

St. Dunstan's College Rink.

It ought to be a source of pride to the people of this Province that St. Dunstan's College has made another new departure which gives it a leading position among its many rivals in Canada. As our readers are aware, St. Dunstan's College has been affiliated with Laval University for some years past and holds from that renowned institution the faculty of conferring degrees. But while we have been able in the past to point with pride to the number of its graduates, it is gratifying to note that the sphere of its usefulness bids fair to be greatly enlarged in the future. The Rev. Peter Curran, Rector, is making strenuous efforts in this direction, his latest achievement being the construction of a large and costly skating rink for the use of the students. This is an attraction which is not enjoyed by any similar institution on the American continent, and shows that Father Curran not only has progressive ideas but succeeds admirably in giving them effect. In all such efforts he has the good fortune of being handsomely supported by His Lordship Bishop McDonald, who for several years successfully guided the destinies of St. Dunstan's College himself, as Rector, and like his lamented predecessor, the late Bishop McIntyre, never loses an opportunity of furnishing ways and means for the advancement of the cause of education.

The erection of the new skating rink has cost a considerable sum of money, but Father Curran thinks it is money well invested. Skating is without doubt the most popular pastime in Canada, and we cannot think of any other portion of the country for whom it is so necessary as college students, or who would derive greater pleasure from it. For these reasons, we think when it becomes generally known that St. Dunstan's takes the lead in the matter of healthful recreation it should increase the already large number of students enrolled.

The new building is 147 feet long and 66 feet wide. The roof is supported on both sides by nineteen beautiful arches, and six half arches support it at each end. The latter are firmly belted at the top to the side arches, every alternate side arch being strengthened by two heavy iron girders. All the arches are made of ten courses of spruce boards, four inches wide, and firmly nailed and strapped. The walls are rough-boarded in the ordinary way, but pilasters, which weigh about five tons less than boards, are used in the roof. The end walls and the ends of the roof are heptagonal in shape, and the building is shingled with the best of cedar. The design is the newest in rink architecture, and the exterior view is exceedingly attractive, while the numerous arches with which the interior is spanned give it a pleasing and artistic appearance. The building rests on a substantial cedar post foundation, and the pond, which is semi-circular at each end, is 131 feet in length and 50 feet in width. The promenade around the rink is 8 feet wide, its whole length being about one-sixteenth of a mile.

One of the greatest advantages the rink possesses is the means by which it is connected with the college. The rink stands at a distance of 75 feet north of the college, and in order to protect the students from the cold and rain a passage-way

75 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 10 feet high has been built from the rink to the western door of the college.

This is the rink in winter. We must now glance at in summer, when the ice and snow disappear and the students return to the famous Campus, which is situated just outside the western wall. At this point the designers appear to have had due regard for the convenience and comfort of the promenaders and spectators also, and carried out their good intentions by the construction of a portable wall on the western side, 120 feet long, which can be removed in a few moments to the inside of the promenade, thus converting it into a verandah overlooking the Campus. Other details might also be mentioned but we think this is sufficient to show the excellent features of this fine structure.

The contract for building the rink was awarded to Mr. John Kenny, of St. Teresa's, whose tender, (\$1250) was the lowest, and whose workmanship is first-class in every respect and reflects credit upon himself and his men. The work has been performed very rapidly and it has certainly been well done at a remarkable low figure.

Mr. John P. Nicholson, C. E., of this city, was the architect, and the neat and substantial character of the structure is highly creditable to him.

The rink will be used in the summer months as a gymnasium, and will also furnish a suitable place for band practice and may be used as a hall for public entertainments and the closing exercises of the college. Even in these respects it will be a great improvement on the old order of things and ought to add enormously to the comfort and enjoyment of the faculty and students of this venerable institution. —Watchman Dec. 30th 1897.

Donahoe's Magazine.

A most interesting paper in the January Donahoe's is "Exciting Scenes in European Parliaments," by P. O'Neill Larkin.

Mr. Larkin revels in the recollection of the memorable introduction of the Home Rule Bill, and carries his readers with him from the opening moment, the wild rush for seats, to the closing words of the prime minister's noble peroration.

James Connolly tells of early colonization in California, the struggle of the pioneers, and the successful outcome of their labors.

In a forceful article, James E. Wright refutes the presumptuous claim that Protestantism first called into question the "Divine Right of Kings." Much valuable information is conveyed relative to the Swiss constitution, and facts brought forward that have hitherto been little known.

M. T. Coogan writes entertainingly of "An Old Country Reading Circle," giving in brief space many points about pursuing a course of reading.

The famous war of words between Grattan and Flood is made the theme of an admirable paper by Dr. J. J. Mangan.

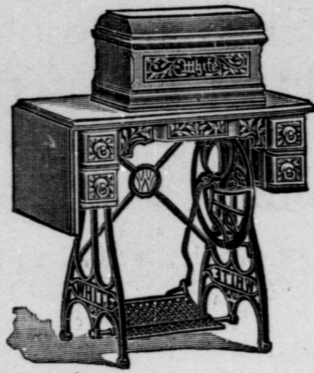
There are several excellent stories, notably, "The Economy of Ellen Jane Topham," by N. E. Welles; "Looby," by William Emmett, and "The Back of a Head," by Mary F. Nixon.

In "People in Print" there are sketches and portraits of Bishop Messmer, Father McMahon, Hon. J. J. Guerin, Hon. Patrick Walsh and other prominent Catholics.

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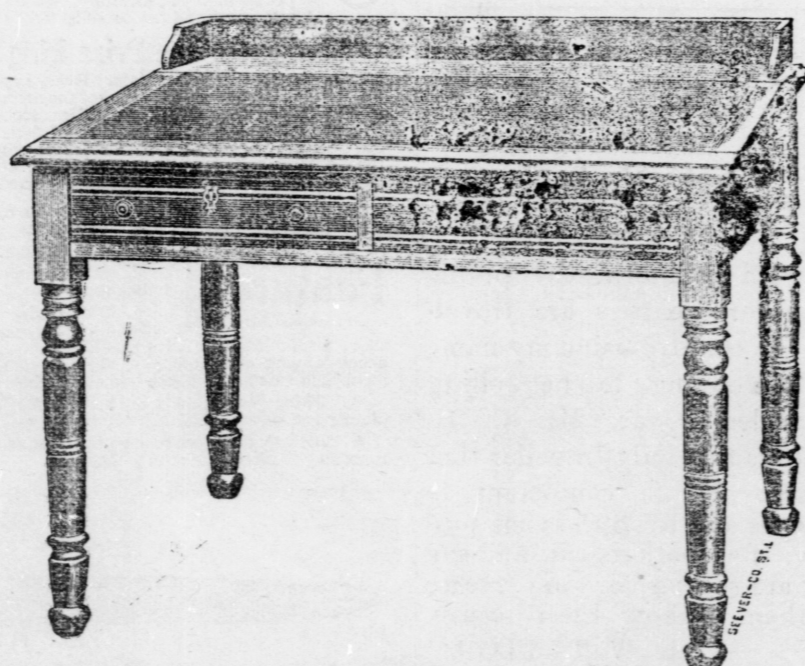
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Jan. 6th 1898.

as usual the illustrations are excellent.

Un Singulier Menage

Matawan, N.-J., 5—Les époux Stewart, qui habitent une ferme près de cette ville viennent de recommencer à se parler, après avoir gardé le silence vis-à-vis l'un de l'autre pendant plus de vingt ans. Presque au lendemain de leur mariage, il y a vingt ans, les deux époux s'étaient querellés à propos de religion. La femme Stewart, très pieuse, tenait à aller régulièrement à l'office tous les dimanches, tandis que Stewart, d'un caractère sceptique et aux idées avancées, insistait pour qu'elle restât avec lui ce jour-là, le seul qu'il eût à passer à la maison. Les querelles devenant de plus en plus fréquentes, les époux ont résolu de ne plus s'adresser la parole, et tout en vivant côte à côte, ils ne se sont pas dit un mot pendant vingt ans. Quand ils avaient quelque chose d'absolument indispensable à se communiquer ils avaient recourus à un curieux stratagème: le mari, par exemple, adressait la parole au chat de la maison et lui racontait tout ce qu'il avait à dire, de façon à ce que sa femme l'entendit. Celle-ci faisait la même chose.

Cette situation avait naturellement attristé les amis et les voisins des époux Stewart, et ils avaient fait tout au monde pour amener une réconciliation, mais sans y parvenir. Ces jours-ci on a été tout étonné d'entendre Stewart et sa femme causer entre eux comme s'ils n'avaient fait que cela toute leur vie. Lequel des deux a cédé? c'est ce qu'on ne saura sans doute jamais mais il est certain que la bonne intelligence est rétablie entre eux et qu'ils n'ont plus besoin de l'intermédiaire du chat pour se communiquer leurs impressions.

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PRESQUE MORT DE FAIM.

Montreal, 5—Vendredi dernier, le gardien du Fish and Game Club, cheminant le long de la voie du Pacifique, près du Mile-End, aperçut dans un des wagons, un garçonnet mourant de froid et de faim. Le petit malheureux n'était vêtu que d'un mince pantalon et d'une piètre casquette. A une question du gardien, l'enfant répondit qu'il était venu de Cornwall dans ce wagon à bagages. Il donna son nom, Auguste Lalonde, et dit qu'il avait toujours, vécu à ce dernier endroit, et que son père et sa mère étaient morts récemment, à un mois environ d'intervalle. Sans amis et sans ressource, il résolut de se rendre à Hull où sa mère avait une tante du nom de Charbonneau, mais contre son attente, le train sur lequel il se glissa, le conduisit à Montréal. Depuis une dizaine de jours, il n'avait pris aucune nourriture. Le gardien emporta plutôt qu'il ne conduisit l'infortuné à sa demeure, où le garçon se régala du menu préparé pour le jour de l'an. "J'ai gardé l'enfant chez moi jusqu'à présent, a dit le gardien, et je suis à faire les démarches nécessaires pour l'expédier à Hull, chez sa tante. J'espère que les autorités du chemin de fer s'en chargeront jusque-là."

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