strengthened by the disinterested action of his son, Percy, who is willing to surrender his allowance, and the unlooked for generosity of his brother, Gregory, who presents a check sufficient to cover all the supposed losses. The closing scene, illustrating the strength of the regard and affection entertained for him, is very touching.

The piece was well and becomingly staged, and the work belonging to each character was well accomplished both in the letter and the spirit. Mr. Hurley sustained the part of Ben very satisfactorily, while Mr. Oliver was inimitable as the "crank" from Newburgh. Messrs. McLaughlin, Clark and Hartman, as Ben's principal cooperators, were excellent; and if there were any in the audience who needed a butler, they had an admirable model in Mr. M. M. Linnane, who, in addition to other features of his particular rôle, had to keep his countenance under rather trying circumstances. J. W. Blauvelt was equally successful in his part, even at finding a vulnerable spot in the presumably ossified heart of the man from Newburgh. As the rival shoemakers, Messrs. Cabrera and Murray made a decided hit—so much so that it made no difference whether their shoes were "calf" or "cow." They helped to pay the rent, as was right and proper, and we know that "sufficient for the day," etc.

Taken as a whole, the play should be set down as a bona-fide success. There was no failure on any side. Lines well committed to memory and very naturally delivered, action good,—and it is not too much to say that it deserved to be looked at, as I have no doubt it was, through Ben's "Pair of Spectacles"; which was the point of view of Spectator.

Vol. 20 (1901-?)

An Interesting Letter.

ST. JOSEPH'S RECTORY.

PITTSFIELD, MASS.

Nov. 28th, 1901.

Dear Rev. Father:—

I have your letter of the 25th inst. I send you by express a copy of a book entitled "Major General Hiram G. Berry." Turn to the index, and there you will find two places indicated wherein Father Tissot is mentioned in "general orders."

How well I remember the benign and serious face of dear Father Tissot! I recall with pleasure now the agreeable relations that existed between us during our term of service in the Thirty-seventh Regiment. With the exception of two companies that came from Cattaraugus County, the men of the regiment were Catholics. But without exception, every man in the regiment was devoted to Father Tissot, and whether in camp or on the march, there was never lack of willing hands to procure for him whatever comforts the rough life we were leading could afford. If during the course of our movements we at any time struck a place where we were likely to be encamped for any length of time, a chapel was quickly erected for him. The chapel was usually a space about twenty feet square, enclosed on three sides by a paling ten or twelve feet high, with gable ends, interlaced with green pine branches to keep out the wind, and roofed with tent flies. The fourth side was open so that all the men of the regiment could gather before the altar and hear Mass, which the good Father offered up regularly every morning—
when all was "quiet along the Potomac"; at other times, he read Mass when opportunity offered and conditions permitted. During the quiet days of camp life he used to write letters for those who could not use the pen, and when pay day came around he would assist the men in preparing the money packages they desired to send home, carry the packages to the Express office nearest the camp, and bring back the receipts to the senders. Many a family in the North had Father Tissot to thank for the remittance they received from the seat of war; for the men were inclined to be improvident, and few would have sent money home did they not have so good a mentor near at hand. On one occasion he gave a "Mission" to the regiment. He had at that time an "A" tent for his quarters. It was not large, but he made it serve his purpose. Company by company, he brought the men before him, three at a time. Each group of three visited the tent three times a day for three days in succession, and at the end of the third day the confessions of the entire squad were heard and the members received Communion the following morning. Thus he worked with squad after squad, until every Catholic in the regiment had made the Mission. It may perhaps be interesting to know his method. He would be seated on a cracker box at the further end of his tent. The men would come in by threes at an appointed time, seat themselves on the floor, and then for half an hour or more he would discourse to them upon matters spiritual with a persuasiveness and eloquence that never failed to reach the hearts of the toughest—and some of us were pretty tough. When one group retired another took its place, and thus all day long, and day after day, he worked, until every man in the regiment had had his chance of securing the benefits of the Mission.

When it was pretty well known that the army was about to enter upon a fresh campaign, Father Tissot was always diligent in warning the men about confession; and on the eve of an engagement he was usually up all night listening to the sinners and giving them absolution. When the battle was on and the regiment was going into action, astride his horse, he was accustomed to take up a position by the road-side and give general absolution to the men, in groups, as they passed by him. The men understood perfectly what he was doing, for he had instructed them. At the head of the regiment, the first group of—say fifty—would doff their caps and say an act of contrition, while he, with uplifted hand, would pronounce the words of absolution; the same with the next group, and so on until the entire regiment had passed; then he would spur on and take his place beside the regimental surgeon. This he did, not once, but every time the regiment went into action during the two years of its service; and those who are familiar with the history of the Thirty-seventh Regt., N. Y. Vols., know that it participated in all the engagements of the Army of the Potomac from Yorktown to Chancellorsville inclusive, except the battle of Antietam. But its failure to be in that battle was due to the fact that it had been with Pope in the second Bull Run affair, and with the Corps to which it belonged—the Third—remained south of the Potomac, to hold the defenses of Washington during the Antietam campaign.

Dear Father Tissot! I revere his memory. I appreciate his character now better than I could in those days; and it will always be a satisfaction to me
to recall the counsel he gave me, the last time I saw him, when I went to Fordham in 1870 for the purpose of loading him with a general confession before entering on my immediate preparation for the priesthood.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES BOYLE.

(At one time Second Lieutenant Co. C., 37th N.Y. Vols.)

News of the Month.

Dr. James J. Walsh, '84, A. M. '85, Ph. D. '99, delivered another of his delightful lectures under the auspices of the Rosary Reading Circle, at Rosary Hall, East 119th Street, near Pleasant Avenue, Dec. 18th, on "The Development of Dramatic Genius."

"Hon. T. B. Minahan, '74, who was chosen national president, of the American Federation of Catholic Societies of the United States, in the great convention held recently in Cincinnati, is a true exemplar of the highest type of Catholic manhood. The office came to him unsought, and he was the almost unanimous choice of the large body of delegates. Mr. Minahan is gifted with executive ability of a high order, is an orator of distinguished note, and a man of broad mind. He is possessed of rare tact and discretion, and of that quality of courage which is tempered and guided by prudence, and in all respects is admirably equipped to be a safe and conservative leader."

In acknowledging the honor conferred upon him, Mr. Minahan presented the purposes of the Federation in such a masterly way that he carried the convention by storm. The "old boys" will be glad to hear of the success of our distinguished alumnus. But are there not many others among them doing great things for God and Country? We are sure there are, and Alma Mater would be glad to stamp her approval on their doings.