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Two Christmas Eves.

BY HENRY COYLE.

It was the night before Christmas, and very cold. Healthy and strong people called the weather 'bracing' and 'seasonable,' and hurried quickly along the streets, wrapped in furs or heavy coats, smiling and happy, for was it not Christmas Eve?

Elderly people met and wished each other Merry Christmas, and told one another it was like an old-fashioned winter, such as they used to have in the 'good old times' and then went on their way.

But there were some poor people—God only knows how many!—for whom the glad season brought no joy or happiness. Poor children who might hang up their stockings, if they had any, and on the morrow, look in vain to find in them some token of a parent's affection, some pretty trifle or toy to make glad their little hearts.

There were many abroad that cold evening, shivering and hungry, looking into the warm, bright stores and hotels. To such the joyous season meant nothing but cold rooms and empty stomachs; and often their misery was added to by sickness and ill health, drunkenness and quarrel.

In a small room, high up in a great tenement house near the Bowery, the three dark sisters, cold, want and illness, met that Christmas Eve. A poor woman lay on the bed in one corner; she was very sick, but was trying to seem well, and to cheer the heart of the little girl who sat beside her.

She was a mere child, about ten years old, with clothes patched and threadbare. Hunger had pinched the little pale face, and sorrow had left its impress on her sweet countenance.

'Dear mother,' she said, 'what shall we do? If I was only a big girl, like Mary Walsh, I could easily get work, but no one will give it to me now, I am so small.'

'We must hope for the best, Mary, dear,' said Mrs. Egan. 'I will soon be up again, and then you can help me to sew.'

'It is sewing that has laid you where you are, mother,' replied the child. 'She went so bitterly as she said this that her mother half sat up, and stretched out her worn, thin hand to caress the little girl's face.'

'Dear Mary, we must hope and trust in Our Father in heaven. In His own time He will send us the help we need.'

'I know that God cares for us,' the child answered, looking at the large crucifix at the head of the bed, 'and I do trust Him. I don't mind for myself—I am thinking of you, mother, and Janie.'

Mrs. Egan drew her little daughter closer to her, and said, 'God will not leave us nor forsake us. He will never call upon us to suffer more than we can bear!'

They talked together in the same strain for some time and by-and-by the poor sick woman, exhausted fell asleep, her arm around the child beside her, little Janie, a sweet little innocent about five years old.

When she had slept for a little while, Mary waked her gently, to give her the medicine, as the doctor had ordered.

'How do you feel now, mother?'

'Much better, dear,' she answered feebly.

Mary buried her face in her hands, as she sat down on the bed.

'My child, you must not cry,' said her mother, gently stroking her hair. 'Be brave and strong. Remember you must be all in all to your little sister when I am gone. You must be her mother then.'

'Oh, mother, I shall die too,' sobbed the girl, 'Don't leave us. Say you will not. Oh, take us with you!'

'That can not be, my poor child! I wish I could stay with you, but if God wills otherwise, we must be resigned. He does all things for the best. He will be a Father to you both and care for you. No matter what may happen, you must never doubt His love!'

It was a small room, with whitewashed walls and bare floor. In spite of the poverty visible, there were some slight marks of refined taste, such as cleanliness, touches of color here and there about the room, and muslin curtains on the two windows.

Near the bed was a picture of the Sacred Heart, and in the corner on a small shelf was a little statue of Our Blessed Lady, with two candle sticks before it. The head was adorned with a gilt paper crown, and a small china lamb completed the adornment of the humble shrine.

It was now quite dark, and the room was full of shadows creeping stealthily about the walls. The poor child felt instinctively that something was going to happen; a strange foreboding thrilled her young heart with the weight of coming sorrow.

She felt that she was looking for the last time on the face of her beloved best in the world—her loving, patient mother—with her great sad eyes, and the sad expression always on the pale wan face. Near her on the bed, smiling in her sleep, was Janie, all unconscious of the dread presence of the dark angel—the messenger.

'God help you both, my poor children!' cried the dying woman, her solicitude and fears for their future overcoming for the moment the faith that was hers. 'What will become of you?'

'Did you not say just now that God was our Father, and that He would care for us, mother?' said Mary, and she rested her cheek upon the sick woman's cold hand.

Just then a gentle knock sounded on the door, and Father Bogan, the parish priest, entered with a neighbor. Early that morning he had administered the last rites of the church to the poor woman, and prepared her for the journey across the dark river flowing to eternity.

The good priest, a Christ-like man, had been kind to her during her illness, and

but for him she might have suffered much more. It was he who had furnished her with medical attendance, and he also provided food and a nurse to watch night—a good woman named Mrs. Ryan, who lived on the floor below.

Father Bogan lit the lamp, and also the candle at the shrine. When he looked at the sick woman, he knew that the end was at hand—that she was dying. She was quite unable to speak, but she looked imploringly at her friend, the priest, and then pointed to her children.

'Yes, I will be their friend,' the good man assured her; 'do not worry about that. I have seen the sisters at the home, and they will take the girls. They will be well cared for, never fear, and I shall see that they are kept together.'

The poor mother's anxious face became radiant with joy, and she kissed Father Bogan's hand again and again, vainly trying to express her heart-felt thanks.

She motioned for Mary to come to her, and she kissed her many times, looking into her face with a yearning, questioning expression which the child never forgot. She then clasped Janie to her breast, and her head fell back on the pillow.

A strange sound came from her throat, and her spirit, purified in the furnace of pain and misery, winged its flight to her eternal home, where there is never any pain, never any sorrow.

'Mother, dear mother—speak! Why do you look like that? Don't you know me? Wake up, Janie!' cried Mary, frantically shaking her sister. 'Look—don't you see us, mother? Speak to her Janie—kiss her, and ask her to open her eyes.'

The two children carressed their dead mother again and again, pleading, with heart-rending cries, for a word, a smile, but alas! the cold clay could not respond. Father Bogan, accustomed as he was to such sad scenes, could not bear to look at the poor children's grief—at their tears, the bitterest the eye can ever shed—at their misery, the deepest the heart of man can ever know.

'Take them down stairs,' he said to Mrs. Ryan, and when she had led the reluctant children away, he wiped his eyes, and then knelt and said the office for the dead.

A few of the kind neighbors performed the necessary services in such cases, and they placed the body in the plain coffin, sent to the house by Father Bogan the next day.

Mrs. Ryan cared for the two children until after the funeral, and then the priest took them to the Home for orphans. The Sister Superior took charge of the orphans, and promised to give them her special attention until time had softened their grief for their great loss.

The first few nights the children were very restless and unhappy, crying and calling piteously for their mother. The Sister in charge of the dormitory was kind and patient; she soothed and quieted them, assuring the girls that they would both see their mother again.

'Will we see her to-morrow?' little Janie would ask wistfully, her lips quivering.

'Not to-morrow, but soon, perhaps, if you are good, and go to sleep,' the Sister would answer, comforting her.

Again it was Christmas eve, and a year had passed. The two children were in the play-room, when they were summoned to the office by the Sister Superior. Father Bogan and a tall gentleman came forward as they entered the room. The stranger sitting down, took the girls on his knees and kissed them, the tears running down his face.

'Mary, don't you know me?' he asked. The girl looked at the man earnestly, but could not recognize him, although his face did seem strangely familiar.

'I am your father!' he exclaimed.

'But he is dead!' exclaimed Mary. 'He was a sailor, and was lost at sea. Poor mother cried and cried, oh so hard all the time, but he went to heaven.'

'And mother is there, too!' said Janie.

'Yes, my darling, she is there,' said Mr. Egan, his voice trembling with emotion. 'But I was not lost at sea. The ship sailed with me cast upon an island far away in the southern ocean, and we were obliged to remain there for two years, when we were finally rescued by an English trading vessel.'

'Oh, father, I am so glad!' and Mary clasped her arms about his neck. Little Janie, too, kissed her father, but she could not understand why it was that her mother could not be there with them, to share their happiness.

Mr. Egan was now in comfortable circumstances. He had been instrumental in saving several of the crew, and a large part of the valuable cargo, consisting of coral and ivory, on the wrecked ship, and as a reward for his courage and foresight, the company gave him command of one of their vessels.

Christmas day the children spent with their father at the house of a friend, and he soon provided a pleasant home in the suburbs for them. While Mary and Janie often spoke of their dear mother in heaven they were very happy that Christmas Day with their father, whom the Lord had so mercifully and kindly restored to them.—Young Catholic Messenger.

IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?

How the Late Charles A. Dana Touchingly Answered the Question.

As a fitting tribute to the memory of the late Charles A. Dana, whose ready and ever busy pen did much to brighten the pages of our Christmas literature, we give the following letter answering an enquiry which a little girl addressed to the Sun upon the all-absorbing theme in every household among the little ones, is there a Santa Claus. Mr. Dana thus wrote:—

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been afflicted by the skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe, of our man, is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the in-

telligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge. Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be dreary as if there were no childlike faith then, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished. Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no proof that there is no Santa Claus.

THE MOST REAL THINGS IN THE WORLD are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see the fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that is no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen or unseeable in the world. You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man nor the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else so real and so abiding. No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, may ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

OUR PHILADELPHIA LETTER.

Miss McKenna's Contribution to the Christmas Number of the "Catholic World."

The Wealth of Illustrations in Current Magazines—Their Character Dwelt Upon in An Interesting Manner.

PHILADELPHIA, December 13, 1897.—If there is a certain satisfaction in sharply criticizing a story of good points, marred and weakened by exaggeration, sickly sentiment, or too great straining for effect, there is positive pleasure in heartily commending work from the same hand shorn of all these defects. When I took exception a few months ago to Miss McKenna's expressed idea of the "priest in fiction," I was not by any means blind to the promise of her writings, and had I felt that they were soon to exhaust a barren soil, I should not have considered it worth my while to "waste a shot" upon them. She has already won a victory and proved herself one of the wise who profit by experience. The Christmas number of the Catholic World contains a Christmas story from her pen that is altogether charming. It is like a fine etching in which every line is made to tell, and where a firm, sharp stroke brings out clearly more than a multitude of wavering touches could ever express. It is short and suggestive. The lovely spirit and unworldly simplicity of Father Salvator is not only tenderly brought out, but there is a certain humor and pathos that makes of smiles and tears a near kinship. That he should have been disappointed of his Christmas pleasure was impossible. No reader of the Catholic World could have borne it. From the first line until the last he grows upon everyone until he is at the close of the little story—one of those lifelong treasures of the imagination and memory, such as some few writers have given us. As I did not criticize before until I had tested the opinions of others—and there were priests among those whose views I sought—so I have waited to practice on the fancies and feelings of the many with "Father Salvator's Christmas." There is but one opinion of it as I have heard. It is wholly,

SARA TRAINER SMITH.

"The zeal with which the Roman Catholic priests visit hospitals and prisons deserves all praise. These priests everywhere show themselves to be men full of courage and conviction."—Protestant Missionaries of Batavia: Official Statement, 1894.

"The Catholic priesthood were zealous for the salvation of souls; they had disengaged themselves from all ties which attach us to life."—Southey.

A CHRISTMAS REMINISCENCE.

BY AGNES BURT.

HE had journeyed far from her Northern home, where the frost-kings hold his reign, To the sunny South, in the fond vain hope that health might be her's again.

THE RETURN.

Back again to my own Canadian home— Back, and at Christmas time— Back from fair Florida's orange groves. And it's sweet rose-scented clime. Bright as a poet's vision.

Is this Land of the Passion Flower, With it's gorgeous tropical tinging, Great Nature's glorious dower.

But my soul grew sick of it's beauty, I had but one wish on earth, 'Twas to feel my mother's clasping arms.

In the old home of my birth, Then gather me to your heart, mother, Let me feel your kisses rain, On cheek and brow, as in childhood's years, They soothed my young heart's pain.

But short my stay, for I've heard them say, That, before the old year dies, My soul will have answered its summons.

Beyond the star-lit skies, Past nights and sounds I used to know, Come thronging quick and clear, And old Noel chants and New Year's rhymes, Are murmuring on mine ear.

'Tis a joy to hear the vanishing tones, O' aigh-bells on the hill, And the snow-shoer's call to his com-rades,

beautifully, naturally good—a Christmas story that is altogether of the season, and yet is new to us.

Illustrated Christmas Magazines.

What a lovely and varied collection of Christmas pictures our magazines are giving us this year! And when the day is really upon us I have no doubt there are a number of our weeklies which will add to the gallery. While there are many things whose newness is their beauty—and very beautiful at that—the old pictures are still the loveliest, and the more modern works of art can only compare with them by approaching their semblance. There is a painting of Müller's seen more frequently this Christmas season than ever before—a Holy Family, representing the three resting by the roadside. An angel kneels before the divine Babe, lightly touching the strings of a heavenly lute. Neither the Blessed Mother nor St. Joseph see this celestial visitant, nor hear the strain of music, but the Babe's sweet eyes are lifted as though recognizing the sounds of His Father's court on high. The beauty and innocence of the Blessed Mother are a fitting portrayal of her spotless life, and the Babe is altogether young, helpless, appealing and divine. This is comparatively a "new" picture, yet it has been conceived in the spiritual and reverential manner of the old masterpieces. Too many of the modern Madonnas are only beautiful women, more or less demure or sorrowful. And while there should always linger around the mother of any child a touching and appealing dignity and charm, it is no less true that sad that there are very many mothers who are altogether lacking in the approach to anything of the kind. Hence it is absolutely requisite that the representations of the Mother of Our Lord should be an ideal woman in the highest sense. More is asked in her portrayal than a pretty woman with a baby in her arms. It is a delightful thought that we have so many holy pictures of her, and a very cheering thought that, at least, the rarest, the most valuable and the most lovely have been brought

WITHIN THE REACH OF THE POOREST and the most ignorant among us. It has been said again and again, by non-Catholics no less than Catholics, that the Sistine Madonna has an effect on every one who sees it. Years ago, a woman far enough removed from all Christian belief or practice wrote a description of that painting and of its effect on her that reads like a prayer and a meditation and an act of contrition in spite of herself. Within a year or two, a Western cowboy, entering the gallery where the painting hangs, passed suddenly and took it for his hat, retained before that through a long tour of the galleries of Europe. Seeing an expression on the faces around him that moved him to an explanation, he stammered out: "I couldn't help it! I can't stand covered before that!" In a lesser degree, we have every reason to hope that this wide-spread dissemination of Our Blessed Mother's face in its fairest and holiest aspects, reminding one and all of the link God the Father forged and bound indissolubly between Himself and lost and ruined mankind, and appealing in humanity's loveliest form through the thought of the Mother to the knowledge of her Son, will silently but surely help out the vexed questions of the day to their true solution. It is an unspoken hope with many. There is a hospital here in Philadelphia where are gathered together the saddest mothers in life. On the wall of the ward, where it meets every eye from dawn until the glimmering of the night lamp, and through all the shadows of the night, there hangs a superb copy of the Sistine Madonna and her wondrous Child. It is very large and splendidly framed—a thing to reverence and honor in every sense. It was hung there by a great physician—not a Catholic!

IRELAND IN ROME.

But nothing in the capital of the Christian world, not St. Peter's or the Sovereign Pontiff, was a sight fit to match in interest to Irishmen the exhibition of the Accademia Polyglotta, where students from Asia, Africa, Australia and America spoke, each of them, the language or chanted the music of his birthplace, and from three continents and their outlying islands the students bore names that marked them of our own indestructible people. The remote history of Europe, when the children of Conn gave missionaries to half the known world, seemed revived again in that spectacle. What a volume steeped in tears, but illuminated, too, with glorious incidents, might be written on the Irish monuments and institutions in Rome! His own San Clemente furnished my friend with a constant text, for its Irish friars were the hosts and often the trusted counsellors of princes, from Charles and James Stuart, and Charles Edward in a later generation, down to Albert Edward of Wales in our own day, who has knit a friendship with the good friars, and, what is nobler and better, it was the constant

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when Ireland had a foreign policy and a diplomatic corps hid under the black or brown robes of monks and professors.

When a man neglects his health for a day he marks two days off the calendar of his life. When he neglects his health for two consecutive days he marks four days off his life's calendar. And so on. That's about the ratio, and it doesn't take many days to cross off neglect their health for weeks at a time. It is the easiest thing in the world for the average man or woman to get good health and then keep it. It only needs a little stitch here and there. The big, dangerous maladies that threaten life are only the culmination of the little illnesses that are neglected. If when a man feels "knocked-out," "out-of-sorts," "run-down," overworked or overwinded he will resort to Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery he will soon feel bright, strong and vigorous again and able to combat all the big maladies in the doctor's books. Moreover the "Golden Medical Discovery" is a sure and speedy cure for some of the most dangerous diseases. It cures 95 per cent. of all cases of consumption. It cures nervous prostration and exhaustion. There are not mere assertions. Thousands of grateful men and women have testified to the facts, and hundreds of their names, addresses and photographs are printed in Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser.

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THE SILVER-TONGUED

FATHER THOMAS BURKE.

An Appreciation of His Power of Oratory.

Sir Charles Gavan Duffy's Interesting Reminiscence of His Meeting With the Great Orator.

In an article in the Contemporary Review, entitled "Reminiscences," from the pen of Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, that noted Irishman tells in pleasant style the story of "A Holiday in Rome," and incidentally touches on his meeting the Rev. Father "Tom" Burke in the Eternal City. He says:—

"The morning after our arrival in Rome a visitor came to us, who proved to be the most gracious of friends and the most skilful of guides in the Immortal City. Father Tom Burke, the Irish Dominican orator, had risen to eminence during my absence in Australia, but I knew him and he knew me by repute, and we speedily became friends. I necessarily recognized immediately what keenness of intellect, natural humor and knowledge of character Father Burke possessed, but his pulpit oratory, when I came to hear him, was a profound surprise. He was preaching at the time in one of the churches of the Piazza del Popolo, where sermons were delivered weekly for the English, Irish and American visitors of various creeds who winter at Rome, and in a letter to his biographer I afterwards stated the impression he made upon me:—

"I had heard all the contemporary preachers of note, in the Catholic church at least, and all the parliamentary orators of the day, but I was moved and impressed by that sermon

BEYOND ANY HUMAN UTTERANCE to which I had ever listened. I despair of conveying the sort of impression it made upon me, but I think persuasiveness was its most striking characteristic. He marched straight to a fixed end, and all the road he passed seemed like a track of intellectual light. You were gradually drawn to adopt the preacher's views as the only ones compatible with truth and good sense. His accent was Irish, but his discourse bore no other resemblance to any Irish utterance with which I was familiar. We have the school of Gratian, and the school of O'Connell, the artificial and the spontaneous, into which most Irish oratory may be distributed; but Father Burke's belonged as little to one as to the other. The lucid narrative which, without arguing, was the best of arguments; the apt illustration, which summed up his case in a happy phrase, might have recalled Plunkett, but in truth, like most original men, he resembled no one but himself."

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when Ireland had a foreign policy and a diplomatic corps hid under the black or brown robes of monks and professors.

When a man neglects his health for a day he marks two days off the calendar of his life. When he neglects his health for two consecutive days he marks four days off his life's calendar. And so on. That's about the ratio, and it doesn't take many days to cross off neglect their health for weeks at a time. It is the easiest thing in the world for the average man or woman to get good health and then keep it. It only needs a little stitch here and there. The big, dangerous maladies that threaten life are only the culmination of the little illnesses that are neglected. If when a man feels "knocked-out," "out-of-sorts," "run-down," overworked or overwinded he will resort to Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery he will soon feel bright, strong and vigorous again and able to combat all the big maladies in the doctor's books. Moreover the "Golden Medical Discovery" is a sure and speedy cure for some of the most dangerous diseases. It cures 95 per cent. of all cases of consumption. It cures nervous prostration and exhaustion. There are not mere assertions. Thousands of grateful men and women have testified to the facts, and hundreds of their names, addresses and photographs are printed in Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser.

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IRISH CATHOLICS IN THE UNITED STATES

A Spirited Pan Picture of their Position.

They Are in Politics but Not in the Offices—The Influence Wielded by the Leaders of Secret Societies—Some Startling Figures Regarding the Distribution of High Offices in the Different Sections of the Republic—The Catholic Irish Barred Out because They are not Members of Masonic Lodges and Other Secret Organizations.

There is a widespread idea outside of the United States, that the Irish Catholics, who constitute such a large portion of the electorate of the Republic, enjoy a share of the high offices of State and of the patronage of the Government commensurate with their numbers and influence. That such is far from being the case is shown by a spirited, vigorous and temperate article which lately appeared in the columns of the Irish World, under the caption of "The Irish in Politics," and which we now give in full as follows:—

We have always held that there was a mean and masterly method in the pertinacity with which a certain section of newspapers—comic, serious, religious and profane—push the "Irish in politics" to the front. To read these journals, or to hear the Mugwumpian preachers and prophets orating, one would imagine that the Irish had cornered every office in the country, while the poor "native American," the ever-simpler and office-evading German, and the English lover of God and humanity, stand out in the cold, blowing their wailing breath into their frozen crubeens. This racket fools nobody, for a glance at the offices of the country, Congressional, State and city, shows that, while the Irish are in politics, as all good citizens should be, the Irish are not in the offices of their deserts. When their numbers, their ability and never-failing steadfastness to party are taken into account. Nevertheless New York city is the only place in the United States where the Irish are in politics. Elsewhere they work, shout, vote, speak, but are unaccountably ignored when the offices are being distributed.

Officialdom in the United States is Controlled by Secret Societies.

It is not necessary to enter into any disquisitions to prove this, or to show the reasons therefor. Everybody, with a perceptive sense above that of a kangaroo, knows that "officialdom" is controlled and manipulated by secret societies and that while the people imagine they are the controlling and directing power, they are only puppets in the hands of the unseen. In this case nearly everything is worked sub rosa, for herein lies the power which manipulates the politics and divides the offices of the country; but, once in a while, the "mole blunders into the light."

It matters not which party wins, the winners are in the hands of the inner shrines, and from President to Governor, and from Governor to doorkeeper, the offices are severally divided among the secret society men, according to their standing in their lodges.

The Proposed Masonic Demonstrations to Impress McKinley.

As an illustration: President McKinley had scarcely been inaugurated before his lodge from Western Virginia (that into which he had been initiated) came in a body to the White House to hold a love feast. Indeed, a great Masonic meeting was called in Washington at the time of the inauguration, for the purpose of re-impressing the President. It was to have been held secretly, but the fact leaked out, was noticed in the news papers, and had attracted such public attention—the attention of the great outside—that the President, on the particular night when he was to be honored, was afraid to fulfill the engagement. It was announced that he would not attend a few days before the night set for the meetings, otherwise the streets of Washington would have been crowded to see him on his way to the "grand lodge." This is only a glimpse afforded by the careless flapping of the robe of secrecy which envelops the vast figure whose shadow falls across the entire country. With the exception of such offices as are given as a sop to Cerberus—to keep the unorganized, simple public filled with the foam of its importance—every office in the country, save in "spots" where the mole has not yet tunneled in a way, is manipulated by secret influence.

This Mosaic of Secret Societies Will Yet Open the Eyes of Americans.

This is the reason why the Irish are in politics, but not in office, and this is why we refer to this question of secret organization in politics, which, in good time, will force itself upon the attention of the American people, and work its own cure.

The Irish—we mean the Catholic Irish, for the Irish Orangemen, being all members of the order, have an equal show with their brothers—not being in the secret orders and almost every door to preferment closed, by unseen hands, in their faces. They are met with the

Much in Little
Especially true of Hood's Pills, for no medicine ever contained so great curative power in so small space. They are a whole medicine.

Hood's Pills
Best, always ready, always efficient, always satisfactory; prevent a cold or fever, cure all liver, bile, sick headache, jaundice, constipation, etc. The only Pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

excessive courtesy of deception, and, ostensibly, they are encouraged to persevere in their efforts, but they are scientifically played, as the sportsman plays the big fish until they are tired of effort, and landed, exhausted, on the sand-dunes.

It is not necessary to dilate any further upon this subject. Nine out of ten of every Congress, eight of ten of the ministers of Protestant congregations, and the same proportion of all other officers and denominations—outside of the Catholic Church—are ordained, governed and possessed by the secret order.

It is, therefore, no disparagement to the ability or activity of the Irish American—or the 10,000,000 of Catholic Americans—to assure them that, "save in spots," like New York (great, free, liberal, imperial New York), they are mere ciphers in the body politic, as far as office-holding is concerned.

The Congress of the United States is composed of 99 Senators and 359 members of the House, including 3 delegates representing Territories. Of the 99 Senators, 5 are foreign born, viz.: Nelson, Minnesota, Norway; Gallinger of New Hampshire, Canada, and the other 3, viz., Fasco of Florida, Mantelo of Montana, and Jones of Nevada, England.

Of the 359 members composing the House of Representatives, 17 only are foreign born, viz.: Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) 7, viz., Lorimer of Illinois, Henderson of Iowa, Spaulding of Michigan, Meekison of Ohio, Tongue of Oregon, Williams of Pennsylvania, and Jenkins of Wisconsin; Canada 4, viz., Jerry Simpson of Kansas, McCleary of Minnesota, Connell of Pennsylvania, and Front of Vermont.

Germany 1—Bartholdt of Missouri. This is really more wonderful than the Irish.

Ireland 5, viz.: McDonald of Maryland, Corney of Missouri, Hurley of New York, McAleer of Pennsylvania, Griffin of Wisconsin.

How Foreigners Run the United States.

According to the census of 1890, the native-born white population was 45,862,028, and the foreign-born 9,121,867.

The foreign population was thus about 20 per cent. of the white population of the United States in 1890, and we may assume the same proportion at the present time.

The foreign born senators are only a little over 5 per cent. of the Senate, while the foreign-born members represent less than 5 per cent. of the House. This is one fourth the representatives to which they are entitled, and goes to show the fallacy of the claims put forth by certain interested parties, that "foreigners are running the United States." Assertion is one thing and solid fact is another thing.

It would, therefore, follow that the native-born have the country almost completely in their hands, and that if there is any mismanagement or confusion in public affairs, the "foreign element" is not at fault. Nothing would give us such hearty satisfaction as to know that the "American People" — we mean the descendants of the men of '76 and 1812—were running public affairs, for then we could feel assured that public virtue and liberty would be preserved and perpetuated as provided for by the Fathers. We know, however, and we lament the fact, on the very highest principles, that the United States is largely governed from lodge rooms, and that the Scotch, English and Canadians, to a very great extent, dominate the lodges. It thus follows that a very small minority of the foreign born population of the United States, by their peculiar positions in the lodges, exert a secret power which can hardly be over-estimated, in the affairs of the nation.

We wish we could show the American people that all this cry of "foreign influence" and "Catholic conspiracy" is but the cunning shibboleths of a "foreign traction," whose fathers were the enemies of American liberty in every stage of its progress, and who, themselves, toast the "Queen and all the royal family" first and the President secondly.

In 1890, according to the census, the foreign born of the United States were:

German, 2,784,894; Irish, 1,871,600; English, 900,002; Scotch, 242,281. We have no hesitation whatever in asserting that this 12,227 Scotch represent more hostility to the United States, as "parsonified" by their insane loyalty to England, than all other elements, foreign and native united, and yet, because they are at the head of the lodges they control more patronage and hold more lucrative positions than the 200,000 Irish-Americans and their many, many millions of direct Irish descent, every one of whom has stood, and now stands, side by side with the men of old American stock in "field and in forum!"

Let All Elements in the Republic be Dealt With Squarely and in the Open.

Let us not be understood as casting any reflection upon the men whom their constituents have sent to the Senate and the House to represent them. The right of the people to select their representatives is the corner stone of our liberties, and we would never reject a man for his "nativity," once we were assured of his fidelity to American liberty; neither would we accept a man, even were he born of "our household" a hundred times did we have reason to doubt his fidelity to that liberty. We have cleaned the street, before our own doors, of bigotry and illiberality, before demanding that others shall do the same before their houses. If anything contrary to liberty, in the broadest American sense, has ever been published in the columns of the Irish World, we repudiate it with our whole heart. Thus, with clean hands and with a spirit of the severest and simplest justice, we arraign all the noisy and insincere demagogues who, from their secret chambers strike at the very life of the nation, while, in open mouthed hypocrisy, they shout liberty! liberty! and charge Catholicity and Catholicism with designs which they themselves are secretly expounding.

The armed treason which denied public authority on the battle field, and proved its faith by heroic sacrifices, was nobly concluded on seventh page.

CHRISTMAS WEEK.

Look to THOMAS LIGGET for
CARPETS, CURTAINS and RUGS,
Everything for the Floor and Window.
THOMAS LIGGET, Montreal and Ottawa.

FURS!

SEAL JACKETS

A SPECIALTY.

A SEALSKIN GARMENT is a standard article for six months' wear in cold weather, and lasts for years if it is of the right material and properly made.

WE GUARANTEE the QUALITY, WORKMANSHIP and FINISH of OUR GOODS. A quarter of a century devoted exclusively to the manufacture of furs is our warrant for our guarantee.

CHOICE SEALSKINS collected by our buyer in London, England, and reserved for special orders. Always in stock the LARGEST ASSORTMENT OF FINE FURS.

PRICES DEFY COMPETITION.

Chs. Desjardins & Co.,

1537 St. Catherine Street, Montreal.

CHAS. ALEXANDER & SONS,
New Up-town Confectionery and Dining Rooms,
2358 ST. CATHERINE STREET,
NOW OPENED
Everything in the CAKE and CATERING line made and prepared on the premises.
CANDIES and CHOCOLATES fresh daily from our own factory. The DINING ROOM facing on Dominion Square is pronounced to be the finest of its kind in Canada. Come and see us.
The Down-Town Establishment carried on as usual in all its branches. Large and complete assortment of imported Xmas and New Year Goods at both stores.
St. James Street, Tel. 903.
S. Catherine Street, Tel. 3062.

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MERRILL'S CARPET STORE,

1661-Notre Dame Street--1661.
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Brussels, Tapestry, Imperial and Kidderminster Carpet.
COCOA MATTING and CRUMB CLOTHS;
Linoleums, English and American Floor Oil Cloths, etc.
NEW IMPORTATION of CARPETS and OILCLOTHS.
Special Discount to all Religious Institutions.
ROBILLARD & CO., - - Proprietors.
BELL TELEPHONE 1247.

Great Emergency Sale

WINTER SUITS AND OVERCOATS.

Only a short time to Christmas. An immense quantity of new goods are crowding us for space. To meet the emergency a forced sweeping and radical all-round reduction sale of our superior Tailor-Made Suits and Overcoats must be effected at once. Sell we must. Let the loss be a heavy one if necessary. **THE SALE HAS COMMENCED.** It's the chance you are waiting for. Most Appropriate PRESENTS for CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.

Emergency Reductions in Men's Clothing.

- 300 Men's Reliable Overcoats**
Made of Black, Blue and Grey Meltons, well made and trimmed; regular price, \$25.00; now \$15.00
- 150 Very Handsome Overcoats**
Which never sold less than \$15.00; they are handsomely lined, silk velvet collars, and made of All-Wool Fine-Castor Beavers. We decided to let them go at this sale for \$10.00
- Men's Tweed and Frieze Ulsters**
We have only 25 of them left, but still largely warranted a good quality, well made and trimmed. Never sold less than \$25.00; now \$8.00
- Men's Dressy Overcoats**
250 of them in Blue and Black Kersays and Pilot Cloths, well lined. Never sold less than \$8.00; they go in this sale at \$6.00
- 200 Very Finest Men's Overcoats**
The Swellest, Richest and most superbly tailored, made of heavy Patent Beaver, in Blue and Black shades. Regular \$18.00 value; now \$12.50
- 275 Men's Ulsters**
Made in Black, Blue and Brown. Frieze. They are dependable values at \$15.00. We have reduced them to \$7.25
- 125 Moscow Beaver Overcoats**
Lined with Finner Woaden Lining, made in our own workshops. Sold earlier in the season at \$10.00; they go now at \$8.00
- Men's Heavy Frieze Reefing Jackets**
In Brown, Blue and Grey Colors; every thread pure wool. Made to sell at \$10.00; now \$1.00
- 250 Men's Frieze and Chinchilla Ulsters**
Lined with Fine Woaden, Plaid Lining; large round collars, when packed. The regular price of these coats is \$15.00. We wish now to clear them, and have put the price at \$9.00

Emergency Reductions in Men's Winter Suits

- 120 Men's Fancy Tweed Suits**
Made from Scotch and English All-Wool Materials. Some of these suits were made to sell at \$10; none less than \$8. They all go in at the uniform price \$5.00
- Men's Very Fine Scotch Tweed Suits**
In Luncheon and Heather Mixtures, made to sell for \$12.00. We don't want to keep them over this season, and offer them for \$9.00
- Men's Heavy Winter Suits**
Made from Pure All-Wool Tweeds and Cheviots, magnificently tailored; considered cheap at \$10.00. They go in this sale at \$7.00
- 225 Men's All-Wool Tweed Suits**
Well made and trimmed, cut in the latest styles; \$8.00 was the price they have been sold for. We offer them now for \$5.50
- Men's Prince Albert Suits**
Fit for the most fastidious, made of genuine imported Clax Twills and Vicians Cloths. We would like to run up these suits with those you have been paying \$22.00 and \$24.00 for. We are quite sure you would give our preference, and all we ask is \$13.50
- 110 Choice Worsted Suits**
In Blue, Black and Grey Colors, made by our best workmen; \$15.00 is the usual price of these suits; now \$10.00
- Men's Superior Dress Coats and Vests**
Made from Angoras and Satara Cloths, suitably tailored, in every respect equal to the best custom made. Reduced from \$12.00 to \$8.00

Unexampled Reductions in BOYS' SUITS AND OVERCOATS.

A Large and Varied Stock to Select From.

REMEMBER---The Lowest Price marked in red ink. We return you your money if not amply satisfied

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EPISCOPAL APPROBATION. If the English speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province consulted their best interests, they would soon make of the "True Witness" one of the most prosperous and powerful Catholic papers in this country. I heartily bless those who encourage this excellent work. PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

SATURDAY.....DECEMBER 25, 1897

CHRISTMAS.

This is Christmas Day. What a host of "sweet affections and fond recollections," of gentle and kindly sentiments, cluster round it. For long ages the recurrence of this great festival has been celebrated with joyfulness and merry-making, with family reunions, and what is better than all, with the practice of charity towards the poor and needy with a view to securing that they, too, shall not lack the wherewithal to share the common sentiment of rejoicing on the anniversary of the birth of the Saviour of mankind. As to this last named point, we have already indicated how this solemn and sacred duty of ours to the poor might best be performed, how this pleasure of making others happy might be enjoyed, how what Goldsmith felicitously terms the "luxury of doing good" might most properly be indulged in.

Christmas well-wishing has been traced back to the song of the angels, "Peace on earth to men of good will!" just as the custom of making Christmas gifts has been traced to the offerings of the Magi. Whatever may have been their origin, both usages have been encouraged by the Church.

Some people are often puzzled as to what sort of Christmas gift they should present to friends and to members of their family. Recently we printed out the form that acceptable gifts motivated by a true spirit of charity might take. As to gifts to members of their family—to wives, or parents, or sisters, especially—perhaps the best form to be adopted would be that of a sheet of fancy note paper in which were written a few good resolutions, particularly one relating to some besetting sin, to be faithfully kept until the following Christmas. This sort of gift would also be very appropriate for New Year's Day.

THAT EDUCATION BILL.

To judge from the newspaper reports of it, the Education Bill introduced in the Legislative Assembly by the Government is a very mild measure, simply replacing the Superintendent of Public Instruction by a Minister of Education and making a few needed minor changes in regard to teachers' diplomas and salaries and to the Government grants to certain school districts, with the object of assisting schools which are too poor at present to furnish proper facilities for the efficient primary education of the children who attend them. In the few remarks he made in moving its first reading the Hon. Mr. Robidoux—who, if the bill should become law, will be the first Minister of Education—said that all it proposed to do was to substitute a cabinet minister for the Superintendent, leaving the Council of Public Instruction as it is at present.

But a perusal of the text of the bill itself shows that it is nothing of the kind. It is, as a matter of fact, a measure of the most revolutionary character, the like of which has never been brought up in the Legislature of this Province since Confederation.

This will be seen from the kernel of the bill—the chapter defining the attributions, powers and duties of the Minister of Education, which we reproduce:

The Minister of Education has the administration of the Department of Public Instruction, and He has the administration and management of everything which concerns public instruction.

He is the depository of all documents relating to matters concerning the Department of Public Instruction. He receives from the Provincial Treasurer, and distributes, in conformity with the law, the grants intended for public schools and all other educational institutions entitled thereto.

He may retain the grant of any municipality or educational institution which has not been forwarded to him the returns prescribed by this law, which has adopted or allowed the use of any

unauthorized text books, or which has neglected or refused to comply with any of the provisions of the law, or of the regulations respecting public instruction.

He selects, from the books, maps, globes, and plans approved by either committee of the Council of Public Instruction, as the case may be, those which are to be used in the public schools.

He shall prepare a detailed statement of the sums required for public instruction, which he shall submit annually to the Legislature.

He shall annually communicate to the Legislature a detailed statement upon the state of education in the Province, with statistics upon the number of schools and other educational institutions, the children attending the same, and other matters connected therewith. These statistics shall be furnished to him, during the course of the month of July in each year, by the School Commissioners and trustees and all educational institutions.

He shall indicate in his annual report to the Legislature what has been done with the grants for education during the period to which such reports relate.

He may hold, or order the holding of inquiries, and he may recover the costs thereof, in case of non-payment, from the party who has been condemned thereto.

He may recommend to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council the revocation of appointments made by the latter.

He may suspend any school inspector who refuses or neglects to obey his orders.

He may, with the authorization of the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council, establish and assist art, literary and scientific societies, museums or picture galleries founded by such societies; establish competitions and distributing diplomas, medals, or other marks of distinction for scholastic, outside literary, or scientific works; establish schools for adults for the instruction of the working classes; in general do everything that concerns the encouragement and advancement of public instruction, arts, letters, and sciences.

The conferring of these extensive powers upon the Minister of Education is, as the above mentioned clauses indicate, a very different thing from merely placing that Minister in the position hitherto held by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. As to the Catholic Committee of the Council of Public Instruction, it is to be composed, if the bill passes, of an equal number of prelates and of Catholic laymen. Further on we read that "The Minister of Education is the visitor of all the schools in the province;" and as to inspection "The Lieutenant Governor-in-Council may appoint Inspectors-General with an annual salary not exceeding three thousand dollars each." This latter clause seems to be considered by the Government of unusual importance, for it is the only italicized clause in the bill, which takes up one hundred and eleven pages.

From the foregoing statement of the autocratic power of the new Minister of Education, and of the other salient features of the measure, it is evident that the aim of the bill is to take the control of Catholic primary education out of the hands of the authorities of the Church, and to place it in those of a cabinet minister who may be a Protestant, a Jew or an atheist, (for there is no provision that the Minister of Education must be a Catholic); to secularize, in fact, our whole system of Catholic primary education. The bill has clearly been framed in a spirit of hostility to the Catholic Church, since it seems to rob her of one of her most dearly cherished rights, namely, the right to superintend the education of Catholic children; and it should therefore be opposed strenuously, in every possible way, by every loyal Catholic in the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council.

AN INSTALLMENT OF JUSTICE.

We are glad to observe that Mr. H. J. Kavanagh, Q.C., has been appointed by the Court to be one of the three members who constitute the Board of Reviewers. Mr. Kavanagh is one of the ablest and most talented lawyers in Montreal; and it is a matter of congratulation that in his person the claims of the Irish Catholics of the city to adequate representation on such important public boards should have been recognized. In Mr. Kavanagh our Irish fellow-citizens will be worthily represented. It should be mentioned that Mr. Kavanagh and one of his colleagues, Mr. Lucien Huot, were placed in nomination by His Worship Mayor Wilson-Smith, who in this instance has given an additional proof of the high minded sense of justice and fair play by which his actions as a public man have always been prompted.

An ex-changeling authority for the statement that Mrs. Jessie Huston, who lives on the Hustonville pike, near Hustonville, Ky., has not until last month spent a day away from home in twenty

three years, not because she couldn't, nor because of any eccentricity, but just because she loves her home and wants to be there to do her work. There is a model for the "new woman" to copy and surely she would be doing better work than crying for the "emancipation of woman and the downfall of man." What do you think?

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Within a week we shall be industriously writing 7's in our letters when we mean 8's.

"Well that's hard luck," exclaimed the Klondike gold seeker as he stubbed his toe against a half round nugget.

A bachelor friend says that man makes the most mistakes, but woman makes the same mistake oftener. Ever noticed that?

Mark Twain says: "Be good and you will be lonely." But just think of all the time that you will have for reflection in your loneliness; therefore, be good.

Within a week we shall be ready for the annual ceremony of "turning over a new leaf." Generally, when a man turns over a new leaf he is not fully satisfied until he has succeeded in blotting the new leaf worse than the first one.

At the last meeting of Shamrock Council, Catholic Benevolent Legion, the president spoke in feeling terms of the death of Comrade Daniel Doyle, which occurred on the 2nd instant. Resolutions of condolence were then passed, and copies forwarded to the widow of the deceased comrade.

A few days ago in Reading, Pa., a County Commissioner resigned his office, saying that the salary was too small and that he could not honestly live on it, and, as he did not wish to be dishonest with the county funds, he thought it better to give up office. Just think of that, wanted to be honest; bah, what did he want in a public office. Honest!

New York is a strange city and therefore a city of strange things. The latest addition to the strange things of the American metropolis is the "ambulance chaser." To explain: the ambulance chaser is a person, either a man or a woman, who watches out for accidents and immediately goes to the assistance of the victim, evidently with only Samaritan instincts, but really as the representative of some firm of lawyers. There has been a large increase in the business of accident insurance, and there has grown up a rapidly increasing number of lawyers who conduct the business on lines which make it possible for insurance companies to settle numbers of claims for amounts much less than claimed by victims of accidents. Then again these people just as often take up the case of the victim and fight the companies.

I, and, doubtless, many other people have often wondered why the British soldier acquired the sobriquet of "Tommy Atkins," by which the private soldier is known the world over. Now it appears that the nickname had an official origin, and was first used in the instructions to non-commissioned officers for purposes of illustration. Sample blank returns were furnished to show sergeants and corporals and recruiting officers how genuine ones should be made out, and Thomas Atkins, private, B company, was the fictitious name always used. Model individual reports were also included in the regulations signed "Thomas Atkins, private, B company," or "Thomas Atkins, corporal, C company," or "Thomas Atkins, X his mark." Hence when a recruit arrived at a garrison the soldiers usually addressed him as Thomas Atkins until they found out his real name. Drunken soldiers reported themselves as Thomas Atkins when they were taken to a police station until the public took it up, and Tommy Atkins became an affectionate synonym for the gallant warriors of Her Majesty's land forces.

After a few readings of the scientific press and some conversation with learned men, I have come to the conclusion that living is a very dangerous thing to do, unless certain conditions are followed. Here is what one doctor says:

"Handshaking" is a fearful menace to public health. Most of the known types of bacteria have been found on the normal hand, and the clinical demonstration supporting these conditions is as undeniable as the knowledge of the causative relation between the microbes and disease.

For ages mankind has been indulging in handshaking without knowing anything about the frightful risks incurred, the danger of distribution of diphtheria, smallpox and scarlet fever bacilli, but now that the truth has been discovered let the practice be stopped at once. Don't rub elbows with people in a crowd, elbows are frequently charged with bacteria. On greeting a friend who insists on walking by your side, keep a bottle of

carbolio acid between him and yourself. Never lift your hat to a lady; the brim may be covered with bacteria. Be sure your knife and fork are antiseptically treated before eating. Do not walk out of doors; the sole of your boot will become incrustated with microbes, and the air is sure to be full of them. If a stranger addresses you, turn and run; how do you know that he isn't saturated with bacteria? Make it a fixed principle to live in seclusion, with hermetically sealed doors and windows, and keep powerful disinfectants at hand night and day. Just think of it, the race has been going on to destruction in its own way, just for lack of a few simple precautions like these.

The Rev. George Hepworth, D. D., writes in Saturday's Herald what he calls "the story of the loveliest of youths, the childhood of Jesus." The article is smart and catchy, written in the up to date reportorial style considerably affected by Protestant divines with a weakness for the sensational, &c., tinged throughout with what to a Catholic mind can only be mildly described as a spirit of irreverence. Mr. Hepworth rather seems to patronize our Divine Lord and Saviour. He weighs and measures and describes him as he might a Gladstone or an Abraham Lincoln, and one is really at a loss to know whether Mr. Hepworth believes in Our Lord as the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, equal in all things to His Father, or simply as a great reformer—of course the greatest—but still to be put in the same category as conquerors, Buddha, Mahomet, Joe Smith and the latest on the list, General Mrs. Ballington Booth. We leave out Martin Luther and Henry VIII. Not once does he refer to Christ as our Divine Lord or our Divine Saviour, but is very careful to omit the adjectives, and in one paragraph thus describes the home in Nazareth and its influence:—

"The topography of His home must have had a broadening influence on His young mind, for everyone who is not at all receptive is affected by his surroundings. Life in a valley is apt to be narrow. The people who see only small things are apt to be small themselves. If you live in a hollow, you have prejudices."

Does Mr. Hepworth, D. D., wish us to infer that had our Saviour lived in a hollow He might have had prejudices and perhaps never have dreamed of his mission, and that consequently we owe Christianity to the accident of His having passed His early years in a hilly country?

The Ontario Department of Agriculture has just issued a blue book entitled the "Statistics of Ontario." It is a digest of the reports of the Bureau of Industry and contains some very interesting facts. The population of the province, according to the municipal assessors, was 1,972,286, showing a net increase of 3,269 in the 493 townships, an increase of 9,487 in the 99 towns, an increase of 4,719 in the 13 cities, and a decrease of 2,579 in the 136 villages.

The total assessment of the province is \$814,917,633, being a reduction of \$6,548,538, every class above showing a decrease.

The taxes imposed were \$193,644 less than in 1895, and were equivalent to \$6.15 per head of population, and 14.88 mills on the dollar.

The debenture debt, which now stands at \$51,895,991, or \$26.51 per head of population, shows an increase of \$2,171,404, notwithstanding that \$2,158,567 was paid on this account during the past year. The "floating" or temporary liabilities, however, shows a decrease of \$885,488. The debenture debt in 1886 was \$29,924,863 for all municipalities.

The interest account showed an expenditure of \$2,578,220, or about 21 per cent. of the taxes imposed. The assets exceeded the liabilities by \$6,958,393.

We gladly give place in our columns to some beautiful and reasonable lines from the pen of Agnes Bart, whose contributions to the TRUE WITNESS have been many, and have always commanded the admiration of its readers.

The annual solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of the deceased Brothers of Branch No. 1, C.M.B.A., of Quebec, was celebrated by Rev. Dr. L. Callaghan in St. Patrick's Church, on Wednesday, 22nd inst.

General Gordon found none but the Roman Catholic who came up to his ideal of the absolute self-devotion of the apostolic missionary.—Canon Taylor, Fortnightly, October, 1888.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The readers of the TRUE WITNESS are respectfully invited to call and inspect my choice assortment of Furs for Ladies and Gentlemen, which consist of Ruffs, Muffs, Capes of all kinds, Collars, Boas, Gaijaplets, Caps, etc.

Our facilities and our 35 years of experience in the Fur business is a guarantee to all who are desirous of having their Fur garments made to order or repaired, unexcelled, at prices not equaled in the city. A visit to our establishment will convince you our goods and prices are right. ARMAND DOIN, 1584 Notre Dame Street, Opposite Court House.

CHRISTMAS CASES OF WINES AND LIQUORS.

We have been frequently asked by many of our Customers for Assorted Cases of Wines and Spirits. We have the pleasure to announce that we have the honor to present to our friends and relatives.

Special Christmas Cases AT SPECIAL PRICES.

TO MEET THE WANTS AND PURSES OF ALL. ALL OUR LIQUORS ARE GUARANTEED PURE AND GENUINE.

CHRISTMAS CASE No. 1 AT \$6.00. Containing: 2 bottles Pale Sherry Wine, 2 bottles Port Wine, 2 bottles Claret Wine, 2 bottles Walker's Rye Whiskey, 12 bottles in all for \$6.00. 1 bottle Brandy, 1 bottle Scotch Whiskey, 1 bottle Ginger Wine, 1 bottle Gin.

CHRISTMAS CASE No. 2 AT \$9.50. Containing: 1 quart bottle Sparkling Champagne, 2 bottles Table Sherry, 2 bottles Tawny Port Wine, 2 bottles Superior Claret Wine, 2 bottles Walker's V.O. Rye Whiskey, 1 bottle 1578 Brandy, 1 bottle V.O. Scotch Whiskey, 1 bottle Holland Gin, 12 bottles in all for \$9.50.

CHRISTMAS CASE No. 3 FOR \$12.75. 2 quart bottles Sparkling Champagne Wine, 2 bottles Superior Dinner Sherry (dry or fruity), 2 bottles Very Superior Port Wine, 2 bottles Superior Claret Wine, 1 bottle Walker's "Extra Old" Rye, 1 bottle 1578 Brandy, 1 bottle V.O. Scotch Whiskey, 1 bottle Double Berryed Finest Hollands Gin, 12 bottles in all for \$12.75.

In order to meet the wants of Customers in town and country, we will pre-pay the freight or Express charges to any Station within 300 miles of Montreal on any one or more of the above Special Assorted Cases for the Christmas and New Year's Holidays.

Remit in Cash or by Express Money Order or Post Office Order. FRASER, VIGER & CO. Importers, Family Grocers and Wine Merchants. Italian Warehouse, 207, 209 and 211 St. James Street.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS

There are jewellers that advertise that they are selling 25 p.c., 40 p.c and 50 per cent. cheaper than their competitors.

DO NOT BE DECEIVED.

The Cheapest Place is

Theodore A. Grothe, MANUFACTURING JEWELLER, 95 ST-LAWRENCE MAIN ST.

You will find the greatest selection of: Baby's rings, 50c, 75c, and \$1.00 each. Ladies' rings, 75c, \$1.00, \$2.00 and to \$150.00. Nickel Watches (guaranteed), \$1.75 and \$2.00. Solid silver watches, \$3.25, \$4.50, \$5.00, \$6.00 to \$25.00. Gold Watches, (filled cases), \$6.00, \$10.00, \$13.00 to \$60.00. Gold Watches (solid), \$10.00, \$15.00, \$20.00, \$30.00 to \$150.00. Rilled Gold Chains, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50 to \$10.00. Ladies' and Gents' Gold Chains, from \$10.00 to \$50.00. Choice Pocket Books, 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50 to \$6.00. Match Boxes, Cigarette Cases, B'n B'n Boxes, Glove Boxes, Tooth Brushes, Silver Mounted Curling Tongs and Jewel Boxes of all descriptions. Piano Lamps, Bronze Statues, a great selection of Gilt, Bronze and Porcelain Ornaments. Gold and silver mounted walking sticks. We are manufacturing to order all designs of chains, lockets and seals. Our specialty in this line, the excellence of the setting of stones.

Claret for Boys, Port for Men, and Brandy for Heroes, was a famous saying of Dr. Johnson's. Be that as it may, the fact remains that

GENUINE PORT WINE

Is a drink that no man need be afraid of. It is a generous, high-flavored wine, alike exhilarating and digestive, and unequalled in restorative power. It is also emphatically a Stout and Heavy Wine, one to be relied by those in the full vigor of manhood, and at the same time THE WINE PAR EXCELLENCE FOR INVALIDS.

We offer, in bottle only SILVA & COSENS' AND DOW'S CHOICE PORT WINES.

Table with 4 columns: Name of wine, Price per bottle, Price per dozen, Price per case. Includes items like No. 1 Silva's Light Tawny Port, No. 3 Silva's Heavy Port, etc.

The above Wines, shipped by Messrs. Silva & Cosens, who control the old and famous brand of W. DOW'S PORTS, we propose to carry in bottle only, and we will deliver them in case lots Express or Freight Charges Prepaid, to any station or express office in the Province of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, New Brunswick at the above dozen prices, in case lots of not less than 1 dozen bottles.

FRASER, VIGER & CO. HERE ARE OUR OLD STANDBYS. GOOD OLD PORT WINES.

Table with 4 columns: Name of wine, Price per bottle, Price per dozen, Price per case. Includes items like The "Royal Wine" £150, "Particular Old", etc.

FRASER, VIGER & CO. Importers, Family Grocers and Wine Merchants. Italian Warehouse, 207, 209 and 211 St. James Street.

Our Observer.

"To keep sport honest," said an American lawyer, Mr. H. McVillen, president of the American Athletic Union, in the course of his speech at the recent M.A.A.A. banquet at the Windsor, "keep it to our boys in our counting houses, and our young men in our banks, and the boys in our stores; let them be the people we have to contend with and then you will have amateur athletics." That is to say, boycott the working classes, and then you will have honesty in sport. It will become the president of an athletic association in a country where most of the crimes of dishonesty—forgery, embezzlement and theft—are committed by "boys in counting houses and stores and young men in banks," to make such a statement, which is as utterly silly as it is untrue.

There were two thousand two hundred men present at the close of the mission in St. Patrick's Church on Sunday last. What a consoling, what a solemnly impressive spectacle it was to see that vast congregation of men renewing their baptismal vows with lighted tapers in their hands! Yet there was a disappointing element—namely, the absence of men who are looked upon as Irish Catholic leaders in that great parish, in business, social and public life. The white haire of the Hon. Judge Curran made him conspicuous, but his presence accentuated the absence of others.

Our provincial legislators seem to be following the example of the sthetic French Republic in their Education Bill. Their object is to secularize the education of the young. But they will meet with strong, and, we hope, successful opposition.

Mr. W. C. McDonald's recent gift of \$250,000 to McGill University, which brings his munificent benefactions to that educational institution up to a total of nearly \$2,000,000, ought to put to shame some of our wealthy Irish-Catholic citizens who hoard up their money through an over prudent attachment to that species of charity which begins and ends at home. A well-endowed High School for English-speaking Catholics would in future benefit their children as well as their compatriots at large, as well as hand down their own names to posterity as benefactors of the right sort.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

DEAR SIR—The point you make with regard to the omission of English speaking Catholics, as a separate column in the Dominion as well as our city census, is very well taken, and I hope you will not relax your efforts to have these omissions remedied. It is necessary that we should know our strength and particularly that others should know and respect it. In many respects we are apt to find ourselves between the devil and the deep sea,—with the great French Canadian element on the one hand and the powerful Protestant minority on the other, and nothing to save us but our native wit, which fortunately is not always lacking. I am reminded of an incident which occurred to my personal knowledge in the Ancient Capital. A very decent, respectable Irish Catholic, who kept a small dry goods store, apparently more for a pretence at occupation than profit,—because I don't think any one ever saw a customer enter it,—had a son, just finished his commercial course, whom he wished to apprentice to the grocery business. He went to a Scotch Presbyterian with whom he had dealt for years but he found that this man got all his clerks from the Y.M.C.A., and they had all to be of the same persuasion as himself. Then he tried an old friend of his, a French Canadian, but his friend had no place in his store for any but compatriots of his own. In disgust the old chap said: "What between the Protestants and the French, there is no place in this Province for an Irish Catholic," and he shipped his boy to New York, where, for aught I know, he may now be an alderman and a leader of Tammany.

This is not a matter of slight information. We had one instance the other day, which you, Mr. Editor, very properly showed up, when an Irish Catholic who was entitled to promotion was passed over by the city authorities simply because he had not the requisite pull. We have to pay our taxes and should have our proportionate share of influence in the arrangement of our city and the control of its expenditure.

I notice there is a bet on between the Star and La Presse about circulation. I don't think the general public care a brass farthing which of them has the greatest sale, but I think it would be rather interesting to know what is the number of Catholic subscribers to the Star. I am one myself, and I must confess that when I see the whole side of the paper filled with an illustrated account of a Presbyterian Convention or the visit of Mrs. Ballington Booth and her olive branches to the city, or some other of the numerous religious and semi-religious functions which have not the slightest interest for us, while, on the other hand, with rare exceptions, you scarcely ever see a notice of any Catholic ceremony or discourse, save in some semi occasional obscure paragraph—and that has to be supplied, and cut down and allowed space as a favor. I am inclined to think our numbers are very less than our influence.

Yours truly,
EDWARD BROWN

OUR CHRISTMAS ADVERTISEMENT IN HOLIDAY ATTIRE

ON SATURDAY you will be meeting your Friends and wishing them a Merry Christmas. It is a time when good feeling and good wishes pervade the human race. It is a fitting time to make presents to your Friends, and a little thought as to what you shall give them may enhance their value very much. For this reason and also to secure as much of your patronage as we possibly can, we place this advertisement before you, hoping that you may be able to make some suitable selections from our stock, which is very large and varied, and our prices are always reasonable and as low as we can make them. Willing heads and willing hands have been busy making everything ready, so as to make our stores pleasant for you to trade in. A visit at this season will be much appreciated by us.—**JOHN ALLAN.**

PRESENTS

<p>FOR LADIES AND GIRLS.</p> <p>Brush, Comb and Mirror Boxes, \$1.25 to \$3.50. Fancy Gilt Mounted and Hand Painted Brush, Comb and Mirrors, good quality, in plain Cardboard Boxes, at \$3.50. Fancy White Metal Jewel and Trinket Boxes, with bevel edge, glass top, 40c to \$1.00 each. Albums from 50c to \$3.50 each. Whisk Holders and Silver Mounted Whisks. Glove and Handkerchief Boxes. Silk Neckkerchiefs in large sizes for Ladies' Wear. Silk Embroidered Breast Handkerchiefs for Ladies, 25c to \$1.50 each. A Fine Assortment of Christmas and New Year's Cards, 5c to 25c each. China Tea Sets for Little Girls at 25c and 50c, and Dolls, 25c to \$1 each.</p>	<p>FOR LADIES.</p> <p>Beautiful Perfume Atomizers, 25c to \$2.00 each. Fine Perfumes, from 15c to 90c per bottle; some of the best makers. Fancy Cut Glass Perfume Bottles. Flower Pot Jardinieres, very fine, at 50c each. Fancy Wall Baskets, 15c, and Work Baskets, 50c. Extra Bargains in Painted Plaques at 25c and 50c each. Gold Plated Watches, small size, at \$3.50 each. Bevel Edge Photo Frames, 10c and 25c. Club Skates, worth \$1.25, to be cleared out at 75c per pair. Mink Fur Ruffs, Persian Lamb and Sable Muffs. Silk Umbrellas, Fancy Plated Handles, \$1.25 up to \$4.00.</p>
<p>FOR BOYS AND CHILDREN.</p> <p>Few Wooden Toy Houses 25c to \$1.00 each. Large Spinning Tops, 25c. Hockey Sticks, 15c. Mechanics Toys, 25c and 40c. Coasting Sleighs, good size and strong, 25c upwards. Magic Lanterns, large size, with Lamp and Slides, all complete for \$1.25. Fine Strong Leather Whips, 4c. Ten Pin Game, good, 75c. Neckties, 15c and 25c. Mitts and Gloves, 15c, up to \$1.25 per pair.</p>	<p>FOR BOYS AND CHILDREN.</p> <p>Paint Boxes, 25c. Mirrors with gilt frames, 15c. Cup and Saucer, in box, for 35c; very neat for boy or girl. Knife, Fork and Spoon Sets for 25c; good for boy or girl. Melodions, good quality, to be sold at cost price. Club Skates, 75c, worth \$1.25. Braces, Turques, Sashes, Overcoats, Suits, etc. Scarf Pins, Cuff Buttons, Fountain Pens and Surprise Bouquets, 25c and 50c.</p>

FOR MEN, YOUNG AND OLD.

- Shaving Cases, \$1.25 upwards, with Razors, Mugs and Brushes.
- Necktie Boxes, Cuff and Collar Boxes, Handkerchief Boxes, Smoking and House Jackets, Dressing Gowns.
- Warm House Slippers, Fancy Silk Checked Socks.
- Neckwear, in all the latest colorings and styles, at lowest prices. Stain Braces for painting.
- Fancy Silk Embroidered Night Robes..... 75c to \$1.50.
- White Dress Shirts and Collars.
- Black Satin Evening Dress Shirt Protectors.....\$1.25 each

FOR MEN.

- Linen Handkerchiefs, 6 in box, for..... \$1.00
- Silk Initial Handkerchiefs, Hem-stitched Border, good sizes, for..... 25c and 50c
- Fancy Colored Silk Handkerchiefs, New Styles, Hem-stitched, in Royal Purple, etc.
- Umbrellas in all qualities.

GLOVES

- In every make. Wool Gloves, Kid Gloves, Lined and Unlined; Dogskin Gloves, Mocho and Reindeer Gloves, Lined and Unlined; Buckskin Gloves, Fur-Lined Gloves and Mitts, Gauntlet Gloves and Mitts.
- Fancy Vests, Flannel-lined, Newest Designs and Materials, Very Stylish, up to date..... \$2.50 to \$6.50 each.

We have also a fine stock of Fur Caps, Overcoats, Ulsters, Pea Jackets and Suits for Men and Boys, Fur Lined and Raccoon Coats.

CALL IN AND EXAMINE OUR STOCK. STORES OPEN TILL 10 O'CLOCK EVERY NIGHT THIS WEEK.

ALLAN'S, 661 Craig Street, 2299 St. Catherine Street.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES.

The Lessons of Gladness that Come from the Past.

The True Meaning of the Great Day of Days.

[SPECIAL TO THE TRUE WITNESS.]
PHILADELPHIA, December 20.—In the changes which come to words in their use, there has grown to see an inappropriateness in the application of the adjective "merry" to our Christmas greeting. It is linked to our minds with so much that is arch and frivolous, boisterous and laughter provoking, that the sensitive soul is grated upon by its connection with the holy and blessed memories of what should certainly be to us the most joyously grateful feast of all the year. But in the olden time, "merry" meant joyous and gladness, and had not yet taken upon it the coarse and vulgar tinge that now completely colors its every suggestion. It is a misused word for those who can go back to its earlier significance, who have met with it and learned to love it amid the quaint surroundings of the earlier poets who sang with devouted meanings of holy things. It is still a favorite, and sets itself most joyously and tenderly to the heart of a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year." Those old time English singers knew but one Christmas meaning. "One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism" was theirs indeed, and there was no fear that they would or could forget why we "keep Christmas," a foreboding that appears to darken the horizon of many of our separated brethren. Serious consultations and much writing and printing upon the subject have occupied them as the Christmas of 1897 draws near, and, really, there is reason for their fear, if what they say is true. All classes and conditions,

ALL BELIEVERS AND NON-BELIEVERS, have been gradually drawn into the whirl of excitement that in the present age has come to surround even the day that is pre-eminently the Christmas Day. In many quarters, the coming of the Blessed Babe has so dulled all childhood that the unbelieving and carelessly indifferent parents have yielded to a longing natural to the parent heart, and plunge gladly into the delightful troubles of the season so that their own little ones may know all its gladness and its treasures as earth counts gladness and treasure. Unconsciously, involuntarily, they do honor to the day, for all that they do is prompted by that love which the Father of All has implanted in each nature, and which yearns unsatisfied and eagerly striving for satisfaction until it finds Him and the fulness of His love. Out of even such an imperfect and barren Christmaside may come the blessing of growth into the true meaning of the feast. But for others, for those who "keep Christmas" in the sordid and greedy spirit of gain that appears in certain quarters, who count on what the day is to bring them and reluctantly and greedily buy a number over what it is to cost them—for those there can be no Christmas blessing here or hereafter, nothing but dreary disappointment and bitter apples of discord. The true meaning of the day is lost entirely to them, and there is no softening veil of ignorance to dispel their unholy pretence of "good will," and plead for them that there may be for them "more light" upon the path they strive to make smooth for tender little feet. It is only one of the many, many things for which Catholics have cause to give thanks that there is no fear of our forgetting

THE MEANING OF THE DAY OF DAYS. The least among us and the least faithful to the teachings of the Church know who came to us on that holy night, what He brought and what He asks in return of the children of men. That there are degrees of knowledge none may dispute, and that all do not bring to the crib the full measure of holy joy, and do not get at the feet of the Blessed Babe the overflowing measure of love and grace He longs to bestow, are, alas! truths we must sorrowfully admit, but with each Christmas wish, each Christmas joy, and, too, each abuse of Christmas, there is in each Catholic heart a thought of the Child and His Mother, which brings either a thrill of love, a yearning wish for love, or a sting of regret for failure of love. It is not too late, thank God, for each and all of us to resolve, and to carry out the resolve, that we will bring to this Christmas Day all that we should bring, lest it be our last on earth.

And—to come round to the beginning—is it possible that there can ever be aught but a "Merry Christmas" to a soul that knows the true meaning of the Day? Can any sorrow, present or past, any loss however great, any misfortune however sweet and precious, cast a shadow over the unchanging, undimmed, perfect gladness and glory of the Day when Christ was born? It marked the beginning of all that is best for us forever. It took the sting out of all hopelessness and fear and dread and pain. It remains with us as the earnest of all future happiness and rest and never-ending joyousness. Then, should it not come to us with a light upon its gloomiest sunrise, a warmth in its coldest noonday, a beauty and a serene glow upon its most lowering nightfall? Let us welcome it thus! "Sursum corda!" Yes, if there is a sorrowful and oppressed heart among those who may read my Christmas thoughts, may it be lifted up and ed on Christmas Day! To such a heart, no less than to the most carefree and gladness, as to those who think least of its holiness and those who are blessed enough to measure the fullness of peace, I wish most heartily for 1897, and all time.—A MERRY CHRISTMAS!
HAR. TRAINER SMITH

IRISH CATHOLICS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Itself compared to this hooded treason, which nullifies the will of the people, and sows the seeds of animosity in the body politic in the interest of foreign domination—despotic, governmental domination; not the "domination" of man seeking a home or an asylum in this great land, and, in return, ready to die for its preservation.

Let us now turn to our diplomatic and consular representatives in foreign countries, and note how the Irish have "gobled up" all the good places.

of the 400 United States Consulates Only Three Are Held by Irishmen.

In the diplomatic service the United States is represented in 43 countries by 43 Ministers, residents, Envoys Extraordinary, etc., and one of these is foreign born, viz. W. Godfrey Hunter, Guatemalan, who was born in Ireland, and appointed from Kentucky. Were it not for this single "Irish exception," the diplomatic representatives at foreign courts would be wholly acceptable to "Mugwumpery"—certainly the Irish have not run off with the force.

In regard to the Consular force, we count only Consulates General, Consuls and commercial agencies, the many consular agencies being filled by local citizens for the very good reason that they do not pay enough to induce our Mugwump patriots to take them, so they "go a begging" to local business men, who accept the places for the honor of being an agent of the United States, without surrendering their local standing.

American Consulates and Nationalities of the Consuls.

Of an aggregate number of Consulates, of say 400, only 28, or 7 per cent. of the whole, are filled by foreign-born citizens, viz.:

Table with 2 columns: Country and Salary. Includes entries for Bombay, Germany, Berlin, Breslau, Eisenstock, Furth, Narnberg, Zittau, Catania, Managua, Zurich, etc.

Total salary, \$28,500. Total Germans, 11.

Filled by English—

Table with 2 columns: Country and Salary. Includes entries for Chin Kiang, Liverpool, Sheffield, Swansea, Victoria, B.C., Genoa, Italy, etc.

Total salary, \$50,000. Total English, 6.

Filled by Scotch—

Table with 2 columns: Country and Salary. Includes entries for Hamburg, Collingwood, Dumferline, Scotland, etc.

Total salary, \$9,000. Total Scotland, 3.

Filled by Canadians—

Table with 2 columns: Location and Salary. Includes entry for Three Rivers, Quebec, \$1,500.

Filled by Irish—

Table with 2 columns: Location and Salary. Includes entries for Cork, Ireland, \$2,000; Hull, England, \$1,500; Mauritius, \$2,000.

Total salary, \$5,500. Total Irish, 3.

Filled by Norwegians, 2, \$2,500.

Filled by a Turk—

Table with 2 columns: Location and Salary. Includes entry for Rome, \$3,000.

Filled by a Dane—

Table with 2 columns: Location and Salary. Includes entry for Martinique, \$1,500.

Total, 28 Consulates, \$70,500.

The above shows that the English consuls sent by the United States to foreign ports are double the number of the Irish, and that they receive nearly four times as much salary. The Scotch and the Irish are equal in number, but the salary of the Scotch is nearly double that of the Irish. This goes to show that

THE THREE IRISH CONSULS

had to take what was left or go without. We know some of these gentlemen, know they did good political work during the last Presidential campaign, and are men qualified by nature and education to fill almost any places in the gift of the administration. Under McKinley the Irish have been worse treated than by any administration since the days of Fillmore, the "native American" President. We congratulate the Germans on doing so well, although what they have received was but a trifle of that to which they were entitled.

As said before, we are no carping critics, nor disappointed office-seekers. We have taken all this labor to show to all whom it may concern that the Irish, while in politics, as all good citizens should be, have not run away with "all the offices," and, further—and we say it in all sincerity—that they have run away with fewer and smaller offices during the present Administration than during any Administration since that of Millard Fillmore, the "Native American" President.

We trust the foregoing will satisfy all true Americans—native and foreign born—that the British Mugwump clamor about the Irish in politics, as far as getting office is concerned, has, we are sorry to say, very little to stand upon; in fact, it would take a ballet girl with her most scientific and acute pivotal toe-balancing to stand upon it.

THE THREE STAGES

For the early stage, Scott's Emulsion is a cure. For the second stage, it cures many. And for the last stage of consumption it soothes the cough and prolongs the life.



WELL-BEGUN IS HALF-DONE. Start wash day with good soap, pure soap, that's half the battle won. SURPRISE SOAP is made especially for washing clothes, makes them clean and fresh and sweet, with little rubbing. It's best for this and every use.

Don't forget the name, SURPRISE.

THE "COLOR LINE" QUESTION

Mr. Robert W. Clark, a young gentleman of color, who aspires to distinction through the brush or the chisel, but is not quite certain whether he will follow Rubens or Michael Angelo, has lately attempted the task of proving before the court at Baltimore that black is white in the eyes of Maryland law. For this purpose he applied to the Court for a mandamus to compel the Maryland Institute to accept him as a pupil in the school of Art and Design. It will not surprise the public, though it greatly disappointed the ambitious Mr. Clark, that the learned judge who heard the petition, found against it on every point, and consequently dismissed it, declaring that the petitioner could not ask for such a mandamus under the constitution of the United States, under the ordination of the Mayor and city council or under the contract of the city with the Maryland Institute. The petitioner's counsel (as is duty bound where the fees are sure) gave notice of appeal, and the full Bench of Maryland will have an opportunity of pronouncing upon the decision. Apart from the "color line" question it involves, there are some nice legal points to be disposed of, and it is more than probable it may prove to be one of the most knotty cases ever submitted to the southern courts. Judge Ritchie, who tried the case, when rendering his decision, said, among other things, that, in his opinion—

"From their establishment up to the year 1891, these schools had been exclusively for white pupils, male and female. In that year one colored pupil was appointed and admitted, and he completed the course. In 1892 another colored pupil was appointed and admitted, but he left the institute soon after. In 1895 since the date of the present contract, two more were appointed and admitted, and are now pursuing their studies. The answer, however, avers and the demurrer admits that the overwhelming public sentiment, both white and colored, at the time these pupils were admitted, was against mixed schools; that their admission was but tentative, with the hope that none others would be appointed, and in no wise as an acknowledgment of any contractual obligation; that the presence of these colored pupils was disastrous to the interests of the institute, largely reduced the number of its pupils, and threatened to destroy the usefulness of these schools.

"The position of the petitioner thus comes down to this: He claims to be a beneficiary under this contract, and, as such, alleges that there has been a breach of it as against his rights, and asks the court to enforce its performance by a writ of mandamus. The respondent denies the alleged breach, and avers that, in the light of the conditions existing at the time of the execution of the contract, the word 'pupils' means white pupils.

"It is, however, altogether unnecessary in this proceeding, if not beyond the province of the court to construe the contract, because, whatever its true construction may be, the petition must be dismissed. If it be construed to mean white pupils only, the respondent being a private corporation and no part of the public school system, had a right to make a discriminating contract, and the petitioner would have no rights thereunder. If it be construed as embracing both white and colored pupils, then the action of the respondent resolves itself simply into a refusal to perform its contract, and a mandamus does not lie.

"It having been shown that the purpose of the suit is to enforce the performance of a private contract, the writ of mandamus cannot be issued. The remedy by mandamus relates only to the enforcement of duties incumbent by law on the respondent; it will not lie for the enforcement of contract rights of a private or personal nature.

"Such being the law the city itself, even if there were a breach by the respondent, could not enforce the performance of this contract by mandamus, and so neither can the petitioner, even though he might be entitled to admission under the contract.

"In accordance with the views expressed, I must overrule the demurrer, and, as the sufficiency of the petition also is brought under review by the mounting of the demurrer, and it shows no sufficient ground for granting the writ, I will also sign an order that it be dismissed."

J. ALCIDE CHAUSSE, ARCHITECT.

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Table with 4 columns: Item, Regular Value, This Week's Price, and Item, Regular Value, This Week's Price. Includes items like Dressed Dolls, Rubber Dolls, Jointed Dolls, etc.

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Hundreds of Pretty Novelties, in Ladies' Umbrellas, specially suitable for Xmas gifts, each umbrella is packed in a neat box ready for sending to a distance, the regular value of these choice Umbrellas is \$2.25. Our special holiday price, \$1.50. THE S. CARSLY CO., Limited.

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One of the most popular and satisfactory Xmas Gifts will gain you golden opinions. A very choice variety specially selected for Xmas. The famous Rimonski Mink Fur Ruffs, fine, soft fur, perfect head, eyes, ears and bushy tails, special prices for the holidays from \$1.35 to \$12.50.

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To-morrow and all next week, the company will offer hundreds of dozens of Men's Hem Stitched Silk Handkerchiefs, with a beautifully worked initial in bright silk, size 18 inches square. This is the best and cheapest lot of fine silk handkerchiefs ever offered, and are really worth 30c to 35c each. Our special holiday price, 20c.

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Our subscribers are particularly invited to note the advertisements in the CHRONICLE, and when making purchases mention the paper.

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At the Annual Meeting of the above Society, held on December 21st, the following officers were elected.—Rev. President, Rev. J. A. McCallan, S.S.; 1st Vice-President, Mr. John Walsh; 2nd do., Mr. J. H. Feeley; Secretary, Mr. W. P. Doyle; Assistant Secretary, Mr. J. I. McAffrey; Treasurer, Mr. James H. Kelly; Financial Secretary, Mr. John Howard; Ma. sh., Mr. James Milloy; Assistant do., Mr. M. J. Doyle. Committee.—Messrs. J. J. Costigan (Chairman), M. Shurey, James Mack, G. A. Gadois, T. J. Kavanagh, P. Doyle, W. E. Costigan, T. P. Tansoy, P. Dunn, J. Blanchfield, D. J. McDonald and J. Barry.

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It's the Present time in more senses than one. Let the present be a useful one. Here are a few items picked from our stock that make very acceptable presents. See the goods, and you'll be astonished at the lowness of the prices.

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BOOTS Men's Patent Leather Congress Boots, Cloth or Kid Tops, at \$2.50 to \$4.50.

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RUBBERS TO FIT ALL SHOES.

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You have only to visit this Department to see for yourself if we are not doing the Handkerchief Trade of the city. But we are able to supply every Xmas shopper in Montreal with unequalled values in Handkerchiefs. Thousands of Pure Linen Handkerchiefs, Gent's with Tapp Borders, Manufacturers' Seconds, that are equal to First as sight in the perfection; these we are selling at 12c each; also with Hemstitched Borders at 15c each. Thousands of Pure Linen Handkerchiefs, Ladies', with Hemstitched Borders, all widths of Hems from 12c to 45c. Boys' and Girls' Pictorial Handkerchiefs, nicely colored, with Pictures, interesting to children, 5c each. A large variety to choose from. Initial Handkerchiefs, Pure Linen, Initials, handsomely embroidered, 15c and 20c each. Ladies' Embroidered Fancy Silk Handkerchiefs, from 10c up. Cream and White China Silk Hemstitched Handkerchiefs from 25c. Gent's Brocaded Silk Handkerchiefs, 50c up. Gent's Cream and White Silk Handkerchiefs, 65c to \$1.00. Ladies' Neckkerchiefs in White, Cream, Garnet, Scarlet, Blue, Heliotrope, Corn, 45c. Ladies' and Gent's Plaid Silk Handkerchiefs, 45c each.

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We show an assortment of Choicest Pianos, above famous makers especially in stock for the holiday trade—such as never before were on sale in Montreal. Added to beauty of tone these instruments are cased in newest and most attractive woods. They are of all designs and sizes, including Boudoir Uprights, Upright Grands and Parlor Grands. They present a variety of choice such as it is impossible to find elsewhere. In prices we are in a position to offer highest values. Terms will be made very easy if desired. Pianos and Organs of any make exchanged. A visit, day or evening, invited.

Also in stock for immediate sale the following BARCAINS IN USED PIANOS. All in warranted condition. Terms of payment \$3 to \$6 per month:

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Handsome Mahogany Cabinet Grand Piano, latest model, 3 pedals. Renaissance Case, cost \$500 only a short time ago, good as new and fully warranted.

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Latest Cabinet Grand, regular price \$350. Never sold. Used only a few times at concerts. Rich powerful tone. Lovely piano equal to new.

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Boudoir Model. Neat real Rosewood case. Refined sweet tone. New hammers and action. Put in thorough order, and now almost equal to new.

Henry F. Miller.
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This is a fine Rosewood Piano, fully renewed and guaranteed. Splendid value for the money.

Newcombe & Co.
\$225.

Neat mahogany Piano. Tricord throughout. Good tone and action.

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Magnificent Square of this famous make. Rich powerful tone. A rare bargain if you have room.

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Another famous New York make Good tone and action.

Stanley & Sons.
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Chickering & Sons.
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A well preserved Square Piano of this celebrated make. Very sweet tone, fine touch.

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Very elegant light Rosewood Piano. Good tone and action. A bargain.

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Another piano of especial value for beginners.

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Uprights at \$50 and \$60 each. Neat Small pianos.

Until January 1st, our Warerooms will be open every evening. Having excellent light, Pianos can be seen to advantage. VISITORS MADE WELCOME.

Warerooms: 2366 St. Catherine Street.

OUR IRISH LETTER

made to subsist. I think that one of the truths that should be proclaimed from the house tops at the present day, and especially to young people, is the necessity of selection of that food which their mind is occupied. Every person reads—it is a reading age—but unfortunately the very fact that people are so anxious to read at the present day has moved those who, without calculating the consequences, seem to make profit of it is desirous of supplying the people with food that is very unwholesome, and hence we cannot too frequently or emphatically warn people against this danger.

The Blarinas Tragedy.

"The Blarinas Tragedy" an episode of '98, has been recalled in the preparations for the celebration of the centenary of Ireland's great effort for freedom. The story can be briefly told. Four young men belonging to a Monaghan regiment of Militia—William McKenna, Owen McKenna, Peter McCarrow, and Daniel Gillain—were tried by court martial at Blarinas in May, 1797 for connection with the Society of United Irishmen, and condemned to death. They were taken to the camp at Blarinas, within a few miles of the city, and placed in front of a firing party for execution. Before the fatal order was given the Colonel in command sent word to the condemned men that their lives would be spared and they would be otherwise rewarded if they would give information against their associates. The father of the two McKennas, who was amongst the crowd of friends and sympathizers that accompanied the condemned patriots from Blarinas, was appealed to by the Colonel to advise his son to accept these terms; the reply of the heroic old man was that if his son should act to base a part he himself would shoot him. The condemned men exchanged a few words amongst themselves upon the offer that had been made them, and then announced their decision; it was "death before dishonor." So died those martyrs to the cause of Irish liberty.

From lake to lake, from river to river, the Jesuits pressed on unrelentingly, and with a power no other Christians have exhibited, won to the faith the warlike Missis and the luxurious Illinois."—Washington Irving.

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Musical Toys, from 1c up to \$10.75.
Mechanical Toys, from 25c up to \$16.4.
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Nah's Arks from 15c up to \$1.50.
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Metal Sets from 60c up to \$1.00. Hockey Sticks, 15c to 20c.
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CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS.

A Plea for the Rising Generation of Young Irish Canadians.

Our Old Man Signs for a Few Reforms.

CHRISTMAS comes to us this year clothed in its mantle of snow. Down through the centuries comes the story of the Nativity, as mysterious and as absorbing to us as it was to the Magi and Shepherds who humbly adored in the stable at Bethlehem. To-day as then there are unbelievers, but on Christmas night, despite infidelity and unbelief and cynicism and self-love the whole world is girdled with devout worshippers celebrating at Midnight Mass the birth of the Redeemer. There is to-day, as there ever has been and will be, the unending struggle between good and evil, between our higher nature and our lower, but with Catholics especially how much greater is the moral force of resistance. Take a city, it is, and compare it with the condition of mankind here in Christianity, and one can see, without any book, how much better we are than the heathen. If we are Christians, we are not evil, we are not the prey of the devil, and the tyranny of the strong, but we exist, not because of our humanity but in spite of it, and were tenfold more intense in ancient times. The honest hardworking mechanic and tiller of the soil who to-day boldly deposes his ballot in the urn and decides the fate of Governments and rulers, was on the polling days of ancient Rome and Greece, a mere slave, not even credited with an immortal soul.

THE GREAT DOCTRINE OF CHRISTIANITY that all men are equal in the sight of God each with an immortal soul to save which no human enactment can reach, operated a revolution compared with which all other human events combined sink into insignificance. Here in this Canada of ours we have much to be thankful for. We enjoy the most complete liberty that an intelligent, self-governing people can desire, and a prosperity the enjoyment of which is only intensified by the snows and frosty air of our winter months, and which is denied the inhabitants of more sunny climes, who are oppressed by the burden of grinding taxes and huge standing armies. Peace on earth to men of good will is the yearn that resounds at this season with redoubled strength from one pole to the other, before which the discordant cries of anarchy and discontent are for the moment stilled. To the children of green Erin especially, our country offers a field where they can far from the disabilities which afflict their energies in the old land. Here we enjoy the blessings of Home Rule which we so ardently desire for those who have left behind, and here in this city especially, we are making strides onward in every path of life which we look to with pride and which fill us with hope for the future. In a humble way and at the cost of a pecuniary sacrifice it can ill afford, the TRUE WITNESS has undertaken the task of

CONCENTRATING THE SCATTERED EFFORTS of many patriotic English speaking Catholics to improve our position as one of the elements of our Canadian nationality and thus benefit in some degree each one individually. To do this what is required above all is unity of effort, and to this end an appeal at this season cannot be out of place. There is abundance of example all around us. Look at the magnificent institutions founded by the generosity and public spirit of our Protestant merchant princes. We need not mention McGill University, the Victoria Hospital, the schools for women, the Young Men's and Women's Christian Associations. Look also at the Laval University and the numerous other public institutions founded by our less wealthy but equally generous French Canadians. What have the English speaking Catholics to point to as founded distinctly by them? One particularly long list was in an institution called the Y. M. C. A. where our young men many of whom are at the front, to profitably spend their evenings, and who are consequently all the more exposed to the temptations of the billiard room and the saloon, would find themselves in a congenial and healthy atmosphere with all the incentives to

SELF-IMPROVEMENT AND HEALTHY RECREATION. of a well stocked library, light classes and well equipped gymnasium. We have a number of national and provincial organizations which are doing noble work but they are necessarily restricted and local in their character.

This is not owing to the lack of wealth or of good will but rather of initiative. Let some of our men of wealth set the ball rolling and very soon others would emulate their example, and we would have a centre where all our energies could meet and which would afford an improvement in the moral and social tone of our youth. I throw out these suggestions in a non-envious spirit but simply with the view of awakening an interest in certain matters which to my view have been too long neglected. I might, in conclusion, recall the story of the founder of the R. Scholastic, who, when death was near, called his sons around him and handing each in turn a bundle of sticks asked them to break it. Each tried, his stick broke and he failed. Then uniting the sticks he handed them the bundle separately, which, of course, he broke easily. Thus it will be with you, he said. "If you stick together no one can break you, but if you do not, you will be broke

as easily as those separated sticks." Let the English-speaking Catholics take this illustration to heart, and it will be the better for each and every one of us.

OLD MAN.

NEWFOUNDLAND STAMP ISSUE.

The late government of Newfoundland may claim to have originated the idea of the new stamp issue for the "Ancient Colony," but to their successors, the present incumbent, belongs the credit of carrying it into execution.

What Newfoundland has done in this particular others may find it to their profit and credit to imitate. Why should not every country change the design and even the shape of its letterstamp at stated and frequent intervals, and why should not each succeeding issue be the very model of artistic elegance the age can command? Theoretically it is next to nil, as compared with the certain and handsome revenues of the Post Office and the people are fond of novelty and variety even in such matters as postage stamps. This is not an affair of sentiment but a simple matter of business enterprise which will enable governments to please many with little outlay and much profit to themselves.

THE BURKE CENTENARY.

The Marquis of Dufferin and Ava recently presided at a meeting held in the Royal University Buildings, Dublin, in connection with the Burke Centenary. The gathering was splendidly represented and included the most distinguished Prelate of the Church, both Catholic and Protestant, the most eminent professional men of the city, the leading journalists, prominent business men and well known citizens of every rank and creed. The great feature of the occasion was an address from the Rev. Wm. Barry, D.D., which was one of the most eloquent ever heard within the University halls and riveted the attention of his hearers from its opening to its closing sentence. In the course of his address he read the following letter from Mr. Gladstone: "I regard Burke as regards Ireland and America, with fervent and unstinted admiration; as to France and the revolutionary war, with grief; and throughout with the reverence due to that noble combination of character and genius. As regards Ireland, it is indeed painful to me to see her bleeding from wounds inflicted by her children; but neither my faith in her eventual destinies nor my anxiety for their accomplishment are in the smallest degree lessened by the unfortunate circumstances attending the efforts being made in her behalf.

Dr. Barry was followed by the Most Rev. D. Healy, Bishop of Clonfert, who paid a splendid tribute to Burke's efforts in the cause of Catholic education. If, said the Most Rev. Gentleman, they mean to solve the question at all, it must be done on Burke's principle of doing the Catholics full justice in the matter of endowment but without in any way tampering with their consciences or attempting to make the endowment a bribe to induce them to sacrifice their principles.

AMERICAN TIN PLATE INDUSTRY.

A special report has just been published on the American tin plate industry and it shows that it has increased twenty five fold in seven years, and incidentally its development and expansion there has been a large increase in the canning business of the United States, which now amounts to \$75,000,000 in a year, requiring nearly 2,000,000 boxes of tin plate, and keeping at work more than 2,000 canneries distributed throughout the country. The sale of canned goods is subdivided in the United States into four branches. There is, first, the canning of food preparations of all kinds, except fish, fruits, vegetables, and oysters. In it are included meats, cereals, and soups, and this branch of the American canning business gives employment to 5,000 persons and represents a capital invested of some \$7,000,000, while the business amounts in a year to \$15,000,000. It is largest in New York. The fruit and vegetable canning business of the United States is very much more extensive, representing an invested capital of \$15,000,000, an annual trade of \$30,000,000, and employes to the number of more than 60,000.

The Madcap Set at St. Anne's is the suggestive title Miss Brunow has given to her latest literary effort. The plot of the story is full of interest for all who know anything of school life within the convent walls, though it is one in which the authoress has given a free rein to her imagination and can hardly claim that it is founded on fact. Instances do occur, it is said, of young ladies entering as boarder pupils, after years of day-school attendance, who know a little too much of the world and its vanities to accommodate themselves readily to convent discipline, and it is quite possible there are young ladies of this class who indulge in using slang terms. It creates somewhat harshly upon Canadian Catholics ears and must be regarded as a little exception of which the authoress, in this exceptional instance, has availed herself.

The "Set" system prevails no doubt to some extent in educational institutions as well as elsewhere, but the "Madcaps of St. Anne's" have given it a local habitation and a name it never previously had on the public mind, in so far as convent history is concerned. The book is interesting in other respects and well written. It is published by Benziger Brothers, New York, in excellent form, for fifty cents. To the elderly person the sight of a piece of mistletoe, no matter how old and faded, brings back pleasant reminiscences of the days that were and the joys of youth in times gone by. Ah, well, they sigh, pleasant memories will not stay old Time's ruthless hand, but yet, they may serve to help one on in the near ending journey.

the public good demands that they at the least do not continue to drag down the public taste. If the press beyond the border is debased, it is not for us to follow suit.

FROM OLD STADACONA.

Some Impressions of the Improvements Made During the Past Two Decades.

The Proposed Sweeping Reforms in the Administration of Education in the Province of Quebec—A Minister of Education, Whose Powers Will Be Far Reaching, to Hold Sway.

[SPECIAL TO THE TRUE WITNESS.]

QUEBEC, Dec. 21 — Considering that twenty-one years had elapsed since I last set foot in this good old city, I did not expect to find it the same when I landed here the other day. But owing to the staid character of the Ancient Capital I hardly expected that the spirit of modern progress had taken such a deep hold upon it. On approaching it in the darkness of the night I could see the lights gleam from its elevated streets and Citadel heights, and then I knew that its unique position and rock foundations had remained the same as nature had formed them but when I viewed the new erections I saw that the hand of man had been busy in the intervening years planning and devising as to the kind and number of buildings best suited to the progress of the age and the special needs of the Ancient City itself, and while the antiquarian may quarrel with the ruthless invader who destroys the old landmarks, the live business men of to-day will clap him upon the back for the progressive work he has wrought. The first change and improvement that caught my eye, on landing from Montreal by the Canadian Pacific Railway, was the fine equipped station of that famous railway system which has done so much for the

RE AWAKENING OF COMMERCIAL LIFE

here and in so many other parts of the Dominion. Quebecers especially feel thankful for the enterprise that placed a splendid railway at their very doors, whereas under former conditions to reach the old pioneer road, the Grand Trunk, travellers had, and still have, to cross the St. Lawrence to Point Levis. Then, as we go onward centrally situated C. P. R. offices are passed and in a moment later we find ourselves housed in the Hotel Frontenac, on Dufferin Terrace, than which no more picturesque view can be had in any part of this New World. But what of the hostelry itself? Is it adequate to the needs of the hosts of American visitors and European tourists who frequent Quebec in the summer season? It is an immense hotel and has sheltered thousands of delighted guests since it opened its doors a few years ago, but to meet the increasing demands a new wing is being added. This place has been devised by the C.P.R. for the comfort of the public and the influx of travel caused by the increased facilities offered by that enterprising system. On the very ground once occupied by the venerable Jesuit College (Barracks) now stands beautiful municipal buildings and farther on towards Louis street is the splendid new Court House and on the Grande Allée is the magnificent parliamentary buildings, and also in that favored residential quarter new mansions have lately gone up that denote renewed thrift and mercantile prosperity among the business and professional men of the city. St. Roch, wherein French Canadian influence abounds, has

ALSO WONDERFULLY DEVELOPED

within the past twenty years. But the thing that has perhaps done much to impart a new feeling and aspect to the renewal business life of Quebec is the system of electric cars which run throughout the city and suburbs. This new element of modern commercial progress gives to the city an entirely changed appearance and brings it into line with the pushing municipalities that can still boast of the vigor of youth.

THE NEW EDUCATION BILL.

In social and educational quarters the theme most discussed at present is the proposed new Educational Act. If passed into law and given effect in all its clauses, it will produce sweeping changes. Its main object is to supersede the office of Superintendent of Education by the creation of a Minister of Education who will have a seat in the Cabinet, and will assume responsibility to the Government and the province for the full control and direction of all matters belonging to the scholastic and educational culture of the rising generation in Quebec province. It is claimed for the Act that it will place a power in the hands of the responsible minister that will enable him to act promptly in trying circumstances, and in a way to perfect and advance the sacred cause of education and useful arts and sciences. It is alleged that the superintendent, however capable a personality he may be, is a functionary whose hands are tied at critical moments, and that he often feels himself unable to exert his official power when promptly he is most called for. The Minister of Education will be supreme in his own domain, without being an autocrat, however, because the Council of Public Instruction is to be retained in its advisory capacity. Then again, Inspectors General will be appointed at salaries not over \$3,000. These two restraining forces will stand as a guarantee for additional efficiency in administration, while preventing arbitrary or partisan conduct on the Minister's part. Thus such official acts, it is hoped, will tend to smooth and adjust the relations between the Council of Education and the Legislature. Under the provisions of the bill it is asserted that the working

capacity of the Council and School Boards will rather be augmented than otherwise.

In the scope of the Act two deputy ministers are called into existence, and these same are to act as secretaries to the Council, which retains supervision of inspectors and teachers. Absent laymen may delegate attending colleagues to vote for them. Members of religious orders will not be required to hold certificates, but each Committee of Council of Public Instruction may at any time cancel exemption. School Commissioners must be able to read and write, and School Boards shall have power to exact uniformity of text books in their municipality. Government may fix minimum salary of teachers, and will also insist that the School tax must be one-third higher than the Government grant. In elementary schools the monthly fee must not be less than 5 cents nor over 50 cents. Drawing shall be taught in all schools and agriculture in rural municipalities. These are some of the salient features of the proposed measure which, if it becomes law, is destined to make important changes in educational affairs in the province. The promoters of the Act hope for remedial and beneficial results from it, but the opposition and holders of the old regime regard the innovation with some apprehension, alleging that the minister may eventually reduce his subordinates to a civil impotence and give a political tinge to his official acts. Under the present system the Superintendent is presumed to steer clear of all political bias. Again it is hinted in some quarters that the Athlete tendency of the times may drive the lay element in the Council to undo the good work of the clerics and thus pollute the pure moral educational stream that has nourished so many illustrious scholars in the past. Quebec is rich in historic lore, and under that aspect may afford a theme for future articles.

WM. ELLISON.

The Congress of the United States is shortly to consider a bill calling for the establishment of a National Department of Public Health. The cause of the bill is the recent yellow fever outbreak in the southern States. The investigation in connection with the plague developed a state of sanitary affairs in the sunny south which is unprecedented in the history of the continent. The most ordinary sanitary precautions have been neglected, and instead of trying to prevent the spread of the epidemic several cities of the south seemed actually to invite it. The most important clause in the whole bill is the following:— "That the department shall, when in its judgment it may deem it necessary and proper, make such additional rules and regulations as are necessary to prevent the introduction of infectious and contagious diseases into the United States from foreign countries or into one State or Territory or the District of Columbia, from another State or Territory or the District of Columbia, and when said rules and regulations have been made they shall be promulgated by the approval of the advisory council and the President of the United States, and enforced by the sanitary authorities of the states, territories, municipalities, and local boards of health, where the state, territorial, municipal or local health authorities will undertake to execute and enforce them; but if the state territorial, municipal or local health authorities shall fail or refuse to enforce such rules and regulations, the President of the United States shall execute and enforce the same and adopt such measures as in his judgment shall be necessary to prevent the introduction or spread of such diseases, and may detail or appoint officers for that purpose.

A bill introduced in the United States Senate one day last week brings to light a romance of the late civil war, and the sacrifice of a man to save a family honor. The bill asks that the military record of Harman Francis shall be changed so that the name will read George Francis, and that an honorable discharge shall be granted to George Francis. Harman and George Francis were brothers. When the war broke out Harman enlisted in Company K, Ninety-seventh Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. His experiences the first few months were so severe that he surprised his family by walking into the home and telling them that he had grown tired of fighting and was not going back to his company. In vain the home folks argued with him and pointed out the fate of a deserter. Harman was determined. At home he was going to remain. It was then that George made up his mind to save the family name from dishonor. The resemblance between the two brothers was great and George went to the front as Harman. George served all through the war. In the battles of the wilderness he was wounded. The wound was a serious one and the name of Francis Harman was placed on the pension list. Since the war the pension has been regularly drawn by arrangement between the two brothers. This worked all right until lately. A few months ago Harman died. The pension is still being paid, but George wants to appear right before his neighbors. He thinks the honor of rebellion is due to his children. Harman left no family, and George feels that he has kept quiet long enough. So he asks that the record may be changed.

Now the very small boy, and girl too, begins to wonder if Santa Claus has got the right address.

Don't flatter yourself that friendship authorizes you to say disagreeable things to your intimates. On the contrary, the nearer you come into a relation with a person, the more necessary do tact and courtesy become.—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

OTTAWA, Dec. 22.—The students of Ottawa University have celebrated in right regal style the success of their football team, by a most successful banquet. The refectory of the institution, where the function took place, was lavishly decorated with flags and bunting, while in the center of the hall, in the place of honor, were placed on a raised trophy the Citizens' Cup and the Quebec Championship Trophy. Rev. Father H. Hault presided, and among the others present were: Rev. Fathers Fallon, Antoine and Lejeune, Messrs. F. P. Clancy, R. J. McCredie, Thomas B. Ucher, E. P. Gleason, J. Murphy, F. O'Garra, J. M. G. E. O. Lefleur, J. McGuckin, A. Smith, P. Murphy, J. O'Reilly, E. A. Bigger, R. Murphy, E. Murphy, J. Fahey, W. McCarty, H. Myers, T. Murphy and M. A. Foley.

After the banquet, Rev. Father Fallon made a strong congratulatory speech on the success of the team, and did not utter his language.

THE RELATIONS WERE STRAINED.

Father Fallon said for sixteen years matters between the College and Ottawa have been strained. Many a time in student days had he been called to the prior to confer with Ottawa delegates who with all sorts of soft, sweet words, would promise eternal friendship and then quietly stab the College in the back. Whenever the College played at home the Ottawa men met their opponents at the Russell House and gave every information that could possibly be obtained. Then, when the team went away, letters of advice to the opposing teams preceded the Varsity fifteen, and in many cases accompanied them, but in spite of all this Ottawa University was victorious. No, he would not wish the College to offer any apology for their action in Montreal; they did what was right and he was proud of them. He was never prouder of anything in his life than of the team who stepped off the field at the Metropolitan grounds when the score was 8 to 8. He did not approve of fighting, but those words of Shakespeare were in his mind: "Beware the entrance to a quarrel, but when it has begun, be sure you go in so that the oppressor may beware of you."

THE OTTAWA HOLOCAUST.

No doubt the readers of the TRUE WITNESS are already familiar with the main facts of the terrible tragedy which cost six lives on Friday morning last. There is little doubt but that the unfortunate Patrick T. Leahy and his five children met their death from dire accident. Mr. Leahy himself was ever a good husband and a good father and the horrible occurrence which swept so many lives away was none of his work. He died with his children after awaking his wife and warning her to flee with the baby. Mrs. Leahy has so far recovered as to be able to give her experience. She said:—"I woke up with a start shortly before three o'clock. My husband, who was in night attire, was standing at the bedside. I cannot say how I was awakened, but when I opened my eyes I found the room full of smoke. My husband was yelling to get up and save myself, as the house was on fire. I jumped out of bed and hurriedly rushed into the children's room, which adjoined mine. I picked up M. Leahy, aged seven, and Frankie, aged five, and in an instant started back to my room. I opened the window, which was only a few inches above the roof of an adjoining shed. Through the opening I forced little Frankie, and thereby saved his life. In the meantime little Mammie, who did not understand the danger, returned to her own room in the darkness, likely enough to go back to bed. Then I became frantic, and ran in after her. I was almost overcome with smoke now, and the fire was spreading in all directions, threatening my life. I attempted to enter the room a second time, but had to relinquish my desire and allow the little one to look after her own safety. I clambered through the window on to the roof of the shed and screamed for help. Mr. Joseph Boulez came to the yard and put up a ladder and assisted me and my child to the ground. THERE WERE NO LAMPS BURNING IN THE HOUSE at the time to my knowledge, but there had been a good wood fire in a small stove when I retired for the evening. When my husband stood beside my bed he seemed perfectly calm and self-possessed, and not at all hurried by the danger of the position in which he and the family were. After warning me, he walked calmly from the room to the next, where in the dense smoke he probably met his end. He made no effort to either save himself or his family. Had he been in his right senses there is no doubt that all lives would have been saved. I have no idea how the fire started."

The public in Ottawa are not at all pleased with the Fire Brigade in its conduct of the fire, there being an interval of fully twenty-five minutes before its first discovery and the arrival of Chief Prevost's men.

Chief Prevost believes that the whole six were dead before the alarm was even sounded. Mr. Leahy was born in 1852 and entered the Post Office Department of the Civil Service in 1883. He was a member of the C. M. B. A. and also of the Civil Service Benefit association. He was insured for \$2,000 in the former and for \$250 in the latter. He was a man of huge proportions, tipping the scales at about 225 pounds.

He was married by Rev. Father McGovern on September 19th, 1888, at the Basilica. Mrs. Leahy's maiden name was Miss Mary Agnes Barlow.

A MESSAGE FROM WINNIPEG.

Rev. Father Guillet, formerly Prefect of Discipline at Ottawa University, but now of Winnipeg, has issued an appeal for subscriptions for the maintenance of Catholic schools founded in Manitoba. Rev. Father Guillet is the superintendent and parish priest of the Church of St. Mary's of Winnipeg.