

THE TRUE WITNESS

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED AT

No. 751, Craig Street, Montreal, Canada.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Country.....\$1 00

City.....1 50

If not paid in advance: \$1.50 (Country) and \$2 (City) will be charged.

Subscribers, Newfoundland, \$1.50 a year in advance.

WEDNESDAY.....JULY 5, 1893

COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS.

Last week we published two communications, one regarding English in the Colleges, the other on the question of English inspection of our schools. We have a word to say about each, in this issue; we shall have more to say on these subjects later on.

Our first correspondent called attention to the absence of English instruction in our larger houses of education and incidentally referred to St. Mary's College, asking whether or not its authorities could do something in the matter to ameliorate the condition of things. That letter might easily be open to misconception, on account of the way in which the writer conveys his thought. At first reading one might naturally suppose that he considered it the duty of the Jesuits to look after the English classical training of the Province and singled out St. Mary's College as an example to illustrate the grounds of his complaint. However, that is not—if we understand the writer's intentions—what he seeks to convey. He desires to point out that in our many Classical Colleges, in Quebec, the English language is more or less neglected and he thinks that some leading institution—such as St. Mary's College—might perhaps be able to make up for the lack in the other houses of education.

As to the absence of English courses there is not the slightest doubt; and as to neglect of that language, as a rule, the facts are there to support the contention. But we must take into consideration that there are colleges, in this Province, (like that of St. Laurent) where a complete English course is given; and even then such institutions are more or less handicapped, because of the small number of English speaking students, and the scattering of them into different Colleges—a few in each. In the St. Mary's College, if we mistake not, there is an English classical course commenced, and it goes as high as Belles-Lettres; there is also a probability of Rhetoric being added thereto in the near future. But how could we reasonably ask an institution of that kind to keep up a whole course, with all its staff, professors, and expenses, for the benefit of a handful of boys? We doubt very much if there are half a dozen pupils in that institution who would take advantage of the course. If all the English speaking students in the Province were to unite upon one college, then there would be sufficient encouragement for that particular institution to create a course for them. We must be just in all things, and too often we find fault with institutions without ever having had the least practical experience of the working of these establishments. Moreover, there is the University of Ottawa, there are all those Catholic colleges scattered over the neighboring Republic where most thorough English courses are given. Why not try some of them if the curriculum generally adopted in Quebec does not suit?

Let us turn to the letter signed "Parent," which we took from the Toronto

Empire. In a few lines the writer of that letter comes to the point and opens out a question of most vital importance. He asks simply for an English-speaking inspector for our schools. Nothing more reasonable and nothing more necessary. Considering the large amount of school taxes paid by our English-speaking Catholics, the number of their children that attend the schools, the uneven competition which they must sustain, and the general requirements of this age, we say that, for this district at least, an English-speaking inspector is required and in a most imperative way. When we say an inspector, we mean an *inspector*—not a person who visits a school at a stated period and sends a letter to announce his coming, who then goes through the form of shaking hands with the principal and the teachers and of listening to a few questions that the pupils very probably have answered times out of mind and who goes away, makes a report, and thinks he has fulfilled his duty toward the school and toward the public that pays him. We want a man who has a mind of his own, who has had a practical training, who has been more than a teacher, who is an organizer and who knows how to so classify pupils and assign classes to teachers that the most possible good may be produced at the expense of the least possible labor and loss of time. We want a person who will be on hand at the opening of the scholastic year and will be in attendance until the close of the term. He should make it his duty to examine every class before the yearly programme is commenced, and to come and go just as he thought that circumstances required. To walk into the schools at any hour and without any notice; to examine the pupils personally—not through their teachers; to see that their knowledge of English is something more than the rules of grammar and spelling. Such a man must be an English-speaking one and a trained scholar, and such an inspector is required. Until we have a man of that caliber the English-speaking Catholics will not get fair return for the money they pay, nor will their children get justice according to their requirements. Such an officer need in no way interfere with the important duties of the French inspector. Both could work in harmony, each in his own sphere. More on this subject anon!

THE "STAR'S" BLUNDER.

Our twinkling contemporary, the independent, the enterprising and brilliant Star has never committed, in all its countless blunders, a greater one than to have unjustly attacked the French-Canadians—as a people—in the very ungenerous tone of its article on Monday the 26th June last. In accusing the French-Canadians of drunkenness and of inferiority the Star was wrong and gave evidence of a very unpatriotic spirit. In *La Presse* of Thursday we find Recorder de Montigny giving the lie direct to whomsoever it was that penned the attack upon the people of his nationality. He points out his own court as the very best barometer of public morals, and before that tribunal the three-fourths of those who are accused, tried and condemned are of nationalities other than French-Canadian, and yet the four-fifths of the population are French-Canadians. On Monday, the 26th June, there were thirty-six prisoners before the Recorder, fourteen were French-Canadians and the remaining twenty-two were of other nationalities.

In addition to this reply to the Star's attack we find the Shoemakers' Assembly, while disapproving of the Sunday saloon opening, passing resolutions con-

demning, as false and malicious, the assertions of that organ. *Le Monde* informs its readers that a representative of the Star saw fit to blow a trumpet-blast of independence and proclaim openly that the Star could do without the French-Canadians, and their support—it has no need for them. If such be the case, then the sooner the Star learns that it is not independent of either one nationality or the other the better for that journal's prospects.

In the first place it is unjust and mean to accuse a whole people of drunkenness, or any other vice, simply because an unwise act has been committed. We suppose that the Star bases its assertions upon the fact that the saloons were opened on Sunday; if so it is reasoning from the particular to the general. We are not too certain that French-Canadians were to blame for that ill-advised step; and we are certain—by positive evidence—that French-Canadians did not take advantage of it to drink to excess, not even as much as did strangers to their nationality. But "one swallow don't make a summer;" neither does one act of public disregard for the license laws merit a sweeping condemnation upon a whole race. It is true there are French-Canadians who do drink to excess—they are the exceptions; there are others who drink moderately and may be called temperate men, although not total abstainers—they form a large percentage of the race; finally there are others who have ever been in the vanguard as the apostles of temperance, hundreds who have preached unceasingly against drink, thousands who have practised total abstinence all their lives, tens of thousands who have given, during all their days, most glorious examples of fidelity to the noble cause that a Father Mathew inaugurated in another land. In a word, there is not in Canada, or elsewhere, a more sober race than the French-Canadian are; for evidence go from parish to parish, from Pontiac to Gaspé, and we defy you to find either drunkenness or immorality amongst the mass of the people. It is owing to the absence of the latter that the French-Canadian race is so prolific; it is due to the absence of the former that the average French-Canadian is so hardy and long lived.

But upon that point every other nationality has its drunkards, its moderate drinkers and its total abstainers: not one can cast a stone at the other. It is as mean and as unjust to accuse a whole people of a vice because one individual or a few may have contracted it, as it is to call a man a liar on account of one error against the truth. Still there is another point far more important than the mere accusation launched by the Star, it is the audacity of that wandering orb in supposing itself independent of French or any other support. Remember that we live in a cosmopolitan country; that we have here different races all blending in the formation of a Canadian nationality; not one of us is independent of the other—neither as a people, nor as individuals. In this province the French-Canadians are in the vast majority and they could afford to live without the uncertain light of the Star, they would be just as happy and as prosperous in commerce, in letters, in nationality and in religion if the Star never existed; but we doubt very much if the Star would be as haughty, as cocksure of itself, and as rich as it has seemingly become, were it not for the encouragement that it received from the French-Canadians. Evidently there are two elements that the Star abominates—one is Irish, the other is French, and both are Catholic.

President Carnot, of France, is ill.

THE FOURTH OF JULY.

Yesterday was the anniversary of American Independence, the "glorious Fourth of July." It is a great day with our friends across the line: it is a day of general rejoicing, banquets, patriotic speeches, fire-crackers and picnics. It is also the day upon which the younger generation is taught lessons in the history of a glorious past and is filled with bright aspirations for the future. America—by which we mean the United States—is proud of her institutions, her constitution, her history of one hundred and sixteen years, and justly is she proud of them. Her sixty-five millions to-day are citizens of the grandest Republic that the world has ever beheld. There may be a touch of spread-eagleism in the orations that are poured forth on the Fourth of July; but it is preferable to have too high an opinion of one's country than to fail in an appreciation of her greatness; it is better to err in an extravagance of patriotism than to sink into a national indifference and lethargy; and the citizens of the United States deserve the highest credit for their ardent love of country.

Because the mass of the Canadian people, and every reputable statesman that Canada has ever had since Confederation, are opposed to the few mountebank politicians that seek notoriety by crying out for what they know to be impossible, that is *annexation*, does not prevent us from honoring the laws and constitution of the Republic, of respecting the memories of her great men and of wishing well to the Union in its every step along the way of progress. The truth is that the United States does not want Canada, nor would Canada suit as portion of that country's territory, and Canada does not want to be united to the States, nor would such a union be to the mutual benefit of both countries. Commercially, politically and in every other wise they run in two very different grooves. The institutions and constitution of the United States are admirably adapted to the requirements of a people who have had over a century's experience of their working; the institutions and constitution of Canada are perfectly suited to a people that has laid their foundations and built up their superstructures. The American people could not accept either our institutions or our constitution—they would neither suit their habits, customs or peculiarities; so with Canadians, it would take several generations, in a state of transition, to pass from under the dome of our present political and social structure to the halls of American nationality. Side by side, each country carrying out its own mission; each making its own laws according to the requirements of its people; each living in the atmosphere that is natural to itself, Canada and the United States may go on for long centuries opening out their fields to the advance guard of civilization and flinging wide their portals to the envoys of Christianity.

And if these two great countries of the north advance, as they have done in the past, with steady steps up the highway of greatness there is a certainty that, at no distant period, our Dominion Day and their Fourth of July will be national festivals held by the children of every European nation.

Congregational singing has been introduced in St. Paul's Church, Washington, D. C., not only at Vespers but also at Mass, and is in every way a success.

The World's Fair receipts from all sources, to May 31st, were \$20,809,545; the expenditures, \$19,142,981. The gate receipts were \$682,905.