

Coercion is acknowledged to be a failure, and will never again be renewed. The Irish people will withstand everything, for they know that the democracy of England, Scotland, and Wales are willing to help them. In a comparatively short time the Tories and Liberal-Unionists will have to face the constituencies, when the indignation aroused by their coercive treatment of Ireland will rise up against them, and will sweep them and every obstacle away that would hinder the reconciliation of England and Ireland. The programme, which was more than usually attractive, was as follows:—Reading, national (selected). Mr. Healy; song, "B d me Good-bye," Miss O'Driscoll; recitation, "Mary Queen of Scots," Mr. W. Scanlan; song, "Good-bye at the Door," Miss Ross; recitation "Orange and Green" (by request). Mr. Walsh; song, "Kate O'Shane, Miss Macdonald; address on Love of Country, Mr. Fleming; song, "I'll take Thee home again, Kathleen," Miss H-witt (encore, "Barney, take me home"); recitation, "Fontenoy" Mr. E. J. Dennehy; song, "Killarney," Miss McCarthy; song, "You'll remember me," Mr. Ross; recitation, "Bingen on the Rhine," Mr. S. Ross. Miss O'Driscoll presided at the piano with her usual grace and precision, and Messrs. Fleming and Walsh were the concert committee. In the course of his address, Mr. Fleming, Vice-President, took occasion to thank the Branch for electing him before so many more deserving men to his present position in the League. He touched upon the leading facts of the movement now going on, and referred to history to prove the tenacity with which his countrymen, through good and ill, had preserved their independence of spirit, and refused every concession which did not recognise Irish nationality as a final settlement. Mr. Buhon proposed a vote of thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who assisted at the concert, and made the evening pass so pleasantly. Mr. O'D. seconded the vote of thanks, and attributed the success and popularity of the Irish National League in Wellington to the willingness with which these talented ladies and gentlemen gave their service to the cause. He referred to the visit of the delegates, and said that the Earl of Kintore, who came out as Governor-elect of South Australia, met with a grand reception, but that of his fellow passenger, "Honest John Dillon," was a grander one.—The social meeting was far and away the most successful and numerous attended ever held by the Wellington Branch, and the impartial observer must have come to the conclusion that there was something more than the mere love of amusement animating those who crowded the hall, every national sentiment uttered by the different speakers being applauded to the echo. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon Brother Mark and the other good Marist Brothers for granting the use of their fine hall, besides giving their valuable assistance and advice to the officers of the branch.

THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND THEIR NEW SCHOOL IN MONTREAL.

(From the *Catholic Review*.)

THE Christian Brothers have just erected here in our northern city a magnificent school on one of our principal streets. It has a splendid situation, overlooking from the slope on which it stands almost the entire city, with Mount Royale to the north-west and the mighty St. Lawrence to the southward. The interior of the building fully realises the promise of the exterior. The halls and apartments are most spacious, with lofty ceilings and numberless windows. Everything about it suggests cleanliness, good ventilation, and the perfect sanitary arrangements characteristic of to-day. The entrance hall and reception parlours are exceptionally fine; the class-rooms, dormitories, refectories, and music and recreation rooms are really of noble proportions. One very large room is to be fitted up as a bank. This will be another advantage offered for the commercial course. But, besides this, typewriting, the use of the caligraph, and telegraphy are taught. There is to be a museum and natural philosophy rooms, with full apparatus. The course will be made as complete and thorough as possible both for English and French pupils. The want of precisely such an institute has been felt in Montreal, which has splendid colleges indeed, but devoted to higher education; so that the Christian Brothers have entered upon a wide field, and into which they have been cordially welcomed by their co-labourers in the cause of education.

Experience has everywhere shown the worth of the disciples of De la Salle as educators. Their pupils are always in the front rank. They themselves are untiring in the work, zealous, able, and progressive. Protestants, time and again, have borne testimony to the splendid results achieved by the Brothers of the Christian Schools, the while that their semi-monastic dress has a flavour of Catholicity about it which wins the confidence and affection of their co-religionists. There has been a noble mission, and nobly have they fulfilled it. Almost every city in the United States and Canada shows evidences of their labours and the success with which they have met.

In Toronto the De la Salle Institute, under the able and efficient directorship of Brother Tobias, stands at the head of educational establishments. The Brothers in Canada have made important additions to school literature, notably their Language Series, which cannot be too highly praised.

Within the last fortnight has occurred the death of one of the four Brothers who were the first of their Order to come to Canada, and, if I am not misinformed, to America, some forty years ago. The funeral of this venerable patriarch of Christian education, Brother Adalbertus, took place at the Church of Notre Dame, and was very largely attended. Pupils from all the Brothers' schools followed the honour'd remains to the cemetery.

To return to Montreal: It was the writer's good fortune to visit the entire building under the guidance of the genial sub-director, Brother Denis. Beginning with the chapel, a temporary one, for there is a very fine one in process of completion, with its statues of the Sacred Heart, of Our Lady of Lourdes, of St. Aloysius and of the Blessed De la Salle himself, everything was inspected, even to the furnace rooms, with their abundant facilities for defying a Canadian winter.

The kitchen and some other departments, of which one is an infirmary, will occupy a separate building not yet completed. The gymnasium has still to be erected, the play-ground is to be laid out, and everything is to be in the latest and best style. It is wonderful what has been accomplished in so short a time. Already there are two hundred scholars in attendance, ninety of whom are boarders, some being from the United States. A very graceful and pleasing entertainment was given in the hall of the Institute, on the evening of March 12th, in honour of the return from Europe of his Grace Archbishop Fabre. It was extremely well attended. The quality, as well as the selection of music, supplied in great part by the pupils, was fully appreciated by the audience. The selections were both in French and English. Mr. Frechette, the Canadian post-laureate, contributed to the success of the evening by his rendering of a poem of his own on "The Blessed De la Salle." Mr. Napoleon L'exandre, another eminent Canadian *littérateur*, recited "Le Pèlé," a composition of his own. Addresses in French and English were made to the Archbishop, his Grace replying in both languages.

It seemed incredible, observing the large audience, the number of pupils, the order and regularity which prevailed, and the programme provided for the evening's entertainment, that Mount St. Louis Institute is only in the first year of its existence. The Rev. Director, Brother André, with his able coadjutors and Christian Brothers at large, are to be congratulated on this noble addition to our Montreal houses of education. Montreal is also to be felicitated as well as the Catholic cause, which has gained so powerful and efficient an auxiliary.

A. T. S.

SIR CHARLES RUSSELL, Q.C.

(Special correspondence of the *Pilot*.)

HIS masterly conduct of Mr. Parnell's defence in the *Times*' Forgeries case has made Sir Charles Russell so large a sharer in the public attention fixed on his distinguished client, that a few words about himself and the well-known Irish family of which he is a member will be opportune. He is the son of Arthur Russell, Esq., of Newry, County Armagh, Ireland, and was born at the family residence in 1833. He chose the law, was admitted to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1859, and became Queen's Counsellor in 1872. He was elected M.P. for Dundalk, County Louth, Ireland, in 1880.

Mr. Russell early scored a distinct success in his profession, and before middle life had an enormous practice both in the civil and criminal courts in London, and in the north and west of England. Nothing short of ability of the first order could have induced Gladstone to appoint him Attorney-General for England. He was the first Catholic to fill this office since England's defection from the Catholic faith. His tenure of it was but brief, however, owing to the defeat of the Gladstonian Government in July, 1886.

When Sir Charles first entered the House of Commons he did not identify himself with the Irish Nationalists. Indeed, his complete conversion to Home Rule is coincident with that of Gladstone. But so sincere was the man and so great his respect for the sincerity of others, so high his character for probity and disinterestedness, that even while not of them, the Parcellites trusted him utterly, and of him found his influence extremely useful.

He was married in 1858 to Ellen Mulholland, eldest sister of the well-known Irish novelist and poet, Rosa Mulholland. The union has been blessed with a large and talented family. Lady Russell is a woman of fine presence and noble character; and her husband is very happy in his home life.

The Rev. Matthew Russell, S.J., of St. Francis Xavier's, Upper Gardiner street, Dublin, is a brother of Sir Charles. Father Russell's deservedly high reputation in literature might be wider and higher had he not given so much of his time to developing the talent and making the reputations of others. Nearly all the young writers of Ireland of to-day have found the kindest encouragement and assistance from Father Russell through his *Irish Monthly*; and some of the best productions of Irish pens have first seen the light on its pages.

A charming little volume published two years ago, "Memories of Attie O'Brien," by Mrs. Morgan John O'Connell, derives half its interest from its revelation of the retiring, kind-hearted, unselfish priest and scholar, who actually conducted by letter the literary education of a remote and personally unknown contributor; and through her first struggling expression, blank ignorance of the business side of literature, and unconsciousness of her own aptitudes, discerned and drew out the true poet and story-teller.

The uncle of Sir Charles and Father Matthew Russell was the celebrated Irish priest, the Very Rev. Charles William Russell, D.D., long time president of Maynooth. He was also a man of letters, the author of the life of the great linguist, Cardinal Mezzofanti; a member of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts; a contributor to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, *North British Review*, etc. Cardinal Newman was his close friend and admirer, and was wont to say that Dr. Russell had more to do with his conversion to Catholicity than any other human being; and this, not so much by argument and controversy as by the mildness, gentleness, and suggestiveness of his ways.

The King of the Belgians has made a Christian Brother a Knight of the Order of Leopold. This is Brother Alexis, who is the King Johnston of Belgium. His works on geography, his relief maps, atlases, and globes are excellent, and have won prizes at all international exhibitions of late years. At our Health Exhibition he created quite a sensation, and was awarded a gold medal. Three years ago the King of the Belgians, whose interest in geographical questions is extensive, offered a prize of £1000 for the best essay on a geographical subject. Ninety competitors from different countries entered the lists. Brother Alexis took the second prize in the competition.