

DIVORCE.

Last week we started out with the intention of referring to Prof. Samuel J. Brun's article in the North American Review on the subject of "Divorce made Easy," but the absurdity of M. Naquet's contentions drew us into a refutation of that gentleman's illogical arguments. This now notorious advocate of loose laws—M. Naquet—contends that divorces diminish in number in proportion to the elasticity of the laws governing them. So absurd is the statement that, on the very face of it, the ridiculousness is apparent. It is against such a foolish and sophistical argument that Prof. Brun writes. In the course of his able article he shows that, in France, for incompatibility of temper, according to M. Glas-son, during twenty seven months after the promulgation of the divorce law in 1792, six thousand divorces took place in the city of Paris; and in 1797 the divorces, in France, out-numbered the marriages. Duval, the historian, in his "Souvenirs Thermidorien" tells how divorces were granted on account of simple contradictions between the spouses.

As an example of the immoral and fearful results of the loose laws then enacted we have the story of L'Abbe Hervier, of St. Eustache, near Paris. This imitation of Luther and worthy example for Hyacinthe and Chiniquy turned from the Church and took unto himself a wife. The civil magistrate who performed the ceremony of marriage was the divorced husband of the very woman whom he united with Hervier; and it was Hervier—before his fall—who first married the divorced couple. Here was the man marrying his divorced wife to the priest who pronounced the nuptial blessing upon them in the ante-divorce days. We give this example merely as an illustration of the abominable results of a law that tampers with the sacred sacrament of the Church and that usurps the rights which God has reserved to Himself.

Prof. Brun shows that in the United States, when the population increased sixty per cent., the divorces increased one hundred and fifty seven per cent. In 1867 there were 9,937 divorces in the United States; in 1886, there were 25,535; in twenty years there were 328,716. Then comes the question of illegitimacy of the children. During those twenty years of active divorcing there were 287,739 children involved in the wholesale miseries that were brought upon their lives. We might go on with statistics and fill a small volume with figures and yet not reach the end of the long train of horrors that owe their existence to the law of divorce. But there is one particular point which the professor makes and this we desire to touch upon, as it comes home to us in Canada and may be read with profit by our members of Parliament, our senators and our leaders in public affairs. He shows that a divorce law may be simply passed because one or two have an interest in having it upon the statute book, and no one caring to bother himself with it, the bill is allowed to go through unopposed. The moment it becomes law it affects every individual, male and female, in the country as well as the couple whose special purpose was served by its passage. On this point we wish to write, and desire to draw the attention of our readers, and especially of our legislators, to it.

A member of parliament, in his own interest, or more likely in the interest of some one of his electors, desires to have a divorce bill passed through the legislature and placed upon the statute books of the country. It is very easy for

such a representative to secure a second, or perhaps, two or three co-operators. The measure is consequently brought before the House through his instrumentality and, unless serious opposition is made to it, there is every probability of it eventually becoming law. The other members of the same legislative body have no special interest in that particular bill, nor have they any object in creating opposition to it. They are more or less busy with their own schemes and right glad of an opportunity of being let alone on this question. The result is they pay no attention to the details of the measure, to the reasons given for its passage; if they don't feel inclined to vote for it, they see no reason why they should put themselves about to vote or work against it. The result is that a law is passed in the direct interest of a couple of individuals who are anxious to escape an existing and higher law. The blot is dropped upon the statute-book there to remain. But once it has become law it affects the whole country as well as the few who sought to have it passed. If it be a private bill, it creates a precedent, and one precedent creates another; until the frequency of precedents creates a custom and eventually that custom finds expression in a general divorce law.

We do not pretend to dictate to those who believe not with us, but we do say that no Catholic legislator can be excused for the fearful sin of omission which permits even a private divorce bill to go unchallenged. If, in this country, our Catholic representatives had the manhood, the principle and the stability to crush all party difference under foot, on occasions of a like nature, and, irrespective of politics, to vote unanimously against every attempt at divorce legislation—private or public—they would be doing themselves honor, they would be a credit to their faith, and they would be serving the very best interests of their country. We would beg of our Catholic members of Parliament, our Catholic Senators, and our Catholic ministers to show themselves worthy the principles that they have learned from the Church of Christ. We address ourselves to Conservatives and Liberals alike.

It was only last week that we wrote about the uncompromising attitude of the Church with regard to the world, to sin, and to the devil. Other denominations, calling themselves Christian, may hold parley with the powers of evil; they may compromise with questionable morality; they may ignore the great safeguard of humanity in the perpetual solidity of the marriage bond; but the Catholic Church cannot barter the law of Christ for any earthly gain, and no Catholic can, in conscience, permit of the least intrusion upon the sanctity of wedlock. It is no excuse to say that he did not vote for it, that he held aloof, that he was not interested. In such a case his sin of omission is almost as great as the sin of commission would be were he to have cast his vote in its favor. Divorce has been the mother of all the immorality, the social and national ruin of Europe; it is the serpent that will sting the American Republic to death; let Canada have none of it.

We received quite a lengthy and most critical letter from a gentleman, who is evidently deeply interested in mystical studies, and who finds great fault with our recent editorial upon the "Supernatural." He also considers that our remarks upon two of our contemporaries, anent their mode of treating Catholic and sacred subjects, are not justifiable, and that we deal as harshly with the be-

lievers in hypnotism, mesmerism, and all such like issues. The letter reached us after our first form was made up and having no space in the second one for it, we will leave it till next week. But we shall give it to our readers in our next issue. The letter all unwittingly corroborates our arguments in the editorial that it criticises.

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT.

We refer a week ago to an essay on the "Management of Christian Schools" by the member of the Order of Christian Brothers. We had intended analyzing that splendid addition to the educational literature of the day; but we find that the task is beyond all question of possibility at present. It would require more space than we can afford to give even a slight idea of all that important material contained in that one small volume. To go into it at all would demand several pages: however, we feel bound to say that every educator and friend of Catholic education should have a copy of the work. We will quote a few paragraphs from the preface, which may serve to convey a better idea of the amount of information contained in those two hundred and fifty pages.

The objects of the essay are: "first, to determine and specify the method and system to be followed in our classes; second, to enable our teachers to become acquainted with those methods, which, having stood the test of experience, may be advantageously used in the discharge of their duties; third, to establish uniformity throughout our Schools, so that, the system followed being everywhere the same, the pupils may suffer no inconvenience, either from a change of teachers or from passing from one class to another." After giving a short sketch of the system of instruction founded by the Blessed De La Salle, and its subsequent development and perfection, the writer says truly "that a book of this nature can never be said to be complete: additional experience, the development of methodology, legislative enactments, unforeseen exigencies, and the like demand, from time to time, various modifications." To these truthful remarks is added the following piece of most agreeable information: "Moreover as the infliction of corporal punishment is not permitted in our Schools, it becomes necessary, now that the means of repression are diminished, to develop still more the system of emulation, and determine what kinds of punishments may be generalized in our Schools."

In the edition before us several chapters have been added to the volumes formerly published on this important subject. These chapters are on "The Program of Studies," "School Books—their Qualities," "School copy-books, their Caring," "The School Library," "Preparation of Lessons," "Intuitive Teaching—Object Lessons," "The Black-board," "Synoptic Tables," "Catechizing," "Fervent Reading," "Expressive Reading," "Geography," "History—Sacred, Profane, Ecclesiastical," "Civil Government—Patriotism," "Mental Arithmetic," "Algebra," "Bookkeeping, Type-writing, Stenography," "Elementary Notions of Physics and Natural Sciences," "Hygiene and Physical Culture," "Manual Training," "Vocal Music," and "Written Tests in Religious Instruction." Imagine the mass of information to be derived from a volume, the mere additional chapters of which treat of subjects as important and necessary as those just mentioned.

The first part of the work treats of the School and its organization; the second part gives full details about teaching and the methods of imparting knowledge; the third part is on "School Tactics,"

comprising emulation, repression, accusations, conditions that should accompany correction, good order and how to obtain and preserve it, demeanor of masters and pupils, attendance, holidays and vacation. And after all this we find about seventy pages devoted to the study of the twelve essential virtues that should be found in a master. For the benefit of those who imagine that a teacher requires no exceptional qualifications, beyond a sufficient amount of instruction, we will just mention those virtues, without which no master is perfect. They are gravity, silence, humility, prudence, wisdom, patience, discretion, meekness and firmness, zeal, vigilance, piety and generosity. Judged by that standard we fear that the great majority of the world's teachers of to-day would fall short of the mark.

It is wonderful to contemplate the number of people who think that the profession of teacher is easy to acquire and easy to practise. But only the most uninitiated and most imperfectly informed can entertain such opinions. In our estimation the profession of teacher, elementary, commercial, classical or otherwise, should rank before that of any other vocation—always excepting the great and exceptional vocation of the ministry. It is the teacher who trains the youth that one day may become a lawyer, a physician, a surveyor, an engineer or a successful commercial man. Back to the teacher of the primary school he must go if he would trace the stream of his life's success to its source. Without the elementary teacher, the classical, the scientific, the philosophical, professor would be of no use, for he would have no pupils capable of receiving his instructions, in fact, he would be devoid of instruction himself. If it be true that the hand that rocks the cradle governs the world, it is equally, if not more true, that the one who shapes the young mind and forms the young heart—by instruction and education—is the person who directs the fate of the coming generation.

So grand is the true profession of the teacher, in our mind, that we look upon it as worthy every respect and consideration possible. Give us good teachers and you cannot but have a good generation to succeed the present one. Every teacher should conscientiously study the great duties of his high office in the world, and nowhere can he read better lessons than in the volume in question.

"OUR HOME" is the name of a neat, breezy, charming little monthly that has reached its eighth number and gives promise of a successful future. The journal consists of eighth pages of well-printed and most varied and interesting matter. It is a Montrealer and consequently we welcome it most heartily. "Our Home" is under the direction of Messrs. Wells & Richardson Co., 200 Mountain Street. It is sold for the insignificant sum of twenty-five cents per year. It is a regular "multum in parvo"; it is an illustration of the familiar saying, "good goods in small parcels"; it corresponds in this way with every other thing that Wells & Richardson Co. prepare for and present to the public. Take the present number, for example; it consists of a most interesting story, "The Ghost of a Summer Night"; some appropriate extracts from leading magazines; choice pieces of verse; sketches of Princess May (with portrait) President Cleveland, and Lord and Lady Aberdeen (illustrated); fashion notes; house-keeping hints; a Young Folks' Department; wit and humor and correspondence. Considering the small price of subscription and the great amount of interesting material in the contents, we are confident that "Our Home" will be soon found in everyone of our homes.