship

spoke words of most earnest and solemn

duties to their children. He particu-

warning to the parents present on their

larly dwelt on the duty of Christian

mothers to watch over the associations

they permitted their children, especially

their daughters, to keep and frequent

These latter had sacrificed all for that

faith, they had abandoned all that they

divine inheritance intact. For us then

it and live up to its truths. The im-

which will not soon be effaced.

Harold Harper :

Adorable Trinity, Almighty and Eternal God, who in thy mercy regenerated us in the sacred waters of baptism, what thanks can we render to thee for this great Eucharist, they had been nourished with favor? We were born children of wrath, but by receiving the sacrament of baptism the very body and blood of Jesus Christ, and they were furthermore to receive at

we became thy adopted children.

By our nature we were captives of
Satan and forever excluded from thy kingdom; now, in virtue of thy divine adoption, Jesus Christ is our brother and heaven our eternal inheritance. to be made the very shrines and temples

O God of infinite goodness! what was of the Holy Ghost, that to-day infuses into their souls the plenitude of his seven-fold gifts. But as temples of the Holy Ghost they were bound to keep titles, thou didst foresee that we would basely profane them and yet the view of our future perfidy could not arrest the course of thy infinite beneficence, in all the bitterness of repentant sorrow, we deplore our enormous and culpable ingestitude. What, Oney God! would committed within the walls of our ingratitude. What, Omy God! would have been our destiny hadst thou obeyed ave been our destiny ha terial structures, was it not also true the dictates of holy justice? but attentive only to the voice of thy mercy, thou didst meekly bear with us in our guilty wanderings: even offering us pardon and reconciliation before we im-plored it. Like the Father of the prodigal, thine arms embraced us as soon as we returned to thee, and now, as the as we returned to thee, and now, as the crowning blessing, we have been admitted to partake of the Bread of Angels. This, then, O sweetest Saviour, is thy revenge! but if thou dost so easily forget our transgressions, we shall not lose their remembrance. The more thou is recorded in Holy Writ of a wicked king, who, having sacked and plundered At one of his banquets this sinful and hast shown thyself patient and prompt blasphemous monarch put these vessels in forgiving, the more firmly we resolve to be faithful and constant in return. to profane uses. But his revelry was soon

Lamb of God, whose blood washed us, and whose flesh became our food; prostrate at thy feet, we freely and with our whole heart renounce Satan and his works.

We pledge ourselves never to blush for thy gospel, nor be ashamed of the title of Christian; but remaining firmly attached to thy service, to prefer death, a thousand times, before the commission Divine Jesus, engrave these holy en-

The Bishop first imposed hands on the cangagements in our hearts, and confirm us in our resolution to be faithful to them until death. Amen. didates for that sacred rite, to invoke on them the seven-fold gifts of the Holy The act of consecration to the Blessed Ghost. He also made on their fore-

heads the sign of the cross with Virgin Mary was read by Miss Annie Josephine Tillman : the holy chrism he had solemnly blessed on Holy Thursday. The forehead ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE BLESSEI

Queen of Angels and of men, august Mary, on this the most beautiful day of

ing that upon it should be inscribed the sign of the cross, that those marked with our lives, the day in which Jesus deigned to admit us to His holy table, we humbly present thee the youthful homage of our hearts, and claim thy powerful protection. Condescend, O holy that holy sign might never blush for, nor deny their faith. There were two ways of denying the faith. It might be denied by formal apostacy or by practical re-Virgin, to become our queen, our advo nunciation of its tenets and binding cate, and mother, and deign to number power through a wicked and corrupt life. us among thy happy and privileged chil-He warned the boys especially against

dren.

Banish from our souls whatever breathes the contagion of vice; and never allow us to sully the robe of innocence in which, purified by the blood of thy divine Son, we have for the first time approached His heavenly banquet.
O most excellent of mothers, imprint

in our filial hearts thy horror of sin, thy contempt of earthly vanities, and thy ardent and generous love for Jesus.

In thy mercy, bestow thy choicest benedictions on all those who have contributed to our present happiness by their prayers or toil; but above all, we conjure thee, bless most abundantly our beloved parents, whose salvation interests us so deeply. Could we be happy if they shared not in our joy? and couldst thou, O tender, Mother, who art neve invoked in vain, refuse to obtain thei who art never sanctification and ours, so that united before thy throne in Heaven, both par-ents and children may bless thee ever coming every temptation, in proof of more. Amen.

Father Tiernan then distributed some very neatly designed first communion cards to the children, which will no doubt serve to recall the happiness of the day of gladness on which for the first time they received the Most Holy Eucharist.

AT CHATHAM.

The town of Chatham, the county seat of Kent, one of the most thriving and populous counties of Ontario, is pleas antly situated on the Thames about sixty miles from London. Its population is about eight thousand, of whom nearly one-fourth are Catholics. To the parish of Chatham belongs also a large portion of the adjoining country, in which, however, the Catholic population is not so large. This mission is in charge of the Franciscan Fathers, to whom it was confided by the Bishop of London at the beginning of the year 1878. His Lord-He concluded by a touching appeal to ship could not have made a better choice all to be true to the faith of their fathers. of priests to succeed the self-sacrificing Jesuits and ever earnest Basilians, under whose charge the mission of Chatham had might transmit to us, their posterity, that grown and flourished in days of trial and lifficulty. Since the advent of the Francisit is a most holy obligation to preserve cans to Chatham there has been a quickening and s'rengthening of Catholic life in the mense congregation then left the church, town and country noticeable to all classes deeply impressed with the solemnities and gratifying to the good fathers themselthey had assisted at, the memory of ves. On the occasion of our first visit to the well-built and flourishing county town of In the afternoon Vespers was sung at Kent to attend the annual commence-3.30, the Rev. Father Walsh presiding. ment of the Ursuline Academy, we were After Vespers the Rev. Father Tiernan much pleased indeed with the manifesta preached an earnest and eloquent tions of Catholic life and activity that sermon. He had, he said, re-assembled met our view. There is a large and comthe children that afternoon (1) that they modious church, which is, however, we for instrumental music. Silver Medals for

might renew their baptismal vows as believe, to be replaced very shortly by a domestic economy. Senior department, became true soldiers of Christ, (2) That | magnificent structure that will be the they might in a special and solemn pride of the good Catholics of the fine county of Kent, a veritable monument of Blessed Virgin Mary, who was hence God's glory and a targible manifestation forth to be their mother and protectress, of the self-denying love of the Catholic and (3) to present each with a small people for their holy religion. Then memento of that day of grace and happi. there is the large and well constructed presbytery erected by the Franciscan Fathers, and hard by one of the finest tismal vows was then read by Master Separate Schools in the Province. Our heart warms, we must confess it, to a good Catholic school, and we need no further proof that a thoroughly Catholic spirit pervades a congregation or parish than a finely equipped school edifice. The Catholic school of Chatham is a large and commodious three-story brick building, a real credit to the priests and people of the town. The average attendance of children at this school is about three hundred, in charge of a staff of seven teachers. The head teacher, Mr. Killackey, is a gentleman in all regards qualified for the post he so well fills, and gives every satisfaction. He is assisted by four of the Ursuline ladies, and by the Misses McBrady and Dunn, all of whom are

most efficient preceptresses. eparate School, it is likewise so of its lamous Academy of "the Pines," in an Academy that has won more than a provincial reputation. women true, devoted, and stain-Admirably situated in one of the prettiest parts of the town, the convent edifice is one that would do credit to any of the largest cities in the Province. The interior arrangement of the building, its large, airy rooms, its spacious halls and lofty ceilings, and well-ventilated apartments, have most favorably impressed us with this institution as one of the very best appointed in this regard we have ever visited. The commencement, which took place on 25th ult., was the twenty-third in the history of this institution. The exercises of this impressive event were carried out with a faultless exactness, and afforded the liveliest pleasure to the large assemblage of lady and gentlemen visitors. His Lordship the Bishop of London, presided, assisted by the following clergy: Very Rev. Dean Wagner, Windsor ; Rev. Fathers William, O. S. F., Chatham ; Girard, Belle River; Lorion, Ruscom River; Brennan, St. Marys; Coffey, London ; West, Raleigh ; Ryan, Wallaceburg Ryan, Amherstburg ; Hodgkinson, Maid stone ; Innocent, O. S. F., Chatham ; Dixon, Bothwell; McBrady, Cushin, and Donahoe, Assumption College, Sandwich. The programme selected for the occasion, all the parts of which were skilfully executed, was as follows:

Operetta-Coronation of the Rose.-Vocal Class. acc. Misses Gies and Richards, (2 pianos)
Instrumental Solo.—"Rigoletta."

Miss McDonnell Concert Declamation .- "The Pines"

Juvenile Class.

Juvenile Class.

Instrumental Trio (2 pianos)—

("Don Giovanni")

("Wedding March")

Misses Kelley, Brothers, Henry, Gies,
Glums and Adderly.

Vocol Solo.—"Ave Maria"......Schubert.

Miss Simmons. Acce. Miss Richards.

Instrumental Solo.—"March Militari". Instrumental Solo .- "March Militari" Schubert Tansig.

Richards.

Miss McDonnell.
Instrumental Solo (2 pianos)—"Oberon" Misses Simmons and Richards.

Vocal Solo—"Erl King"......Schubert.
Miss Guiney, Acce. Miss Richards.
Instrumental Quartette (2 pianos)—
"March of the Troubadours"...Roubier. Misses Power, Atkinson, S. and M. Coonan.

Vocal Trio-"Softly blows the evening

of the Hussars' Spindler.

Misses McGonnegal, Heyward, Sullivan,
Watson, McGormack and Williams.
Concert Declamation—"My old Straw
Hat" Senior Class.

We were very much impressed with the elocutionary power evinced by the pupils in the concert declamations. The French drama was well rendered by the following cast of characters:

Madelon Soeur de Perrine..... Devries

Mme. De Beauregard, Marquise Rondot

Edith sa fill...... F, Mc-Babet Bonne d'Edith..... " McCor-

mick.
The honors conferred on the occasion

were as follows : Gold medal for Christian Doctrine— Presented by Right Reverend John Walsh, Bishop of London, successful competitor

Miss Kennedy; distinguished, Misses M. Adderly, Guiney, S. Coonan. St. Cecilia's Gold Medal—Awarded to Miss McDonnell

equally deserved by the Misses Guiney and Henry. Distinguished—Misses Adderly, Rich, Gies, LeDuke, Devries, Cahalan and Kennedy. Silver Medal—Intermediate Kennedy. Silver Medal—Intermediate department, awarded to Miss Cada; distinguished competitors—Misses Watson, Ruoff, Rich, Brady, F. McGonnegal, S. Aderly, Mount and Sullivan. Silver Medal—Junior department, awarded to Miss B. McGonnegal; distinguished competitors. Miss B. McGonnegal; distinguished competitors—Misses Power and Baby.

After the distribution of prizes His Lordship spoke in his usual happy manner. He thanked the young lady pupils, as well on his own behalf as on that of the clergy, for the excellent entertainment they had provided for the commencement. They had given proof of their many and varied acquirements : in fact, he felt that when they reached their respective homes, the wonder would be, as it was in the case of Goldsmith's village schoolmaster, that one small head could carry all they knew. His Lordship felt convinced that under the guidance of their good and holy teachers they had not only sought to excell in learning but in virtue. He pointed out that virtue in its many saving forms, humility, purity, charity in conversation patience and self-denial, was the safeguard But if Chatham be justly proud of its and the ornament of the female character. The aim and object of such institutions as that of which they were pupils, and the charge of the Ursuline ladies, purpose of Holy Church in their establishment was to give human society less. His Lordship concluded with an expression of his best wishes not only for a pleasant vacation but for a very

happy life. We were pleased to learn from the Lady Superior that the Academy is in a most flourishing condition, the number of pupils in attendance last term being fully eighty, of whom fifty were boarders. We are fully convinced that the more generally the merits of this institution become known the larger will be the attendance of pupils, till it reaches a number as near the maximum of its capacity as may be desired by the good Ursuline nuns.

The town and parish of Chatham have every reason indeed to feel gratified with the good done in their midst by the Academy of the Pines. During the twenty years and more of its existence it has not only done honor to its founders but conferred the highest advantages on society, one of whose firmest props is a womanhood pure, devoted and unselfish.

We were pleased to hear from Father William and his zealous assistant, Father Innocent, that there is in Chatham a prosperous branch of the C. M. B. A. There are also flourishing sodalities for the young men and women of the parish in which the greatest interest is manifested. The church services are very largely attended, 1200 being the average for the last mass and fully 1000 for the evening devotion, on Sundays. In the evening as well as in the morning, sermons of a practical and occasionally of a controversial character are delivered. Notes of some of Father William's discourses have from time to time been published in to form some idea of his force of thought and clearness of enunciation. With priests so earnest and so zealous as the good Franciscans, whose sombre and hisopeful and progressive.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

- The examinations of the various classes of the city Separate Schools took place on Monday last. His Lordship presided at St. Peter's School, and Father Cornyn at St. Mary's. Next week we hope to give full particulars.

- The Antigonish Aurora does us injustice in its comments on our article on the bible in public schools, and proves itself unacquainted with the nerits of the question at issue.

- The French Canadian national demonstration last week in Montreal was a grand success. Representatives of societies from all portions of Canada and the United States were present to fraternize with their Montreal brethren. The celebration was in all regards thoroughly Catholic.

- Our space is this week so over, taxed that we are reluctantly but unavoidably compelled to hold over for another issue reports of the commencement exercises of various educational institutions, amongst others, Loretto Convent, Stratford; St. Mary's Academy, Winnipeg; and Immaculate Conception Convent, Pembroke.

_St. Jean Baptiste Day was celebrated by the French Canadians of Essex and Kent at Stoney Point. In the morning at High Mass, which was celebrated by the Rev. Father Boubat, P. P., Walkerville, Rev. Father Girard preached a

The committee of management deserve great credit for the success, financial and otherwise, which crowned their efforts on behalf of the schools of Strat.

ford. - The Democratic national convention will meet on the 8th inst., in Chicago. From the present outlook it appears probable that Gov. Cleveland, of New York, will receive the nomination. There has been some talk of Tilden's withdrawing his refusal of a nomination, but his friends say there is nothing in it, as the Sage of Grammercy is not the man to trifle with things so solemn,

- The pleasing news reaches us from Newtoundland that the nineteen Riverhead men accused of the murder of five Orangemen at St. Stephen, have been all acquitted. In this, as in most cases where Orangeism is concerned, the murder is all on the one side, that of the Orangemen themselves. In this case they suffered at the hands of the men they sought to murder. We hope they are satisfied with the result of their appeal to physical force.

- Prince Victor has no doubt finally dissociated himself politically from his bombastic infidel parent. His only hope of success lay in some such course. In a letter to M. Jolibois, he says he has profound respect for his father, but that he was obliged to leave the paternal roof since he had the right to think for himself, and as the only line of conduct was the one enjoined by Napoleon I: and Napoleon III, he declares he will maintain intact his great inheritance.

- Cardinal McCabe lately raised objection to Mr. Winstanley, Home Rule candidate for the Lord Mayoralty of Dublin, on the ground of his being a Freemason. A cable despatch, since the Cardinal's objection was made public, conveys the pleasing intelligence that Mr. Winstanley, Home Rule candidate for the mayoralty of Dublin, has publicly renounced Masonry. It is now of course expected that Archbishop McCabe will recall his pastoral letter forbidding the Catholics to support Winstanley, as the latter, by his withdrawal from Masonry, has placed himself outside of the ban of the Pope's allocution on Free Masonry. - The cholera appears to have gained

a stronger foothold than expected in the ports of Southern France. At Marseilles, on June 28th, the United States Consul reported the situation as rather worse : 9 deaths on Wednesday, 10 on Thursday, and 62 cases at the naval hospital. Commerce is suspended and the Italian residents are all leaving. Traffic with Italian and Spanish ports is shut off. Twelve deaths occurred at Toulon on the 27th. It is now generally believed the disease is Asiatic cholera, the symptoms of which are manifest at post mortem examinations. Fires are burning in the streets day and night as a purifying means, and all the old beds and rags in the city are being consumed. Vessels for this port are quarantined at Constantinople. The authorities are taking our columns and have enabled our readers every precaution to prevent a spread of the disease."

- Our respected contemporary the Advertiser says :- "Ottawa is declared by our esteemed contemporary the Free toric habit recalls the great ages of faith, Press of that city to be the healthiest it is not to be marvelled at that Catho- city in Canada. The official vital licity in Chatham should be healthful, statistics go to show that the death rate is higher in Ottawa than in any other city in Canada. Ottawa, as near as we can make out, from these two statements, is a healthy city in the same sense that a bed-ridden man is lucky in not being run over by a street car. You won't die in Ottawa if you keep out of it." We have not seen the statistics referred to by the Advertiser, but can assure him that if they speak as he states they do, they speak that which is untrue. Ottawa is one of the healthiest cities on the continent.

- A despatch from Mexico dated June 30, says: "A Protestant mission at Zelaya on the Central Railroad, was attacked by a mob, who destroyed the furniture and effects. Rev. Mr. Greeman and others escaped to a neighboring house and were pursued and fired on. Returning the fire, they killed one and wounded several of the mob. which then dispersed. The mission party was then protected by Federal soldiers. Greeman is now at the American legation. The Mayor of Zelava encouraged the attack and refused him protection. The average Protestant missionary in Mexico is a veritable plague spot in the community. Aggressive and insulting, he knows not how to respect the feelings or the rights of men-better Christians than himself. Details of the affair at Zelaya will, we have no doubt, show that the missionaries there were themselves the cause of the uprising.

ville, Rev. Father Girard preached a most eloquent sermon. In the afternoon a picnic was held in the neighborhood of the village at which there was an immense attendance.

— At the picnic held on Thursday, the 27th, in aid of the Stratford Catholic schools, there was a very large attendance and the whole affair proved a very decided success. Amongst the clergy present were Rev. Dr. Kilroy, Fathers Brennan, Carlin, Ansbro and McGee. Dr. Gross, the Roman Catholic Bishop

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