

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WINNING HONOURS.

(The Irish World, March 29.)

SOME time ago the *Irish World* noted the fact that in a competition for a West Point cadetship, open to pupils of the public and Catholic schools, the successful competitor was a student from the De La Salle Institute on Fifty-ninth street, New York City, while the half-a-dozen who attained the highest percentage in the examination were also members of Catholic schools. The circumstance attracted some attention at the time, as indicating that the system of teaching and the proficiency attained under the training of the Christian Brothers are able to not only compare but to compete with those of the public schools. A few weeks ago there was another illustration of this, equally as significant as the other. A public examination was held in the district of Congressman John H. McCarthy, of New York City, of competitors for a cadetship in the Naval Academy of Annapolis, Maryland. There were twenty applicants from the public and parochial schools. The six highest percentages were attained by students from St. James's and St. Mary's parochial schools. In the district of Congressman Amos J. Cummings a similar examination, held in Public School, No. 19, on East Fourteenth street, resulted in a similar victory for students of De La Salle Institute, the Immaculate Conception, and St. Brigid's parochial schools. In another examination Edward D. Dowling and John J. Kearney, of St. Peter's parochial school, headed the list of those examined. The studies upon which the examinations were had were those taught in the regular grammar schools, and the uniform splendid showing made by the scholars taught in the parochial schools under the skilful training of the Christian Brothers is in itself a vindication of the Christian schools against the misrepresentations of their bigotted opponents, and shows that the attention given to the moral training of the children in those schools does not prevent them from attaining the highest standard of excellence in the subjects covered by the public schools. The right of the parents to take advantage of the school where the moral training of their children is properly attended to cannot be seriously contested, especially so long as in public examinations on secular studies the students of those schools will persist in carrying off the honours.

The *New York Times* is right in saying that the worst enemies of the public schools are those Protestant zealots who are continually endeavouring to make them instruments of proselytism and anti-Catholic teaching.

EVEN WITH HIM.

ONE of the most striking cases of facial resemblance in public life, writes the correspondent of the *Chicago Herald*, is that of Congressman Goodknight, of Kentucky, and Postmaster General Wanamaker. Mr. Goodknight was in the House restaurant recently drinking a glass of the famous beverage of his State, when an elderly and spectacled man approached him and exclaimed:

"Why, Mr. Wanamaker, what are you doing?"

"Simply taking a drink of whisky," replied the Congressman.

"Then—then you do drink whisky, Mr. Wanamaker?" gasped the old gentleman.

"Why, certainly."

The stranger lifted his hands in holy horror, and, apparently overcome by the discovery, muttered that the "folks up in Philadelphia won't believe it when I tell 'em" and moved away.

"That's the only way in which I can get even with Wanamaker for looking like me," said Mr. Goodknight. "This is the third or fourth time that I have been mistaken for the Postmaster General while taking a drink; and I have not exerted myself very much to correct the mistake. But I suffer through the resemblance of our faces fully as much as Mr. Wanamaker does. People mistake me for him and fail to ask me to take something with them."

A good story is told about the Hon. Alfred Deakin, one of Victoria's representatives at the late Federal Conference. Before he took to politics, he was a leader-writer for the *Melbourne Age*. A well-known Irish wit meeting the editor of that journal one day, mildly remarked: "I say, you ought to have something more than a *Deacon* in your office—something higher—you ought to have a bishop on your staff." "A bishop? Why so?" "Because your statements are so readily in need of confirmation."

It is said that during the trial of Mr. Bensen at Nice considerable difficulty was felt as to the correct French rendering of "Juggins." There need have been no difficulty at all. A "Juggins" is modern slang for the older "Pigeon," and *pigeon* in French has the same meaning. The surprising thing is that no noun other than a slang noun has ever been found for foolish youths who are the prey of people sharper than themselves, and yet such youths must have been known in the earliest stages of human civilisation. "Gull," "gudgeon," and "pigeon," are clearly slang; and even "dupe," which has not quite the same meaning, was probably a slang name when first used. Its derivation, however, is unknown, and there is no evidence in support of the suggestion that it is a corruption of *duppe* or *huppe*, nor, indeed, that a hoopoe is a particularly silly bird.

The Benediction of the venerable Bishop Ancina, contemporary and friend of St. Philip Neri, took place at St. Peter's, in the Loggia, without the presence of the Pope, either at the ceremony itself or at the Exposition and Benediction in the afternoon. His Holiness keeping his own apartments owing to his affliction at his brother's death. Nor was the intended Italian pilgrimage in Rome, by reason of the influenza. The Blessed Giovanni Ancina was preconised in the same Consistory as St. Francis of Sales, with whom he exchanged puns that were pious and complimentary, but otherwise incomplete. "*Tu es sal terrae*," said the Bishop of Saluces to St. Francis of Sales, who replied "*Tu es vere sal et lux*." The new *Beato* was deeply versed in Church music, and worked with Palestrina at its reform.—*Weekly Register*.

Commercial.

MEMBERS, DONALD STRONACH AND SON report for the week ending April 30, as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—A moderate supply of 203 head, principally medium quality, came forward for this week's market, but prices showed no improvement, caused no doubt by many of the trade having supplies on hand. Best bullocks brought from £7 10s to £8 15s; medium, £5 10s to £7 5s; light and inferior quality, £3 to £5.

We sold a draft of 16 heifers from the New Zealand and Australian Land Company's Edendale estate at £4 10s to £5; and offered on account of other vendors further 10 head, of which only 4 found buyers, the remainder being withdrawn by the owners.

Fat Sheep.—A large supply came forward, 4187 being penned; 160 were merino wethers, and balance crossbreds of all qualities. The demand was fairly good at the start, but fell off considerably towards the end, and had it not been that a large number were bought for export a heavy decline would have taken place. Best crossbred wethers brought, 12s 6d to 14s 3d; medium, 9s to 12; best ewes, 11s to 12s 3d; medium, 7s to 10s; merino wethers up to 6s 3d. We sold 122 fat crossbred ewes, on account of John Henderson (Bulyondale Stirling), at 11s 3d to 12s 3d.

Fat Lambs.—618 were penned, amongst which there were some pens of first-class quality, for which the competition was good, from 9s 6d to 12s 6d; medium quality was dull of sale, at from 4s to 8s.

Pigs.—The heavy supply of 426 came forward, mostly prime porkers and bacon pigs, and as the trade has had large supplies during the past fortnight competition was dull, and a further decline in prices had to be submitted to. Suckers sold at from 5s to 8s; stores, 17s to 21s; porkers, 27s to 31s; baconers, 34s to 44s, and a few extra heavy up to 49s. We sold one small lot of suckers at 5s from Mr. T. Y. Cook.

Store Cattle.—The business doing in these at the moment is only on a limited scale. There are no transactions of any consequence as yet come under our notice. Small lots, when age and condition are suitable, find purchasers; but buyers are not operating freely, mainly owing to the fact that the supply of fat stock for a considerable period has exceeded the demand, very often resulting in sales being made at prices hardly covering those paid when purchased as stores. A good many graziers are turning their attention to sheep, and this, doubtless, is tending in the meantime to lessen the demand for store cattle. A little further on, however, it is anticipated that a slight improvement may be expected.

Store Sheep.—The demand for aged sheep has considerably toned down lately, but there is still a good bit of inquiry for young merino wethers and ewes, also for good crossbred wethers and lambs; but there are so very few of either offering that transactions are within a very small compass. Privately there are very few aged sheep being sold, while at public auctions we notice considerable numbers being disposed of, but at prices more in favour of buyers, and generally in small lots.

Wool.—Latest cables since opening of the sales are not so encouraging, a decline of 3d per lb. having taken place on combing, washed, scoured, and greasy merino, while other descriptions remain unchanged. Market slightly weaker. Total quantity catalogued to date, 131,000 bales. Total quantity withdrawn, 15,000 bales.

Sheepskins.—There was a large attendance at the usual auction sale on Tuesday. Competition was very active for the large number of lots offered, and prices realised were quite on a level with those previously obtaining; but doubtless owing to the slightly adverse reports of the progress of the London wool sales, we are unable to record any material advance in values. It may be noted, however, that prices were more even than for some time past. Town and country butchers' green crossbreds had the usual attention, a good number came to hand, but hardly up to last week's quality. Country dry crossbreds, inferior to medium, brought 1s 6d to 4s 2d; do. do. merino, 1s 3d to 3s 9d; full-wooled crossbreds, 4s 3d to 6s 9d; do. do. merino, 4s to 6s 2d; dry pelts, 3d to 1s 2d; butchers' green crossbreds—best, 4s, 3s 11d, 3s 10d, 3s 9d, 3s 7d, 3s 6d; good to medium and inferior, 4s 5d, 3s 4d, 3s 3d, 3s 2d, 3s 1d, 3s. 2s 11d, 2s 9d; green merinos, 3s, 2s 10d, 2s 8d, 2s 6d; lambskins, 3s 11d, 3s 9d, 3s 6d, 3s 4d, 3s 2d, 3s 1d, 2s 11d, 2s 9d, 2s 8d.

Rabbitskins.—The market still continues quiet owing to the paucity of supplies, and even those coming forward are not up to much, only summer skins, which do not realise very much at any time, and a few autumn skins, which are now beginning to be of a little more value. All offered, however, meet with good competition at the hands of the local buyers. The tone of the market is satisfactory, and from the evident desire on the part of buyers to operate freely so far the prospects for the incoming season are highly encouraging. It is anticipated that full prices will be obtained right through. Late rates continue firm, and advancing as the quality improves.

Hides.—There is no change in the market. Late rates are well maintained, especially for heavy weights, which seem to be in short supply, while the market is more than fully supplied with inferior and light hides. There is no demand for shipment, but the prices at present paid by the local tanners precludes very much business being done in this direction. Nearly all coming forward are taken up by the latter at rates according to condition and weight, which we give as follows:—For best heavy weights, free from scars and offal, 2½d to 3d; light, 2d to 2½d; inferior, 1½d to 1¾d per lb.

Tallow.—Late telegrams to hand report the Home market slightly firmer and prices a shade higher, but we hardly expect that these advances will materially alter prices lately current in the local market. The demand continues fairly active and no difficulty experienced in disposing of consignments immediately on arrival at the following quotations—viz: For medium to good, 15s to 17s; inferior and mixed, 12s to 14s 6d; rough fat—best, 11s 6d to 12s 6d; inferior to medium, 8s 6d to 10s 6d per cwt.