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Earthquakes.

THE past year has been signalized by a series of natural phenomena which have been seldom equaled in any similar period within the history of mankind. Beginning with the terrible volcanic outbursts of Vesuvius on April 14, 1906, various points of the earth's surface have been convulsed by volcanic eruptions, or earth tremors, which have had the most disastrous effect, and have resulted in great loss of life and vast destruction of property. All of these cataclysms have not occurred in a single so-called volcanic or earthquake belt but have taken place in the most widely-separated localities and our greatest seismologists have not yet been able to ascribe their origin satisfactorily to a common cause. Whether or not it is merely coincidence that these happenings should all have taken place within a twelve-month or whether there is some great underlying action with which we are unfamiliar, and which has given rise to them, still remains to be revealed.

A scientific report cannot yet be given of the recent catastrophe which destroyed Kingston, Jamaica, and which, evidently, was hardly less destructive in severity and extent than that which resulted in the destruction of San Francisco or the subsequent one which effected such terrible devastation at Valparaiso. Only after an elaborate study of the whole region affected by the earthquake and a careful

examination of the records of the pendulums located in the Jamaican territory can there be assigned to this subterranean disturbance a cause agreeing with the principles of science. However, from the information received it seems that it consisted of a great number of shocks, with one of maximum intensity near the beginning of the series of tremors. With this knowledge of the event, combined with an acquaintance of the geological formation of the locality, seismologists soon can assign a very probable cause of it, and determine its nature.

Since the Neapolitan earthquake of 1857, this kind of phenomenon has been studied with scientific method and seismology has made such great progress that now those who have given it their attention have gathered enough data to distinguish the class to which every earthquake must be referred. Nevertheless, we can only conjecture their causes with a high degree of probability, for we have little knowledge of the interior of our planet, the deepest drills having only reached to a depth of a mile and the centre of these seismic disturbances is ordinarily far below. For instance, the centre of the Charleston earthquake was calculated by Dutton to be twelve miles below the surface.

The actual leaders of this new science, as Milne, Gray, Ewing, Dutton and others, divide earthquakes into three classes, according to their origin. The first consists of slight local shocks caused by the fall of rock in underground passages; the second of volcanic earthquakes, also local in character, but often of considerable intensity near the centre of the disturbed area; while in the third class we have tectonic earthquakes, or those directly connected with the shaping of the earth's crust, which vary in strength from the weakest perceptible tremor to the most violent and widely felt shock. To which of these three classes then does the last Jamaican earthquake belong? On account of its destructive forces and its disturbed area, it could not possibly belong to the first class, nor do we think that the cataclysm of Kingston could be placed in the second class, because we have no evidence of its volcanic character, but, on the contrary, the few reports we have of it point clearly towards its being of tectonic origin.

According to the opinion of the most celebrated seismologists, an earthquake in the region where both volcanic and seismic centres

meet, is very seldom to be attributed to the effort of the magma, or molten matter, to force its way to the surface; an effort which is explained in two ways, either because of a release of pressure from above, or because a great mass of water finds its way into the fissures of the rock, and, reaching a depth where the temperature is very high, is suddenly converted into steam. If we find in the same region the centres of volcanic activity and seismic disturbance, this, according to the opinion of most seismologists, is due to the weakness of the slopes of the great depressions and uprisings of the surface of the earth, where the strata are under great stress and become, therefore, points of fracture. These points are at the same time centres of seismic disturbance and also of volcanic activity on account of fissures and the movement of the interior strata. Dr. Milne, our highest authority in the matter, says that unless we have distinct evidence of its volcanic character, an earthquake must be regarded as tectonic. Volcanic earthquakes are characterized by their small meizoseismal area, the shock being violent in the epicentre, or first point of the surface where it is felt, and diminishes very rapidly from that point; whereas the tectonic earthquakes are characterized by their large meizoseismal area, and the destruction in the epicentre is not so great as in the volcanic generally speaking. This difference between them leads to the belief that the centre of disturbance in the latter is very deep-seated, while in the former it is not so far below the surface of the earth.

An earthquake may also be defined as a vibratory movement produced within the earth and propagated outward through the strata of the earth. Now, according to the laws of vibratory motion, when this is propagated through a homogeneous and perfectly elastic medium, the intensity of the movement at any point is inversely proportional to the square root of the distances to the centre, from this law it is evident that when the centre of vibration is nearer the surface the distances from this centre to the different points of the surface increase proportionally much more rapidly than when the centre of disturbance is deeper, and therefore the intensity of the shock decreases with much more rapidity around the epicentre when the focus is not so deep-seated. This also shows that in the tectonic earthquakes the cause of the shock is much stronger than in the volcanic ones; although in the latter the destruction in the epi-

centre is very often greater than in the former, because the distance travelled from the centre to the epicentre is longer in those due to volcanic activity.

The great English seismic authority, Prof John Milne, has advanced another theory to account for the recent seismological phenomena which have been manifested in various parts of the world. He declares that the disturbances are due not to a merely normal readjustment of the earth's strata, or to the shifting of the surface to meet a gradual contraction in the size of the globe, but are caused by displacement of the globe itself from its true axis, and are really due to the jar incident to the subsequent swing back of the earth upon that true axis. It is conceivable that such a return movement to the axis as well as the original distortion would cause a tremendous strain upon the crust and could easily account for the most terrific shocks imaginable. Sir Norman Lockyer declares further that the deviation from the true axis, a fact which, by the way, can be scientifically proven, is due to the great sunspots which recently sent more energy to the earth than at any other time during the thirty-five years sunspot period, and which, through the great differences in the corresponding temperatures, caused the formation of vast ice-masses at one or the other of the poles, of such weight that the distortion takes place, to be subsequently remedied by other variations.

The ability to foretell the day or the hour that the earthquake takes place has not yet been attained, although many prophets are vaunting their alleged weather plants which not only forecast weather but predicts earthquakes. These predictions are almost invariably found to be falsified by the event. But, possibly, as more certain knowledge of the earth's interior is acquired, and when the theoretical explanations of the changes concerning the shape of the globe have been placed on a surer basis we may attempt predictions with more confidence, and also establish a certain balance between the factors that control the situation. None the less, the enormous advance in seismology, effected in late years, can but encourage further efforts not merely in the cause of science but to the practical benefit of mankind.

M. DOYLE, '08.

Concerning Certain Inconsistencies.

IF consistency be, indeed, a jewel, it is one to be found in but few treasure houses ; if a virtue, it is one rarely practised. Lip-service, to be sure, like all the other virtues, it has in plenty ; most of us, in truth, pride ourselves on possessing it. Unfortunately, there is another quality, common to most of us, which passes current as consistency. Its true name is obstinacy. But it passes current, nevertheless.

Human inconsistency, to say truth, has passed into a proverb. "There was never yet philosopher who could endure the toothache patiently." Yet, since the world, as Augustine Birrell says. "Is governed by logic," [*via Media*] by the logic of events, it is obvious that when our inconsistency runs counter to this same logic, as, of its nature, it must do, trouble inevitably ensues. Nature, though feminine, is consistent, *mirabile dictu*, and has little or no tolerance for the opposite quality. The sex, indeed, are not prone to be tolerant.

To pass from the general to the particular. Your would-be reformer is always more or less inconsistent, generally more, and the spelling reformer, so far from being an exception to the rule, comes, rather, under the category of a shocking example. There is no need surely, to specify inconsistencies, which are sufficiently obvious. That which the opponents of "reform" chiefly object to is, I take it, that it is to be forced upon us by the arbitrary dictum of a convention of scholars, the most unpractical of all men. The active partner of the concern has no claims to scholarship, and has the contrary fault of being merely practical. The world of English literature has not yet fallen under the domination of the business man. Nor has it been handed over to an oligarchy of university professors. The business man, in this instance, as a Scottish-American, belongs to the two most aggressive and self-confident races on the face of a suffering creation, John Bull himself not excepted. The University professors might, possibly, find Swift's "Voyage to Laputa" profitable reading, should they condescend to read it.

The world, in truth, is governed by custom, as well as by logic, and neither is to be set aside so easily as reformers would have us believe. Two points may, however, be touched on briefly here, the

question of phonetics and of uniformity. As to the first, it has been admirably pointed out, by an intelligent foreigner, that English phonetics differ radically from those of other languages, and that consequently any attempt to spell English phonetically must enormously increase the foreigner's difficulty in learning it. Personally, indeed, I should be inclined to say that we need more, not fewer, sound symbols, after the example of the oldest Eastern languages, and, I believe, of Gaelic. We need, if anything, to complicate our spelling rather than to simplify it. On the whole it is better to leave it as it is—for the present. It is bad enough, in all conscience, but change is as likely to make it worse as better. More likely, as a matter of fact, that being the prevalent nature of changes.

The matter of uniformity is of nearer interest to us here, since uniformity is, to all intents and purposes, synonymous with consistency. Certain words, formerly ending in *ed*, are to end in *st*. On what principle these have been chosen, I do not pretend to guess—if, indeed, principle may be said to have anything to do with the matter. But it is, surely, striking evidence of the slovenliness of our speech that these university professors should ignore the difference between “oppressed” and “opprest,” even as most of us make no difference between “learned” (past tense) and “learnt.” My own impression is—which I offer for what it is worth—that such forms as “opprest” are of purely poetical origin, since in poetry, at all events, sounds have, or should have, their true and exact values, and “oppressed” could never rhyme with “breast” were each word rightly enunciated.

But of poetry, as of many other things, the practical business man knows nothing and cares less, nor does the university professor concern himself with it—in English. An age which was poetical, though it could not spell, devised these forms as sound symbols, accurate and exact as music. A later age, less poetical and more practical, used them carelessly and indiscriminately, as convenience—or laziness—dictated. And it is to this wholly unjustifiable use of them that our spelling reformers would lead us back, in the name of “consistent evolution.”

I return, for the space of these final paragraphs, to the subject of the Bible in English literature, in order to point out an inconsistency which, I think, is more likely to strike a convert than one

brought up a Catholic from childhood. It is commonly held, on reverend authority, that the Bible is not a fit book for the young, least of all for growing boys. Apart from the fact that the opinion here referred to seems to differ from that of Saint Paul: "*From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures*"—of the Old Testament—"which are able to make thee wise unto salvation" [II Tim.: iii, 15], it certainly errs on the score of consistency. We fence our children off from the "living pastures" of the Word of God, and from "the still waters," but turn them loose into the poisonous meadows of the classics, and bid them "drink deep of the Pierian spring."

Charles Kingsley who, in this at least, knew whereof he wrote, has a word on this subject, and bids us "either tell boys the truth about love, or do not put into their hands, without note or comment, the foul devil's lies about it, which make up the mass of the Latin poets" [*Yeast*. ed. 1902, p. 4]. Nor are expurgated editions any less harmful, those, especially, in which the obnoxious passages are relegated to the notes at the end, where, as Byron says:

"They all stand staring, grouped together,
Like garden gods, and not so decent either,"

In truth, if I must choose between Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and the *Song of Solomon* (Canticle of Canticles) I prefer the latter, with Saint Bernard to interpret it for me. To the pure all things are pure, and Cowper, saint, poet, and quietist, used, we are told, to read "Tom Jones" aloud to two delicate, refined and pious ladies. So Saint Timothy, doubtless, read the Scriptures of the Old Testament—including the Song of Solomon at his mother's knee, and, being pure in heart, learned only that wisdom which makes for salvation. So, too, I doubt not, countless children of English speech have read the Bible, and gained only good, not harm, learning from the best teacher. But it is, of course, equally true that to the filthy-minded all things are filthy, even the Word of God, and that "a nice man," as the cynic says, "is a man of nasty ideas." Yet let us at least be consistent, and, if our children must not read the Scriptures, let us see to it that they do not read worse.

This by way of conclusion :

“ This above all : to thine own self be true ;
 And it must follow, as the night the day,
 Thou canst not then be false to any man.”

Truthfulness—to God, to ourselves, to others—that, I take it, is what consistency, that is worth anything, really means.

BEATUS, O. S. B.

The Church and the French Republic.

PART I.



HE spoliation of the Church in France by atheistic ministries misnamed Republican has awakened among true-hearted Catholics the world over an indignation expressed in no uncertain manner. From the councils of the Knights of Columbus, the Ancient Order of Hibernians and other associations, from great mass-meetings of the clergy and the laity, have gone forth resolutions boycotting French goods or voicing the protest of Catholic America. They bear home to Premier Clemenceau and his advisers the anger and contempt inspired by their policy of plunder. For, since the Revolution of 1789, nothing more contemptible has been witnessed in the domain of legalised robbery, than this wholesale confiscation of the Church's property by the French government, the most gigantic steal of the twentieth century. The high-handed and unwarranted proceedings by which the measures of confiscation were carried into effect have shown the French oligarchy in its true light before the eyes of the world—not a republic but a military despotism of the worst type, relying on the bayonet, and trampling on its own motto—"Liberty, Equality and Fraternity." Liberty—while it restricts the worship of God according to the dictates of conscience ; Equality—and it denies to one class of its citizens their rights as individuals and property-holders ; Fraternity—it antagonises and

oppresses the followers of the belief professed by the majority within its borders. It is not a republic in the true sense of the word but an excessive centralisation of power in the hands of a few, ruling the provinces through an army of prefects, magistrates and schoolteachers who cannot call their souls their own. Through these, its devoted slaves and allies, an anti-religious minority—two millions of the thirty-six millions that constitute the French population—has year after year, for the last three decades, won the elections and kept the country in its grip. It has been said, in an effort to explain the situation, that every fifth man in France is a civil servant, the willing tool of the government policy; the rest are supine and indifferent, content in matters political to let themselves be ruled by whomsoever chooses to lead them. But such supposition would hardly agree with the known character of the French people—a people, like all Celtic races, by nature impatient of tyranny and prone to resent leading-strings. A more probable explanation is offered by Archbishop Ireland, who suggests that the eyes of the nation have not yet been opened to the true facts of the situation. He says :

“ I know France from the Channel to the Mediterranean; I know her villages; I know her people. The masses are not used to political life. For ages they were governed; they do not comprehend the art of governing. Nor is there among the masses the ambition to gain political victory. Paris for a century and a half has ruled France. Establish a new regime, monarchical or republican, in Paris this evening, and the provinces awaken tomorrow morning monarchical or republican. It will require long years to decentralize power in France, to give to each citizen consciousness of personal independence, to obtain through universal suffrage a true expression of national will.”

The anti-clericalism which has so far profited by the errors in policy or the indifference of the French Catholics as to gain full control of politics is animated by a bitterness against the Church of which those on this side of the water can scarcely form a conception. M. Maze-Sencier, a Catholic Republican, thus describes its principle and methods :

“ By clericalism they mean what they affirm to be an indissoluble league between capitalists and clericals; for the capitalists, in order to carry on their dishonest transactions, have need of clericalism which besots the brain of the

masses by preaching resignation and obedience. With unwearied reiteration one affirmation is being dinned into the ears of the French people by the French press, namely, that the Catholic Church, far from educating the people, far from serving the people's interests, far from having organized in the country an economic system that was not insupportable, kept the peasant and the working-man up to the time of the Revolution in the direst subjection, in utter degradation.

The principles of the anti-Christian Radicals who are to-day at the head of the government were blasphemously expressed the other day by M. Briand, the present minister of public worship :

“ ‘ We have hunted Christ out of the army, the navy, the schools, the hospitals, insane and orphan asylums, the law courts, and now we must hunt Him out of the State altogether.’ ”

The Paris press is largely under anti-clerical control and it conducts what M. Maze-Sencier terms “a vast and able enterprise of lies.” “The corrupted and corrupting French press,” as the *Boston Pilot* calls it, has disseminated its one-sided views so widely that public opinion in America outside the Catholic Church is only now being educated to the true aspect of the situation by Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop Ireland and other eminent authorities. At a great mass-meeting of Boston Catholics the other day Dr. Thomas Dwight, of Harvard Medical School, forcibly illustrated some of the methods by which the servants of the government are held in line. He said :

“ Now for the idea of fraternity. One of the most damning proofs of the power of Freemasonry in France and of its activity against Catholics has been the revelations of two years ago concerning the spying in the army carried on even by generals, when Gen. Andre was minister of war, and the carrying of reports to the Grand Orient. The exposures were made largely through the *Figaro*, which published photographs of documents which came into their possession. Nothing was too vague to be reported ; that a man was a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul ; that he went to Mass ; that his wife taught Sunday School—all these were sent by fellow officers to their masters at the lodges. Here is a sample : Commandant Bennan at Bruyeres. Will be recommended by Gen. Bounal. A fanatic clerical, who on his arrival at Bruyeres went to Communion solemnly with his family. Owing to the example he has set officers and non-commissioned officers have begun to frequent church assiduously.

When the local municipality had a dispute with the parish priest, who wished the children educated in the secular schools to attend catechism in the free schools, he took the side of the parish priest. His wife takes a catechism class at the convent.'

"On a list headed "Corinth" were the names of those who were pronounced worthy of promotion; on one headed "Carthage" were those who should be kept down. It was shown that Catholic officers were removed to distant posts. Masons' names were underlined with a red pencil, and suspected persons with a blue. Perhaps the climax was reached with the publication of the following letter by Gen. Peigne, who commanded an army corps, and was a member of the superior council of war, to the secretary general of the Grand Orient.

' 9th Army Corps.

' The General.

TOURS, Aug. 29, 1904.

(Grand Orient Stamp.)

' Sept. 1, 1904.

(No. 1505.)

' DEAR BROTHER VADECARD--I wrote a letter to Gen. Brun, telling him that the post asked for Capt. Choquet will be vacant on Dec. 30, and (am) again using my utmost influence. You know that Gen. Brun replied that he was aware of Choquet's candidature, and that from the first he had considered it very seriously. I am not satisfied, and I am using all my power. I am continuing a vigorous fight against the clericals of the 9th corps. A few days ago I ordered a major and four captains of the 125th Poitiers infantry regiment to the east. I think that this produced a good effect. I have also proceeded to other measures, and curés no longer dare to put in appearance. Thanks to our excellent brother Chevallier, and to the other brethren of the 9th corps, I am warned and I can strike with certainty. Freemasonry will help me in the thankless task of unfrocking (ouf!!) my officers who are so hostile and so bound to Sarto. Thanks, then, to you all, and especially to you, dear brother Vadeкарd, most heartfelt thanks.

' Your very devoted brother.

' Peigne.

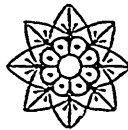
"Sarto, it should be mentioned, is the family name of the Pope. Gen. Peigne had to admit the authenticity of the letter and, driven to bay, strove to defend his course. It is but fair to say that the indignation against this spying was so deep that it precipitated the fall of Combes. Gen. Peigne passed for a time under a cloud, but only to emerge again.

"A word should be said about the connection of Freemasonry with the

oppression of the Church. To many in this community the statement will seem little short of outrageous, accustomed as they are to meet Masons in everyday affairs without the suspicion of any hostility. Leo XIII in his encyclica on Freemasonry expressly says: 'There may be persons among these, and not a few' who, although not free from the guilt of having entangled themselves with such associations, yet are neither themselves partners in their criminal acts, nor aware of the ultimate object which they are endeavoring to attain.' All of us Catholics, I am sure, are glad to believe that this applies to our Masonic fellow-citizens. But the essential point is that, so far as outsiders can judge, the tendency of the order in English speaking countries is by no means what it is on the continent of Europe. There, it avows openly its hatred of Christianity. Unfortunately, as I have just shown, it is very powerful in France. Should further evidence be wanting let me read you the telegram sent from Rome on the 13th of this month, by Signor Ferrari, grand master of the Italian Masonic lodges, to the Grand Orient in Paris. 'France to-day marks a glorious footstep in her difficult path. I inscribe the memorable date in the golden book of civil conquests. I send you my fraternal salutations. You have fought and conquered.' Note the last sentence, 'you,' the head of the Masons, 'have conquered.' What more complete proof could be wished for?"

(To be concluded.)

HUBERT O'MEARA.



Lady Amabel Kerr.

SOME months ago, a distinguished author passed away in the person of Lady Amabel Kerr, and with a suddenness which recalls the lamented death of Mrs Craigie. At present we can hardly do anything better than borrow from the sketch of Lady Amabel Kerr as given at the time of her death by the London Tablet :

In Lady Amabel Kerr we have lost a rare example of strenuous devotion to the service of God and His Church, rendered all the more forcible by reason of the obscurity in which she endeavored to shroud her work. It will not be out of place to gather up a few particulars of what she did, and put them on record for the benefit of others.

Of her spiritual life it would be an impertinence to speak, though in it is doubtless to be found the true secret of her unwearied activity. Nor shall we attempt any account of her constant exercises of charity, for it would be impossible to give any true sketch of what she so sedulously and successfully strove to keep in the dark.

We can attempt a slight sketch of the literary labors along which were inspired solely by a genuine and unflinching desire to do good to those for whom she wrote, and to which she devoted her time and toil with a self-sacrificing determination which it would be well if more would emulate.

Forty years ago, while still a girl, and before her conversion, she commenced her literary career with a sort of journal intime, afterward published with the title "Unravelled Convictions," in which she records the various mental stages through which which she was led through many doubts and bewilderments to find peace and rest in the Catholic Church. It is an instructive history, and thirty years afterward was republished in a second edition by the Catholic Truth Society.

Once within the fold, Lady Amabel found ample exercise for her pen, which was constantly employed in producing what might serve for instruction or edification. In particular she was a most strenuous and efficient member of the Catholic Truth Society, a regular attendant at its committee meetings, and one of the most prolific contributors to its literature, most of her work being done for it.

The character of this work will best be understood, and the labor

which it involved best appreciated, by an enumeration of its principal features.

To begin with, she did much to spread amongst Catholics a knowledge of the Bible story by her most successful little volumes, "Before Our Lord Came (Old Testament history for young children)," "Bible Picture Book for Catholic Children," and "Life of Our Lord."

Of many saints and holy persons she likewise wrote lives—some on a larger scale as substantial books, others in outline as penny tracts. Of the former class we have B. Sebastian Valfre; Buonsignore Cacciaguerra ("A Precursor of St. Philip"); Joan of Arc; B. Anthony Grassi ("A Saint of the Oratory"); St. Felix of Cantalice ("A Son of St. Francis"); and "Sister Chatelain; or, Forty Years' Work in Westminster."

The shorter biographies include those of St. Martin, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Francis Xavier, St. Philip Benizi, Mother Mary Hallahan, and two who commenced life as French naval officers, and a tribute to whom came appropriately from the wife of a British Admiral; they were Alexis Clerc, and Auguste Marceau.

To our devotional literature also Lady Amabel was no inconsiderable contributor. From the German of Father Meschler, S.J., she translated "The Gift of Pentecost" (meditations on the Holy Ghost), and from the letters of Fenelon she selected a volume which she entitled "Spiritual Counsels."

In fiction, too, she produced two stories which achieved some success, despite a purpose. These appeared originally under the titles, "A Mixed Marriage" and "One Woman's Work," the latter being altered when the tale was published separately to "The Whole Difference."

Besides all these various productions of her pen, Lady Amabel edited the Catholic Magazine, established in 1895, during the greater part of its career.

At the time of her death she was engaged on a more serious task than any previously undertaken by her—the translation of Dr. Pastor's "Lives of the Popes," a task, we believe which she leaves but half accomplished, and on the afternoon of the very day upon which her fatal seizure occurred she was engaged upon it.

Thus the end found her unweariedly engaged in the very labor

to which she had in so large a measure devoted her life, with no thought of any return except that for which alone she cared, the glory of God and the good of souls; and terribly sudden as that end was, it assuredly did not find her unprepared. May she rest in peace.

Platinum.



METAL "more precious than gold" is scarcely thought of by people in general, but that supremacy has been attained by platinum, which now ranks as the most valuable of metals aside, of course, from radium and a few others of the rarer metals which are not produced in commercial quantities.

An importer, who handles a large proportion of the platinum received, said recently: "The price of platinum eleven years ago was only \$6 per troy ounce. Its value kept steadily rising, and about a year and a-half ago it began to be worth its weight in gold. To-day pure gold is valued at \$20.67 per troy ounce, and platinum at from \$33 to \$36 per ounce. There is a large demand for the latter at this price.

There has been a greatly increased demand for platinum in all directions, but, in spite of this, the supply has not increased. The mines do not grow richer. Practically all of the supply is derived from the Ural Mountains in Russia, where some of the mines are owned by the government and others by private companies and Russian princes. These mines were worked about the same as usual throughout the Russo-Japanese war, and if the war had any effect on them, it is certain, any way, that the supply of platinum has not increased since, though the demand has.

Platinum is as necessary to the chemist as bread is to man in general, that he may live. The metal is invaluable as the material of chemical utensils, because of its resistance to heat and acids. It is used in all incandescent electric lamps, and there is no substitute for it. On account of its high cost, the platinum wires for this purpose have been made thinner and thinner. Then, a large demand has developed for the use of platinum in jewelry, in which it is especially employed for the setting of diamonds. It enables the

finest of diamonds, the pure white, to be displayed to the best advantage, while they are liable to catch a yellow reflection from a gold setting. A silver setting, of course, is easily tarnished. I have mentioned only some of the more important uses for which platinum is in such great request."

An electrician said that in all incandescent electric lights little bits of very fine platinum wire were used for the "contacts," or connections between the carbon film, in the glass bulb, and the feed wire. "Slight as the quantity of platinum is in each lamp," he said, "its value is now so high that there is a considerable trade in the old bulb; when the film has burned."

M. A. '10.

A Wish for St. Patrick's Day.



O! to be walking to Mass by the white thorn hedges,
 On St. Patrick's Day, in the land of his love and his labors,
 To the olden gray church with the ivy and rose on its ledges;
 Oh! to be walking to Mass with the dear Irish neighbours.

Pleasing and soft are the songs of the birds in the bushes;
 But, music divine is the "God save you kindly"! that greeting—
 Sweeter its sound than the notes of the wood-larks and thrushes;
 Warm the welcoming clasp of each true hand in meeting.

Sweet is the breath of the Spring in the fair land of Erin;
 Bright is the gold of the sun on gray hill and green valley;
 Blue to the far smiling heaven the sky o'er Knoec-fiern';
 Silv'ry the streams run thro' copses of hazel and sally.

When, in melodies sacred, the bells by the Shannon are chiming,
 Would I were there, in the olden gray church, at Mass kneeling,
 On St. Patrick's Day, while the ivy and briar rose are climbing,
 And the mists of the morn like incense to heaven are stealing.

E. C. M. T

About Some Editions of the Bible,

IT is very natural that there should be different and conflicting notions concerning the Bible. Amid the many and too often contradictory statements which the average reader continually meets with, even in his ordinary reading, he is often at a loss what position to take. There are, however, certain points which every day seem to be growing clearer to the world at large. On one of these the *Ave Maria* touches in a recent issue when it refers to the learned author of "Saunterings in Spain" and quotes a reviewer in the *London Tablet* as writing that "he reminds us as how, through the Polyglot Bible of Cardinal Ximenes, issued from the University of Alcalá the New Testament in Greek was in Spanish hands two years before that of Erasmus and eight years before that of Luther appeared." This, it will be seen, is not quite accurate. In his book entitled "Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts," published in 1896, Frederic Kenyon gives these details. In 1502 Cardinal Ximenes formed a scheme for a printed Bible, containing the Hebrew, Greek and Latin texts in parallel columns. Many years were spent in collecting and comparing manuscripts with the assistance of several scholars. It was not till 1514 that the New Testament was printed and the Old Testament was only completed in 1517. Even then various delays occurred, including the death of Ximenes himself, and the actual publication of this edition of the Greek Bible (known as the Complutensian from the Latin name of Alcalá, where it was printed) only took place in 1522.

Meanwhile, the great Dutch scholar, Erasmus, had received from a Swiss printer named Froben, the proposal to prepare an edition in Greek which should anticipate that which Ximenes had on hand. Erasmus consented: the work was rapidly executed and as rapidly passed through the press, and in 1516 the printed copy of the New Testament in the original Greek was given to the world. The first edition was full of errors of the press. It was based on no more than six manuscripts at the most and of these only one was either ancient or valuable and none was complete so that some of the verses of the Apocalypse are actually re-translated by Erasmus himself into Greek from the Latin; and what is more remarkable, some words of the translation which occur in no Greek manuscript

whatever, still hold their place in our received Greek text. That text is, indeed, largely based on the edition of Erasmus. The work of Ximenes was much more careful and elaborate.

From Dr. A. E. Breen's "Introduction to the study of Holy Scripture," published at Rochester, N. Y. in 1897 we get further details. "A portion of ten months at most," writes Dr. Breen, p. 475, "could at the utmost have been devoted by Erasmus to the text, the Latin version and the notes; while the only manuscripts he can be imagined to have used are Codd. Evan. 2, Act. Paul. 4, all still at Basle. He used Apoc. 1 (now lost) alone for the Apocalypse. All these excepting Evan. Act. Paul. 1, were neither ancient nor valuable, and of Cod. 1, he made but small account. As Apoc. 1 was mutilated in the last six verses, Erasmus turned these into Greek from the Latin; and some portions of his version, which are found (however some editors may speak vaguely), *in no Greek manuscript whatever*, still cleave to the received text.

When Ximenes in the last year of his life was shown Erasmus' edition, which had got the start of his own, and his editor, Stunica, sought to depreciate it, the noble old man replied, "would to God that all the Lord's people were prophets! produce better if thou canst; condemn not the industry of another." His generous confidence in his own work was not misplaced. He had many advantages over the poor scholar and the enterprising printer of Basle, and he had not allowed them to pass unimproved.

"It is evident," concludes Dr. Breen, "that the Greek text has not been preserved to us in all its pristine integrity as it came from the inspired writers' hands. But neither has the corruption so invaded it that it should be considered as an unreliable fount of Scripture. The Hebrew, Greek and Vulgate Latin, remain three authentic founts. At times, one is more correct than another, and the collation of all three is useful to the understanding of any one." "There is scarcely a verse" observes Professor Kenyon on page 3 of his book "in which there is not some variation of phrase in some copies. It is true (and it cannot be too emphatically stated) that none of the fundamental truths of Christianity rest on passages of which the genuineness is doubtful; but it still remains a matter of concern to us to know that our Bible, as we have it today, represents as closely as may be the actual words used by the writers of the sacred books." D.

University of Ottawa Review.

PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS.

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OTTAWA, ONT., February, 1907.

No. V.

NOT SO MEDIOCRE.

An article in a leading American publication characterizes Pope Pius X. as an ignorant and silly sort of a saint. For Catholics who feel bound by special and personal obligations to reverence the spiritual authority of the supreme Head of their Church, it is not pleasant to read that, "Pius X is not a genius as his culture is scarcely mediocre." Now Catholics are not simple enough to believe this. Besides the fact is becoming known that the young Sarto, not only showed exceptional talent at school but was most regular in his attendance, from his eleventh to his fifteenth year trudging every day without fail seven miles to school in Castlefranco and seven miles back home. He completed his studies in the Great Seminary of Padua where he spent nine years, sweeping off the honors of all his classes and very larger classes some of them were. A report, which received at the close of his college course, is very interesting from many points of view.

"In classics, a four years' course, he always obtained "the four notes," and finally received a special mention in Mathematics, Latin, Greek and Italian composition. In Philosophy: Distinguished because a good thinker, with the relative knowledge in a high degree, as well for the profoundness as the extent of his knowledge. In Italian: Eminent for his great facility in interpreting the classics, for the correctness of his style, and for his varied knowledge of its literature." (We pass over the notes in Latin and Greek, which are of a similarly eulogistic character.) "In Geography and History: Eminent for his vast and clear knowledge of all the facts of mediæval history and their chronological order. In Mathematics: Distinguished on account of his very laudable, natural aptitude for the science, and for his great dexterity in solving problems in algebra and geometry. In Physics and Natural Science: Distinguished for the clearness of his ideas, and for his precise and co-ordinate knowledge as well as practical proofs."

This young peasant of Riese is thus lauded for the acuteness of his genius and his intense assiduity to study; so that the culture with which he left the great institution can hardly have been "mediocre;" and that culture has been growing ever since.

MAPLE PRODUCTS.

An interesting bulletin just issued from the Department of Agriculture deals with the question of the manufacture and purity of Canadian maple syrup and sugar. The average annual output for Canada approximates 17,804,825 pounds, the money value of which is placed at \$1,780,482. The limits of the sugar maple extends from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Eastern Ontario, south into Vermont, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio. The sugar maple does not flourish in Europe. Canada supplies over three-sevenths of the world's output and the possibilities in this direction are easily five or six times greater than the present yield. Last year legislation was passed to guarantee the purity of this product offered for home consumption or export, notwithstanding which adulteration continues practically unrestrained. Of 85 samples of syrup and 25 of sugar, 111 in all, collected in various provinces of the Dominion the past year, 65, or 58.5 per cent. of the syrups were impure. Of nine samples of the syrup collected in Ottawa only four were free from impurities and fifty per cent. of the sugar was adulterated. This does not speak highly for the honesty of the makers. The severe penalties provided by law for adulterat-

ing the product and fraudulently marking the packages should be applied when the criminal intent of the parties placing the goods on the market, has been established. Purchasers should have their "fruit in season," when they pay for it.

Exchanges.

In literary merit and mechanical perfection the *Xavier* seems to justify, the contention supported by its editor, that the college magazine offers sufficient reason for its being. Admitted that the College Journal is not so readable, nor that it attempts to be at all as interesting as the great periodical, it does good work nevertheless. The editors are not thinking so much of swelling its circulation as of handling subjects dear to the student and a vital import though hardly attractive to the general public. If education, as it is said, is the power of expression, then one of the conditions in the exercise of that power is a voice, an organ—the college paper. Some very exquisite literary work appears in college magazine.

On January 3rd, we learn from the *Notre Dame Scholastic*, the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon the Very Rev. Andrew Morrissey, C. S. C., a former President of the University of Notre Dame. The honor was bestowed by the Holy Father through the Congregation of Studies in Rome in recognition for the eminent services the recipient has rendered to education.

The editor of *Mt. St. Mary's Record*, after offering our jaded appetite a tempting display of short poems, stories, essays, devotes an editorial to thanking the writers in her school for manuscripts, which may not, because of their multiplicity, be published. Happy editor! Our humble little journal is not, let us confess, so loyally supported. Its natural contributors seem very diffident about their growing talent, are not so ready to pass in their manuscripts, unreluctantly leaving them to the editor's decision. Perhaps they do not feel as well prepared as the workers of the *Record*. Doubtless, duties towards clubs and societies, of which the number here seems to be legion, admit of little leisure for extended or careful literary effort. Then, the curriculum which is being more crowded every year, chiefly with unliterary scientific branches, is extremely exacting.

The undergraduates, or the small fraction of the student body which has passed the matriculation and the intermediate posts, feel in most cases that they cannot afford to risk their degree by puzzling out rhymes and mooning for superficial rhetorical effects. As a matter of fact, the undergraduates are not credited with the fine work they do in the various departments of the REVIEW. As our athletic games have been played, lost and won, not by the undergraduates but by the students : so likewise our college paper has always been *published by the students.*

Book Review.

In the *Canadian Messenger* we find the following "Life of our Lord in a Hundred Words."

JESUS CHRIST, the Son of God, was born of the Virgin Mary in a stable at Bethlehem. He remained thirty years with His mother, left her to found His Church, delivered the Sermon on the Mount, preached the everlasting punishment of hell. Expounded the Ten Commandments ; gave priests power to change bread and wine into His Body and Blood, and ensured that power to their successors. Was crucified ; rose again ; authorized His Apostles to forgive sins ; made Peter the unerring head of His Church ; sent the eleven to teach and baptize all nations ; ascended into heaven ; abides in the Eucharist.

The articles in the *Electric Journal* for February show a happy combination of technical, scientific findings and satisfactory practical results. In view of the enormous loss of life occasioned by railroads, the question of the advantages of the electro-pneumatic interlocking system appears timely. The paper on "The Technical Graduate and the Manufacturing Company" shows that every student must be endowed with more than a general knowledge. A generation ago, usually one man was at head of a business, personally familiar with, and directing its various departments. The diverse functions formerly performed by oneman, now require the co-operation of many men in a single organization. Each is an expert, and altogether they act as a powerful unit. Enterprises, except those which are small or of a certain kind, cannot be conducted by a single individual. Ability to work efficiently with others, is required in larger undertakings.

A very valuable article appears in the February *Catholic World*, under the title "Is the Planet Mars inhabited?" The writer, Father Searle, C. S. P., an eminent astronomer himself, sums up the merits of the question in an able manner. "Catholics and the New Testament," by Katharine Tynan, expresses delightfully the experience of many of us with the Family Bible: though the writer of "The Right and the Wrong Way with Good Books," in the *Pilot* is as delightful in describing a different experience, when she had a glimpse of lost Eden, etc. Indeed, we all might drop novels during Lent, and get better acquainted with real spiritual books.

Junior Department.

The hockey season, always a stirring time, was not less so this year. Immediately on resumption of classes after the holidays, the J. A. A. organized its septets and drew up a schedule. The championship is hanging in the balance. An occasional snowstorm brings out the whole J. A. A. brigade promptly and the rink is cleared before the Seniors are finished their morning sm'ce. Some keenly contested games have been played with the Crescents. Snowflakes, Juniorates, and with an all-star team from the senior hockey league. In each of those contests they demonstrated by their brilliant rushes, combination and scientific shooting, that the game held no secrets for them. The following players comprise the first team—J. Pigeon, goal; A. Lamarche, point; R. Chevrier, cover point; Captain Perrault, centre; O. McHugh, rover; "Proxy" Bombard, wing.

The class in physical culture is doing excellent work since the horizontals, parallels, purchasing bag, etc., have been placed within the small yard territory. Paul Parent claims to have increased his chest measurement by several inches during the last month.

Ch—p seems to have developed a tendency to visit the small yard reading room. An explanation of this may be given by Literary Lil.

The Pool and Billiard tournaments are proving to be unlimited source of amusement. The schedules are being carefully followed and many have become adepts in the game, it being now an ordinary occurrence to "clear" the table. Isn't that right, Bedard?

Of Local Interest.

The Debating and Literary Society held its initial debate after the Christmas holidays on Jan. 27th. The subject was, "Resolved, that the English Government represents the wishes of the people more completely than the Government of the United States," the affirmative being upheld by Messrs. E. Byrnes and N. Bawlf, and the negative by Messrs. M. O'Gara and G. Castello. The discussion proved that these gentlemen had carefully studied their subject. The judges declared in favor the affirmative. On the following Sunday Messrs. A. Houle and F. Higgerty, contended that "Australia offers a better field to British Emigration than Canada," against Messrs. P. Lyons and V. Gorman. The debate was evenly contested throughout, but victory rested with the negative when the vote was taken.

On Sunday, Feb 17th, a "mock Parliament" in which a large number of the senior students took an active part. The most remarkable feature of the proceedings was the strictness with which the parliamentary routine was adhered to, and it was not uncommon to hear such phrases as "Honorable gentlemen of the Opposition." "The member from Cheboyagan," etc. After the "speech from the throne" had been read and replied to, the Speaker Mr. G. P. McHugh, declared the house open to the introduction of bills and their discussion. The Government under the leadership of Mr. R. McDougall, formed a line of policy, which, in their opinion would serve the best interests of the country. Against this Government, however, an Opposition, chieftained by Mr. E. Byrnes, introduced a "want of confidence motion" and supported it by vigorous and eloquent appeals. Mr. P. Gorman in the united capacity of clerk of the Commons and Sergeant-at-arms proved himself equal to the occasion, while the pages and whip(s) were entirely in their element. To criticize the speakers individually would be beyond our scope, suffice it to say that they all spoke well, under the circumstances and entered into the spirit of the debate with all possible vim. Particular mention, however, must be made of the splendid speeches of Messrs. McCarthy and Conaghan.

Active preparations are under way for the annual St. Patrick's Day Banquet given by the Irish students of the University. St. Patrick's Day has always been a "red letter" day in the history of the institution, and this year promises to be no exception. Mr. J. E. McNeill, '07, has been elected Toastmaster or Chairman of the banquet, and the following committee is in charge:

Chairman, C. J. Jones, '07.

Secretary, J. E. McNeill, '07.

Treasurer, M. D. Doyle, '08.

Chairman of Toast Committee, J. E. McNeill, '07.

Chairman of Menu Committee, J. R. Marshall, '07.

Chairman of Reception Committee, F. McDonald, '08.

Chairman of Decoration Committee, W. H. Veilleux, '07.

Chairman of Music Committee, F. W. Hatch, '07.

The final debate for the championship of the Inter University series took place between the representatives of Queen's and Ottawa in the Assembly Hall of the Normal School on the evening of January 25th. The subject discussed was: "Resolved that a general high license law is preferable to a total prohibition law against intoxicating liquors". The men from Kingston, Messrs. N. S. Macdonnell and J. M. McQuarrie, upheld the affirmative, while for Ottawa Messrs. Chas. J. Jones and A. Basil Côté argued on behalf the negative. The judges were Messrs. F. D. Monk, M. P.; E. McDonald, M. P.; and His Worship, Mayor Scott. In announcing their decision Mr. Monk paid a high compliment to the young men who had conducted the debate, and said that after considerable discussion, they had awarded the victory to Queen's by a very narrow margin. During the evening a vocal solo by Mr. B. W. Allen, and an instrumental trio by Misses F. and B. Lynch and Mr. G. Lamothe were much appreciated.

The University Scientific Society has reorganized for the winter. The officers in charge are:

Director, Rev. J. A. Lajeunesse, M. A.

President, J. R. Marshall, '07.

Vice Pres., E. H. McCarthy, '09.

Secretary, J. Corkery, '09.

Treasurer, H. St-Jacques, '08.

Councillors, A. Basil Côté, '09; A. Couillard, '09; M. J. Smith, '10; R. Morin, '10.

At the first meeting of the society, a lecture on the "Instinct of Animals" was delivered by the Rev. Director. Many examples were cited to prove that their exists in the animal a peculiar impulse which guides it to perform certain actions. This instinct, however, must not be confounded with human reason, and many incidents were related to exemplify the difference between them. On the whole the lecture was replete with interesting and valuable information.

"The Pride of Killarney", a romantic drama in four acts, was presented under the auspices of the Literary and Debating Society in Harmony Hall, on Feb. 12th to an audience that taxed its capacity. The play was artistically staged and the ability displayed by those who took part in it won high praise from the keenest critics. While it would be difficult to particularize, Mr. J. Fahey as a Killarney boy, made the hit of the evening with Mr. P. C. Harris as Adolphus Pennyworth a close second. The latter gave an almost perfect interpretation of the English "dandy", turning out to be, in the last act, "Charlie, my boy" the friend of Maurice O'Donnell. Messrs. Hart, Grace, Hatch, Byrnes and McCarthy also made good impressions in their respective roles, while the dancing of Messrs. C. and G. Gorman and J. Gallagner elicited much applause. During the intermissions, a vocal solo by Miss Hazel Maloney and several selections by the University orchestra were well received. Also Mr. Otto O'Regan as Hy-Riaghain, the Mystic, furnished considerable amusement by his magic tricks.

Great credit is due Rev. Dr. Sherry under whose capable management the play was staged, and to whose untiring efforts the whole success of the affair is owing. Too much praise cannot be given him for his endeavors in its behalf.

The cast of characters was as follows:

Maurice O'Donnell ..	(The Pride of Killarney).....	E. Byrnes
Mr. O'Donnell	(Maurice's father).....	W. Grace
Myles O'Shaughnessy..	(A warm-hearted Irishman) ..	J. J. Hart
Mr. O'Driscoll ..	(Mr. O'Donnell's friend) ..	A. Stanton
Barnev Lafferty ...	(A Killarney Boy) ..	J. J. Fahey
Darby Grady	(Another) ..	M. Smith
Adolphus Pennyworth..	(An exquisite).....	P. C. Harris
Felix Harding	(Maurice's enemy) .	F. W. Hatch
Raymond Vibert . .	(Topsy Captain).....	E. H. McCarthy
Mr. Preston	(A Magistrate) ..	N. Bawlf

Police, Peasants, etc.