

THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AT THE EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITION.

In the course of an article on the Educational Exhibition, from the pen of Mr. W. Lant Carpenter, *Nature* has the following reference to the Educational System of the Brothers of the Christian Schools:—

There is one society which merits more than a passing notice, since its collective exhibit is not merely one of the most remarkable and interesting in the Educational Exhibition, but is also one from which a great deal is to be learnt. It is cosmopolitan in its aims, and exhibits the results of its schools in Belgium, France, England, the United States, Canada, Egypt and India, although its headquarters are in Paris. The institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools was founded in 1680 by the Venerable Dr. J. B. De La Salle, who was the first to establish primary education in France, and also training colleges for teachers. At present the institute has nearly 12,000 Brothers, distributed over thirteen countries, and 1200 schools, with an attendance of about 330,000 pupils, who, we regret to say, are all boys, the Brothers not concerning themselves in any way with the education of girls. The Brothers everywhere follow the same general methods of teaching, while they modify the details according to the customs of the country in which they are, varying their programmes also to meet local requirements and the wants of the times; for example, in their United States schools, where all the boys stay till about sixteen, every boy in the first class learns (1) shorthand writing, (2) the use of the type-writer, (3) the Morse alphabet; since without these requirements the Brothers are unable to get situations for their pupils. The rooms in the Technical Institute as well as the space in the Belgian and French Courts devoted to the results of their work, will well repay very careful examination, since only their most leading features can be here indicated. Foremost among these, and bearing distinctly upon a subject recently discussed both in this journal and the *Spectator*, is their system of models, maps, and atlases for the scientific teaching of geography, which are exhibited by Brother Alexis. These maps were the first hypsometrical maps published in French, and we believe the first of the kind published anywhere for school use, and are intended to give, by a suitable arrangement of colours, clear notions of the real configuration of the earth's surface. An introduction to their study is afforded by a glass tank, with a very uneven bottom, upon which contour lines are marked. When this is filled to various depths with water the effects of changes in the relative level of land and sea are clearly and effectively demonstrated. This demonstrative or objective method is the key-note to the system of instruction adopted by the Brothers, and its effect is seen in many instances—notably in the splendid school museums of Anney (Savoy), Beauvais, Rome, and Marseilles—in which the specimens are all collected by the pupils, and classified by the masters; in the apparatus employed in scientific and handiwork teaching; and in their system of teaching drawing, the results of which, as illustrated by the enormous series of designs, entirely the work of pupils, are almost incredible. The lithographed notes of science lessons distributed to the pupils, and the extensive series of science and other text-books written in various languages by the Brothers, all deserve close inspection.

THE MAAMTRASNA REVELATIONS.

FATHER JAMES CORBETT, P.P. of Ballinrobe, sends the following statement to Wednesday's *Freeman*:—

Having seen the Lord Lieutenant's reply to the Archbishop of Tuam's letter in yesterday's *Freeman*, which reached me only to-day, I saw Thomas Casey and read for him the letter and memorandum. He requested me to forward to you the following statement. So far as Casey's statement regarding what took place in Ballinrobe on the 20th May is concerned, I can corroborate it, as I was present:—

"I, Thomas Casey, having read the letter of the Lord Lieutenant to the Archbishop of Tuam, beg to make the following statement:—

"In the first place, it was stated that at Ballinrobe, on the 20th of May last, I distinctly swore that Philbin was at the murder. That is not true. I refused to swear anything at all about Philbin, although threatened with immediate imprisonment.

"In the second place, Mr. Bolton states that he never had a private interview with me. I state that he had two—one in Kilmainham prison and the other in Green street courthouse.

"At the first interview in Kilmainham Mr. Bolton met me in an office, and told me that Philbin had given information, and that if I did the same I would be highly rewarded; that I would get ample protection, and would be sent to any fine-place I liked.

"I said I would tell him all I knew of the truth.

"Mr. Bolton then told me some of the information Philbin had given, and I said it was false.

"He then said that unless I corroborated Philbin's it would be of no use for me, and that I would go back again.

"The second private interview took place in Green-street courthouse on the morning of the trial.

"I was first brought before Mr. Bolton, Mr. Brady, and the governor; afterwards I was brought into a private room where no one but myself and Mr. Bolton were present.

"Mr. Bolton then said he would promise me £300, or more perhaps, if I gave the same information that the others had given. He said if I did not do so that I would be surely the next man put on trial, and that I would surely be hanged.

"With regard to Myles Joyce being present in any sense at the murders, I distinctly affirm that he was not there at all, nor could he possibly have been of the party on that night without my knowing it. Of the four men now in penal servitude I can state the same.

"It is stated that my wife compelled me to make the statement I made before the Archbishop, but I can honestly say that the only motive influencing me was a desire to ease my conscience of a terrible burthen at any sacrifice.

"August 26, 1884. (Witness) JAMES CORBETT, P.P."

Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited) reports for the week ended October 15, as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—182 head were yarded for the week's requirements nearly all prime. Competition was active, all qualities selling freely at an advance of 2s 6d per 100lb on last week's prices. Best bullocks brought from £10 2s 6d to £12 10s. One prime pen from Gladbrook Estate brought up to £14 10s; others, £5 10s to £9 10s; best cows, up to £10 2s 6d; others, £3 to £8 10s. We sold 21 prime bullocks from the Adamson Estate at from £10 2s 6d to £12 10s; on account of other vendors, 15 cows at from £3 to £7; and quote prime beef 27s 6d, and ordinary 22s 6d to 25s per 100lb.

Fat Calves.—Fifteen were penned, and under fair competition were all disposed of at from 5s 6d to 28s.

Fat Sheep.—2,052 were penned, of which 730 were merinos, the balance cross-breeds, representing all qualities. Bidding was moderately brisk, and prices obtained were about equal to last week's. Best cross-breeds brought from 18s 6d to 22s 3d; others, 15s 6d to 18s; shorn do., 14s 9d to 17s 3d; merinos in the wool, 12s to 16s. We sold on account of Messrs. Cochran and Robertson, Palmerston, 149 merino wethers at 14s 9d to 16s; W. Sheath, Pomahaka, 116 cross-bred wethers, 17s to 19s 3d; D. Proudfoot, Barewood Station, 193 merino wethers at 14s 6d; H. Driver, Horseshoe Bush, 64 cross-bred ewes at 19s 9d; Peter McLaren, Otakia, 89 do., mixed, at 15s 6d; Kuriwao Estate, 60 do. wethers, at 18s 9d to 19s 3d; and quote mutton 3½d to 3¾d per lb.

Fat Lambs.—150 were penned, and under moderate competition were all disposed of at from 4s 3d to 15s 9d. We sold on account of Messrs. J. and S. Aitken, Papakaio, 43 at 14s 6d.

Fat Pigs.—303 were penned, representing all sizes. On account of the number forward, competition was rather dull. The range was for suckers, 8s to 15s; porkers and bacon pigs up to 60s each.

Sheepskins.—There was a full attendance at our weekly sale on Monday, when we offered 2,600 skins of all descriptions. Competition was moderately brisk, and the whole were cleared at about equal to last week's prices. Butchers' green cross-breeds brought 4s 8d, 4s 9d, 4s 10d, 4s 11d, 5s, 5s 2d, 5s 4d, 5s 6d, 5s 7d; do. merinos, 4s 6d, 4s 7d, 4s 8d, 4s 10d, 4s 11d, and 5s; lambskins, 6d to 9d; country dry skins—merino, 1s 6d to 4s 8d; cross-breeds, 1s 9d to 5s 1d.

Rabbit-skins.—The market for these is decidedly lower. At our auction on Monday we offered a small catalogue to a fair attendance of the trade, and sold as follows:—4 bags broken and mixed, at 5¾d to 7¼d; 6 do medium, at 1s 2d to 1s 5½d; 20 do good to prime, at 1s 7½d to 1s 7¾d; 1 bale mixed black and grey, at 1s 6½d; and passed 2 bales prime at 1s 8½d per lb.

Hides.—The market continues firm, and all coming forward in clean and sound condition realise from 3½ to 4½ per lb., according to weight; damaged or cut and bulls, 2d to 2½.

Tallow.—Home advices are again unfavourable, but stocks here are not large, and prices cannot be quoted much lower than last week. Fat we quote at 17s to 19s per cwt.

Grain.—Wheat: The market for prime milling is stationary at about from 3s 5d to 3s 7d; medium, 2s 9d to 3s 3d, ex store, bags weighed in. The demand is not by any means strong, and the prospects of any improvement slight. Chick feed has been in fair demand. During the last week we disposed of about 4,000 bushels at from 1s 6d to 2s 6d per bushel, ex store.—Oats: On account of no stocks being on hand prices have kept up, and any coming forward now are easily disposed of at last week's quotations, viz., Stout bright milling, 2s 9d to 2s 9½d; short feed, 2s 8d; inferior to medium, 2s 4d to 2s 6d, ex store, bags weighed in.—Barley: We have no transactions to report in malting. Milling we quote at 2s 9d to 3s; feed, 1s 9d to 2s 3d, ex store.—Ryegrass Seed: The market for this is quiet, and quotations about the same as last week.

PRODUCE MARKET.—OCTOBER 16.

MESSRS. MERCER BROS., Princes street, report:—Fresh butter (in ½lb. and 1lb. prints), best quality, 11d per lb.; ordinary butter, 8d per lb.; eggs, 10d; roll bacon, 8d per lb.; good salt butter, in kegs, 7d per lb.; cheese, 4d per lb.

MR. F. MEEHAN, King street, reports:—Who's-else prices, including bags: Oats, 2s 4d to 2s 9d; wheat, milling 3s to 3s 8d, fowls 1s 6d to 2s 7d; barley, malting 3s 6d to 4s, milling 2s 6d to 3s 6d; feeding 2s; oaten hay, £3 5s to £3 10s; rye-grass, £3; chaff, £2 10s to £3; straw, £1 15s to £2; bran, £4; pollard, £4 5s to £4 10s; flour, £8 10s to £9; oatmeal, 12s 10d to 13s; fresh butter, medium to prime, 6d to 10d; eggs, 8d; salt butter, nominal, 7d; for good cheese, 4½d to 6d; bacon 8d in rolls, hams 10½d; potatoes, £5 to £5 5s.

The devotion of which the Sisters of Charity daily give proof has just been ennobled by a new name to be added to the list of their martyrs. Sister Macedonia of the Order of St. Vincent de Paul has succumbed to the plague while caring for the cholera patients at Toulon. Three other holy women, among them the lady superior, died by the dread disease. M. Edouard Herve writes of these humble heroines of Christian duties: "Noble daughters! They avenge, in a dignified manner, the base insults and ignoble persecutions of which their Order has been the object. They die for those who outrage them, who chase them away, who empty over them the vials of their hate. But no. We do wrong in speaking of vengeance. The heroism of the Sisters of Charity finds its inspiration in higher regions and purer sources. Between them and their persecutors the distance is too great to speak of revenge or even of pardon. They do not even see them, for they gaze upward and the latter are below."