



DANGER OF DOUBT.

Special Illustration.

When that splendid Catholic layman, Frederick Ozaman, who founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, was seventeen years old, he was assailed with doubts about his religion. He had been very carefully educated and instructed in his religion by his excellent parents, who were both devout, practical Catholics, and, of course, naturally took his religion for granted. But he was a precocious young man of brilliant talents, high aspirations and lofty ideals, and all at once he was surprised to find himself questioning the foundations of his faith. He was not naturally inclined to doubt. He did not want to give up his faith; on the contrary, he clung to it with great tenacity. After battling with his doubts for some time he resolved to go to a learned and devout priest who had the reputation of being a profound philosopher and theologian. This good priest very soon satisfied his doubts, and from that time he commenced that brilliant career of faith, devotion and practical charity which has rendered him famous throughout the world, and which will carry his name down to future generations as one of the greatest benefactors of mankind.

The example of this admirable young layman furnishes a very important lesson, peculiarly adapted to the present time, when a disposition to skepticism and doubt is so generally prevalent. The lesson is that doubt is more matter of the will than of the intellect. It is easy to doubt for one who is so disposed. There is plenty of food for a disordered intellect influenced by a will debased by intellectual pride and self-indulgence. The world is full of mysteries which puzzle the proudest intellect. If a man is so disposed he can go on doubting, questioning and puzzling himself forever. He may even doubt about the existence of God. But there is no merit in doubting. Some men seem to be proud of their doubting, but it is no evidence of intellectual superiority.

Doubters and skeptics complain of mysteries in Christianity, but there are no greater mysteries in Christianity than there are in nature. You do not gain anything by discarding Christianity, on account of its mysteries, and taking up with nature, which has just as great and even greater mysteries, with no clue to any rational explanation, while Christianity, as embodied in the traditional teaching of the Catholic Church, has a grand intellectual system, unique, harmonious, and bound together in all its parts by the most stringent and conclusive course of logical reasoning—a system which, in the progress of ages, has satisfied the greatest minds that have ever lived.

Doubt is generally the result of intellectual pride or want of sufficient knowledge of the true teaching of Christianity. Some are more inclined to doubt than others. In fact, some seem almost to have been born with a skeptical spirit. The celebrated French writer, Renan, was a remarkable instance of this. He was educated by the Jesuits, who are among the ablest reasoners and most profound philosophers and theologians in the world. Yet he seemed to be possessed with a skeptical spirit from the start. His intellectual pride led him to question even the most fundamental and universally accepted truths. They could make nothing of him and could only predict a brilliant but erratic career for the young man, which he only too surely fulfilled. Spite of his brilliant writing, his fascinating style and great show of learning, he was far from being an accurate and reliable writer, and many of his reasonings against Christianity were puerile in the extreme, unworthy a schoolboy of common intelligence.

For the encouragement of us weaker Christians we may remember that even good and holy men have been assaulted by the demon of doubt. Even so illustrious a man as Cardinal Wiseman, when a student in Rome, distinguished for his remarkable talents, his profound learning and brilliant oratory, all at once found himself troubled with doubts about the faith.

A man of his energy and rare talents, of course, could not rest until he had gone over the ground with the greatest thoroughness. The result was what might have been expected. His doubts vanished and the influence of his deep conviction was shown in the wonderful work which he accomplished in England, stemming the tide of anti-Catholic prejudice and reviving and establishing the old Church on a firm foundation.

Bishop Neumann of Philadelphia had a similar experience, and now his name is before the Congregation of Rites as a candidate for canonization.

Temptations to doubt are often apparently permitted to try our faith and test our fidelity. If through pride, or passion, or natural inclination we yield to doubts, dwell upon and encourage them, we shall inevitably be led into skepticism and infidelity. If, on the other hand, we reject and abhor them as a temptation of the great enemy of our souls; if, like Ozaman, Wiseman and Neumann, we cling to our faith, take pains to satisfy and banish our doubts, we shall be confirmed and strengthened, and our faith will prove an anchor to the soul sure and steadfast and that entereth within the veil.

The tallest chimney in the world is in Glasgow and is 427 feet high, the second highest chimney, 353 feet high, has just been erected in New York.

"HOME RULE INEVITABLE."

Lord Emlay in announcing to an interviewer his secession from the Unionist party conveyed some home truths to the Government. The Government, he said, was the most offensively anti Catholic Government of modern times, had intensified the hatred with which English rule was regarded in Ireland, and had made Home Rule inevitable. To Conservatives who had been congratulating themselves that the Home Rule cause was practically dead, and to liberals who thought that they were engaged in burying it, this must seem a somewhat remarkable saying. But it is none the less true that the prospects of the Nationalists in Ireland are brighter just now than they have been for many a day. Men of social position such as Lord Emlay are beginning to cast in their lot with the people; the electoral lists are favourable to the Home Rulers, who will according to registration returns oust from St. Stephen's Green Division the single Unionist representative in the Irish capital; and, most important point of all the movement for unity which the Limerick Board of Guardians recently initiated has been taken up by the people with such earnestness that the leaders will be unable to resist it.—L'pool Cath. Times.

ST. BONIFACE

EXAMINATIONS.

RESULT OF THE SEMI-ANNUALS FOR THE COLLEGE AND SCHOOL.

Below are given the results of the semi-annual examinations held at St. Boniface college school last week. Each subject is divided into three classes. The first class contains the names of those who have succeeded in obtaining at least the note "good." The second "almost good," and the third "middling." In each of these grades the names are arranged in alphabetical order, independent of the rank obtained by the pupils. The examination, which took place at St. Boniface college, was not a competitive one; its only aim being to establish the absolute level of each scholar of each class in the college. The students who have failed in obtaining at least the note "middling," under the subject in question will not find their names classified.

RHETORIC.

Religious Instruction—Class I—Beaupré E., Bellavance A., Bernier A., Dubuc A., Lagimodière, Prud'homme; class II—Arsenault.

Latin—Class I—Beaupré, Bellavance, Bernier, Dubuc, Prud'homme; class II—Arsenault, Lagimodière.

Greek—Class I—Beaupré, Bellavance, Bernier, Dubuc, Prud'homme; class II—Arsenault.

French—Class I—Beaupré,

Bellavance, Bernier, Dubuc, Prud'homme; class II—Arsenault.

English—Class I—Arsenault, Beaupré, Bellavance, Bernier, Dubuc; class II—Lagimodière, Prud'homme.

History—Class I—Arsenault, Beaupré, Bellavance, Bernier, Dubuc, Lagimodière, Prud'homme.

Trigonometry—Class I—Arsenault, Beaupré, Bellavance, Dubuc, Prud'homme; class II—Bernier.

Euclid—Class I—Arsenault, Beaupré, Bellavance, Bernier, Dubuc, Prud'homme.

Algebra—Class I—Beaupré, Bellavance, Bernier, Dubuc, Prud'homme; class II—Lagimodière; class III—Arsenault.

Chemistry—Class I—Beaupré, Bellavance, Dubuc, Prud'homme; class II—Bernier; class III—Arsenault, Lagimodière.

An examination prize has been given to Elzéar Beaupré for his obtaining the note "very good" in each of the preceding matters.

HUMANITIES.

Religious Instruction—Class I—Magnan, Sabourin; class III—Lord.

Latin—Class I—Lord, Sabourin; class II—Magnan.

Greek—Class I—Magnan, Sabourin; class II—Lord.

French—Class I—Sabourin; class II—Magnan; class III—Lord.

History—Class I—Magnan, Sabourin, class III—Lord.

Euclid—Class I—Magnan, Sabourin; class II—Lord.

Algebra—Class I—Lord, Magnan, Sabourin.

Arithmetic—Class I—Magnan, Sabourin; Class II—Lord.

VERSIFICATION.

Religious Instruction—Class I—Beaubien; class III—Clarke, Guay, Migneault.

Latin—Class I—Beaubien, Clarke; class II—Béliveau, Guay, Migneault.

French—Class I—Beaubien, Béliveau, Clarke; class II—Guay, Migneault.

Greek—Class I—Beaubien, Clarke; class II—Béliveau, Guay, Migneault.

English—Class I—Beaubien, Béliveau, Clarke, Guay, Migneault.

Algebra—Class I—Beaubien, Béliveau, Clarke, Guay, Migneault.

History—Class I—Beaubien; class II—Clarke Migneault; class III—Béliveau, Guay.

Geography—Class I—Béliveau, Beaubien, Clarke, Migneault; class II—Guay.

SYNTAX.

Religious Instruction Class I Bellavance N., Bertrand A., Caron J., Collin, Hogue A., Laurendeau, L'Évêque J., Pambrun L., Péalapa.

Latin Class I Bertrand, Caron, Collin, L'Évêque, Pambrun, Péalapa; class II Hogue; class III Bellavance.

Greek Class I Bellavance, Bertrand, Caron, Collin, Hogue,

Laurendeau, L'Évêque, Pambrun, Péalapa.

French Class I Péalapa; class II Bellavance, Caron, Collin, Hogue, L'Évêque, Pambrun; class III Bertrand, Laurendeau.

English Class I Bellavance, Bertrand, Caron, Collin, Hogue, Laurendeau, L'Évêque, Péalapa.

Arithmetic Class I Caron, Laurendeau, L'Évêque, Péalapa; class II Bertrand; class III Bellavance, Collin, Hogue, Pambrun.

History Class I Bellavance, Bertrand, Caron, Collin, Hogue, Laurendeau, Pambrun, Péalapa; class II L'Évêque.

Geography Class I Bertrand, Collin, Pambrun, Péalapa; class II Bellavance, Caron, Hogue, Laurendeau.

An examination prize has been awarded to Louis Péalapa, who has deserved the note "very good" in every branch.

LATIN ELEMENTS.

Religious Instruction Class I Mondor, Noël; class II Fillion, Paré Alf., class III Dupas.

Latin Class I Beaupré A., Dupas, Mondor, Noël; class III Fillion.

French Class I Beaupré, Dupas, Mondor, Noël; class II Paré.

English Class I Beaupré, Dupas, Fillion, Mondor, Noël.

Arithmetic Class I Beaupré, Dupas, Mondor, Noël; class II Paré.

History Class I Mondor, Noël; class II Beaupré; class III Fillion, Paré.

Geography Class I Noël; class III Beaupré, Mondor, Paré.

To be continued.

His Grace Archbishop Langevin preached two admirable sermons on New Year's Day. The first was at High Mass in the Cathedral. He spoke in French with a depth of feeling and facility of expression that recalled the palmist days of the late Archbishop Taché's soulful eloquence. In the evening Mgr. Langevin gave a brief stirring English address in St. Mary's Church. "If," said he, "people ask you why your archbishop is so silent now, tell them that he is obeying the Vicar of Christ."

A New Departure.

Dr. Marschand, the celebrated French physician, has at last opened his magnificently equipped laboratory in Windsor, Ont. There is a large staff of chemists and physicians at his command, and the men and women of Canada may now procure the advice of this famous specialist free of charge.

Dr. Marschand has a world-wide reputation for successfully treating all nervous diseases of men and women, and you have but to write the doctor to be convinced that your answer, when received, is from a man who is entitled to the high position he holds in the medical fraternity.

Why suffer in silence when you can secure the advice of this eminent physician free of charge.

All correspondence is strictly confidential and names are held sacred. Answers to correspondents are mailed in plain envelopes.

You are not asked to pay any exorbitant price for medicines, in fact it rarely happens that a patient has expended over 50 cents to one dollar before he or she becomes a firm friend and admirer of the doctor.

A special staff of lady physicians assist Dr. Marschand in his treatment of female cases. Always inclose three-cent stamp when you write and address The Dr. Marschand Chemical Co., Detroit, Mich. U. S. A. Mention the Northwest Review when you write the Doctor.