

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS.

A REMARKABLE ORDER OF EDUCATORS—COLLEGES, ACADEMIES, AND SCHOOLS—WORK OF THE BROTHERS IN BROOKLYN.

ONE of the most popular religious orders of the Catholic Church in the United States is that of the Christian Brothers. The Sisters of Charity and Sisters of Mercy have, by their noble self-sacrifice, won the praises of distinguished men of every religious persuasion, but even these devoted friends and servants of the poor cannot claim the popularity and influence of the followers of the venerable De La Salle. The educational triumphs of the Christian Brothers in this country during the past twenty years might seem incredible if they were not attested by facts which cannot be disputed, and by eminent educators and journalists of every religious denomination, and every shade of politics.

SKETCH OF THE ORDER IN AMERICA.

Thirty-six years ago four French Brothers opened their first school on the American Continent, in Montreal, with an attendance of two hundred pupils. Their first establishment in the United States was opened at Baltimore in 1846, and was opened in New York in 1848. In this country alone they are educating sixty thousand pupils. There are at present in Canada 240 brothers, 45 novices, and 25 houses. In the United States there are 600 Brothers, 100 novices, and 52 houses; and in the Republic of Ecuador, 45 Brothers, 40 novices, and 6 houses. The government of the institution in America is divided into six provinces—Canada, New York, Baltimore, St. Louis, New Mexico, California, and Ecuador. After the lapse of a few years the number of provinces will be ten. Though the Brothers devote their lives chiefly to the education of the children of the poor, they have colleges endowed with university privileges in all the great cities of the Union.

MANHATTAN COLLEGE,

in New York, is one of the most flourishing and progressive of their higher institutions of learning. It is the only Catholic college in the State unencumbered by debt—an incontestable proof of the thorough education imparted in it, and of the generous patronage bestowed upon it by the public. A degree obtained in this popular seat of learning is valued as a high honor, because it is the reward of merit alone. Academic honors have never been prostituted in Manhattan College. Only one gentleman has received the degree of LL.D. since its foundation—Bishop Ryan, of St. Louis, the great pulpit orator of the West. Chancellors Pruyn and Wetmore, of the University of the State of New York, have more than once borne generous testimony to the high literary and scientific standing of Manhattan College.

The president is the Provincial of the New York province, Brother Paulian, a gentleman well fitted by nature and education to govern successfully a flourishing seat of learning.

PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS.

The Brothers conduct fourteen parochial schools and three paying academies in New York. The annual income of each Brother engaged in the parochial schools never exceeds \$400—a mere pittance, scarcely sufficient for the humblest food and raiment. If the Brothers did not live in communities, they would not be able to subsist on the small salaries they receive. Among the parochial schools, one of the most successful in the thorough instruction imparted in it is reputed to be St. Gabriel's, East Thirty-sixth Street. "I fearlessly assert," said Commissioner Wood, of the Board of Education, a few weeks ago, "that the high and thorough education imparted in St. Gabriel's surpasses that of any school in New York." The only school conducted by the Brothers in Brooklyn is St. James', Jay street. It is the oldest Catholic male school on Long Island, and has always ranked high among the best schools in Brooklyn.

THE CATHOLIC PROTECTORY

is healthily situated in Westchester County, and is said to be the greatest charitable institution on the American continent. Within its walls 1,500 poor boys are trained, in various industrial departments, to be good and useful citizens. Distinguished Protestant gentlemen have again and again borne willing testimony to the excellent training received by the inmates of this admirable institution. "During my experience," said Police Justice Kasmire, a few days ago, "no graduate of the Protectory has been ever sent to the penitentiary." The institution has been conducted since its foundation by the Christian Brothers. The rector, Brother Teliow, a gentleman of great administrative abilities, has, in the face of a thousand obstacles and difficulties, made it the grandest and most successful asylum of charity on this continent. Not far distant from the Protectory is the Novitiate of the Order, in which over eighty young novices are carefully educated for the arduous mission of teaching.

THE SECRET

of the success of the Christian Brothers as educators is a system of education which the experience of two centuries has almost perfected. Devoting their whole lives to teaching, their success in communicating knowledge to the young, maintaining order, and enforcing discipline in the class-room, without corporal punishment, which is strictly prohibited by the rules of their founder, has not been equalled by any other Order in the Catholic Church. Keenly alive to the wants of the age, and thoroughly awake to the aspirations of the American mind, they are equally popular among Protestants and Catholics.—*Catholic Sentinel.*

A valuable relic of O'Connell and Catholic Emancipation is now on view at Mr. Kelly's in Dublin. It consists of a thick folio volume, containing 296 letters from various political personages, being their replies to the secretary of the committee which organized the great Protestant meeting for Catholic Emancipation, held in the Rotundo in 1829. The price asked for the volume is fifty-five pounds.

THE CATHOLIC PRESS.—The Vienna 'Vaterland' was lately confiscated three times, and at Prague several of the Catholic papers are regularly sequestered, the only reason which can be imagined being their comments on Prince Bismarck and on the attitude of the Austrian and Hungarian Ministers, which is not very favourable to the Church.

THE CENTRAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

At a meeting of the Central Board of Health, the following letter was read:—

"Dunedin, December 2, 1875.

"Sir,—I have the honour to respectfully suggest to the Central Board of Health the great importance—more particularly at the present time, when scarlet fever is so prevalent in Melbourne—of taking proper precautions against the introduction and spreading of that or any other infectious or contagious disease into this Colony by means of steamers arriving, particularly from that port. The local Board of Health is alive to the necessity of vigilance on its part; but any efforts it may make must be inefficient in preventing the spread of scarlet or any other fever, unless the Central Board can exercise a fitting supervision as regards all arrivals, from Melbourne more particularly.

"I would also venture to suggest to the Central Board of Health that it would be well to place before the medical profession resident in Dunedin and Port Chalmers the importance of their exercising every care that they may not themselves convey any contagious or infectious disease from patients to other persons.

"HENRY WALTER,

"Chairman Local Board of Health."

The Central Board having considered the above letter, the Superintendent telegraphed to the Colonial Secretary as follows:—"The Central Board of Health meet to-day to consider the question of preventing the introduction of scarlet fever from Melbourne. Several cases have been landed here, ex Ringarooma. As it was prevailing in Melbourne, it is feared that every steamer from Melbourne may bring it unless proper precaution be used. It was resolved that your attention should be called to the matter, with a view of your communicating with Victoria on the subject. It would be highly inexpedient to place steamers from Melbourne in quarantine."

The reply sent to his Worship the Mayor was substantially in accordance with the above telegram.

THE DRAMA.

If variety be proof of a desire on the part of the management of the Queen's Theatre to make their theatre attractive, playgoers must readily recognise their efforts, for during the past week fresh pieces have succeeded each other nightly. On Friday evening, Mr. and Mrs. Bates took their farewell benefit, when were produced "East Lynne" and two acts of "Caste." Both pieces have been several times before a Dunedin audience, and received due notice in these columns, consequently, it is unnecessary to add more than a few words in reference to them. It is generally admitted that, as Isabel Vane and Madame Vine, Mrs. Bates appears at considerable advantage, but to see her at her best, one must witness her Queen Elizabeth, in the drama of that name. In East Lynne and the many other plays she has appeared in, she exhibits an amount of staginess which detracts considerably from the merit of her acting; while her pronunciation, which is decidedly American, sounds strangely to those unaccustomed to it. Mr. Bates also shares in these peculiarities, and rolls his "r's" about in a most reckless manner. Notwithstanding these eccentricities, however, which belong rather to their country than themselves, Mr. and Mrs. Bates are artistes of no mean order, and will long be remembered by Dunedin playgoers. As Archibald Carlyle on Friday night, Mr. Bates had not a part well suited to him, although he played it carefully and creditably. Corney Carlyle was taken by Miss Vivian, and brought out exceedingly well; and Miss Willis made a pretty Barbara Hare, but lacked animation at times. Mr. Clinton, as Francis Levison, displays a good conception of the character, but cannot rid himself of a very objectionable habit he has contracted of swaying his body too and fro when walking across the stage—a habit which stamps his identity in every character he assumes. This one mannerism is sufficient to effectually retard his progress in the profession, and could, we think, be thrown off if a determined effort were made. The other characters in the piece found suitable representatives. In "Caste," Mr. Bates revelled in the character of old Eccles, which he plays to the life. During the evening, he came forward and thanked the public for the patronage bestowed upon Mrs. Bates and himself, and expressed a hope that ere many years had passed, he would again be enabled to appear before Dunedin audiences. The attendance was not large, owing doubtless to the bad weather that has prevailed of late.

On Saturday night, "The Ticket-of-Leave Man" was produced, and on Monday, a very fair house welcomed the re-appearance of Miss Clara Stephenson, who appeared as Cynthia in the "Flowers of the Forest," with Mr. Steele as Ishmael, and Mr. Mungrave in his inimitable character of "The Kinchin." Miss Stephenson appeared to be suffering from a cold, but was received very favorably by the audience. In "Green Bushes," on Tuesday night, she played Miami effectively to a very fair house. Messrs. Mungrave and Clinton succeeded in keeping the audience in the best of humours by their acting in their respective characters.

"Aurora Floyd" and "Old Gooseberry" constituted the performances on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and to-night "Lady Audley's Secret" will occupy the boards.

STRIPED STOCKINGS.—Speaking of the new striped stockings, Jennie Juno says, with great good sense:—"A lady may wear, as many do, the finest of silk, the most delicate of thread; she may match the tints of her dress, and thus harmonize every portion of her toilet with perfect propriety; but when she wears hosiery only fit for a harlequin, and shortens her dress in front to a vulgar extreme, to show it, there is very little modesty or womanhood left that would not be sacrificed to vanity and love of display."