The True Witness and Catholic Chronicle.

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EPISCOPAL APPROBATION.

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If the English Speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province consulted their best interests, they would soon make of the TRUE WITNESS one of the most prosperous and powerful Catholic papers in this country. I heartily bless those who encourage this excellent work.

†PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

SATURDAY,..... February 25th. 1899.

ALD. KINSELLA AND

While Alderman Ames is an estimthere was something patronizing in the Irish element; and it should be his attitude towards Alderman Kin- occupied by an Irish Aldermansella, when, after assisting to displace him from the Chairmanship of ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY the Water Committee, he offered the Irish-Catholic his own less important chairmanship of the Parks and Ferries Committee.

For a period of ten years John Mc-dollars, from the funds of the Associworks in connection with that de- tholic High School. partment, such as the wheelhouse. It seems to us that there is a pecuwere made.

In view of these facts, the attitude of the aldermen who assisted Alder- the President, officers and members of man Sadler and Ames, to deprive us St. Patrick's Society to perpetuate an of this important chairmanship—the organization that has for so many only one alloted to us-is all the generations been associated with the more unjust and irritating. As far as rise and development of the Irish Alderman Ames is concerned, we Catholic element in this city, and inspeak for ourselves, when we say directly throughout Canada. The prethat his offer to vacate his Chair- sent members are but the successors manship should be rejected.

ter which has caused us no small the work that their predecessors comsurprise; and that is the action of menced. Time is on the wing; a few Ald. Laporte. For nearly twenty decades more and another generation years Ald. Laporte has worked side will, in its turn, be taking up the by side with the Irish Catholics of patriotic task that those of to-day St. Ann's Ward, and has has been re- so nobly accomplished. The existence garded as, in a special sense, a the future prosperity, and the perstaunch friend of our people; so that petuation on the same lines, of St. we felt that we could rely upon him l'atrick's Society must of necessity in every emergency as such. When depend on the membership to be sethe Irish Catholic chairmanship had cured from the ranks of the rising, or been offered to and refused by Ald. rather the younger generation. It is Clearibue-from what motives we do therefore obvious to all who reflect not know-it was then that Ald. that the stability of principle, the Laporte's friendsh:fp and loyalty to preservation of nationalism, the proour race was put to the test. Did he pagation of Catholicity-all which then remember his long years of as- have ever been characteristics of the sociation with our people? Did he Society-must, to a great extent, be realize that in order to preserve har- swayed by the education of those mony it is necessary to recognize the who are to be the men of the near rights of that section of the popula- | future. Consequently such a proposal tion which had so long held the as that of a contribution to so worchairmanship that had been offered thy an object as the Catholic High to him? No; He failed to rise to the School, is a donation by the present occasion, which then presented itself members of the Society for the educato him.

which the Trish element have found places and continue the traditions of that they have been deserted when their organization as time rolls onthe help of some of the French Canadian element was most needed. Had Mr. Laporte been imbued with a proper estimation of our people he would have indignantly repudiated any attempt on the part of Messrs. Sadler and Ames to deprive the Irish Catholics of an important chairmanship We should have expected that Ald-Laporte, when his name was mentioned for the chairmanship, would not only have done as Ald. Cleari-

ly, of the Irish element. It is not THE WATER COMMITTEE, for us a question of persons. It is a question of principle. The chairmanship of the Water Committee beable young man in many respects, longs of right to a representative of

AND THE HIGH SCHOOL.

From what we consider a reliable source we have learned that, on the It does not seem to be generally occasion of the last monthly meetknown that for the past quarter of a ling of St. Patrick's Society, notice of century the chairmanship of the Wat- motion was given that at the next er Committee has belonged, by the monthly meeting the treasurer would right of custom, to the Irish element, be asked to set aside five hundred Gauvran held the office, and during ation, to be contributed to the erechis tenure of it some of the principal tion and maintenance of the new Ca-

were constructed. For about a simi-liar wisdom in suggesting such a conlar period that staunch and estini- tribution, especially coming from able Irishman, Peter Donovan occu- that parent organization. The propied the same position; and while he posal, it also seems to us, is virtualheld the office many important in in ly an investment of that portion of provements to our water system the society's funds, for the benefit of iuture members.

We know that it is the desire of of the hundreds who have gone be-There is another phase of this mat- fore them, and they are carrying on tion, the instruction, the training of This is not the first instance in those who are to one day fill their ward.

> This thought should be alone sufficient to secure for the proposal the unanimous support of the members.

LEO XIII'S ANNIVERSARY.

On Friday, the 3rd of March, next, in order to give it to a Protestant: the venerable Pontiff, Leo XIII., will. enter upon his ninetieth year. It is truly a "grand old age;" and it is remarkable that the great and noble j occupant of the Vatican should be King (or Queen) of Great Britain and of such function, and the nonhue did, -namely, declined it but possessed of the energy, the clearawould have shown himself ness of intellect, and the extraordin- solemnly and sincerely, in the pres- speak of an "ex-governor," an "exto be a champion of the ary capacity for work which he en- ence of God, profess, testify, and de- mayor," an "ex-lawyer," an "ex-

have lived older than he; one even celebrated his hundredth year; but few, if any, have developed after 80 as much strength and capacity for statesmanship as has the present Vicar of Christ. Of all the great, the remarkable, the famous old men of the nineteenth century he alone remains. Of his contemporaries not one is alive. Gladstone has almost passed into the realm of history solong does it seem that he has made his exit from the public arena; the Iron Chancellor lives only in memoirs, that are being published, and that in no way serve to enhance his fame; all the sovereigns of Europe-except Queen Victoria- whom Leo XIII., had known and had communicated with have passed away, and he really might say, ,n the words of Whittier:-

"I am the last leaf upon the tree." At the close of this wonderful century, the sublime figure of Leo still attracts the gaze-like the last mountain of deluge over the unbroken ex-Panse, when all other great peaks had vanished in the flood. And he is not a broken down ruler, nor an exhausted power; rather is he daily giving evidence of most astounding activity and mental force. In the natural course of events it cannot be reasonably expected that His Holiness should see many more years, yet we trust and pray that the prediction of Dr. Lapponi, the Vatican physician, may be more than fulfilled; that eminent medical authority expressed the opinion that Leo XIII. would be as well as he is to-day on January 1st, 1901 - when he purposes ushering in the twentieth century, by special elaborate ceremonials in St. Peter's. Humble as our voice is, we raise it gladly in the course of congratulations that will greet the great Pontiff on the 3rd of March, next.

THE CORONATION OATH.

It is remarkable how often a chance expression, or an accidental circumstance gives rise to most important movements, and produces most unexpected results. In the course of his ordinary duties as pastor of St. Joseph's Parish, Ottawa, the Rev. Father Fallon, O.M.I., recently made a reference, in one of his sermons, to the offensive terms comprised in the British Coronation oath. The subject was new it was treated in a novel manner, and as few persons had ever given any special attention to the matter, it at once awakened a very deep and keen interest. The result was that the Catholic Truth Society, of Ottawa, took up the question, Father Fallon was asked to enlarge his remarks in the form of a lecture, resolutions were adopted in consequence, and the secular-non-Catholic -press of the Capital strongly agreed with the statements of the Rev. Lecturer, and sympathized with the views of all Catholic British subjects, concerning the amending of the form used in the Coronation oath. We could not better convey an idea of the whole movement, than by reproducing the resolutions adopted on that occasion, as well as the objectionable section of the oath, and some of Father Fallon's leading comments thereon.

The resolutions speak for themselves:-

It was moved by B. B. Sulte, F. R. S. C., and seconded by M. J. Gorman, L L.B., and adopted unanimously: "That the Roman Catholics of Ottawa, as loyal subjects of the British empire, desire to express their regret that there should be required of the sovereign of the empire, at coronation or at any other time, a declaration against transubstantiation, by which the sacrifice of the Mass and other doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church are stigmatized as superstitious and idolatrous.

"That they sincerely trust that the spirit of broad toleration which, within the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty and the two preceding sovereign removed this declaration from the statute books, so far as members of Parliament, peers of the realm and office holders are concerned, will, at the request of humble but dutiful servants of the empire, cause it to be repealed in so far as it relates to the supreme head of the state.

"That they believe that the removal of this objectionable declaration would enable the Roman Catholics of the empire to enter, with more profound feeling of loyal affection, into the spirit of a ceremony, which should be the occasion of nothing but mutual esteem and good will, on the part of both sovereign and subjects."

It may be well here to add the Britain in taking the Coronation oath:--

of Leo XIII. that mysteriousness is not any transubstantiation of the elemost strikingly manifested. Popes ments of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ at or after the consecration thereof, by any person whatsoever; and that the invocation or adoration of the Virgin Mary or any other saint, and the sacrifice of the Mass, as they are now used in the Church of Rome, are superstitious and idolatrous. And I do solemnly, in the presence of God, profess, testify and declare, that I do make this declaration and every part lonce belonged to the Catholic Church, thereof, in the plain and ordinary may of free will abandon that state, sense of the words read unto me, as or that faith, and go abroad in the they are commonly uoderstood by world with the right to the prefix of English Protestants, without any evasion, equivocation or mental reservation whatsoever, and without any dispensation already granted me for this purpose by the Pope or any other authority or person whatsoever, or without thinking that I am or can be acquitted before God or man, or absolved of this declaration or any part thereof, although the Pope or any other person or persons, or power whatsoever, should dispense with ning."

fensive and insulting such a declaration must be in the minds and to the feelings of twelve million Roman Catholic subjects of Her (or His) Britannic Majesty. Queen Anne, in 1782, was the first sovereign to subrcribe to this declaration. Since then it has been repeated by each succeeding monarch who has ascended the British throne.

Father Fallon spoke of the sense of humiliation which the present Queen must have experienced, when, a young girl of eighteen years, she was required to repeat words so foreign to her sentiments and which brand in no mild tone as idolatrous and superstitious a large section of her most devoted subjects. Without entering into the questions of faith- the truth of error or doctrines-the lecturer pointed out that this was not a national, nor yet a religious issue, but a matter of public policy. In 1828, O'Connell refused the oath; he was therefore prevented from taking his seat in the House of Commons. He went back to Clare, was re-elected, and returned to again refuse to take the oath. The result was emancipation in 1829; the oath was amended to suit the Catholic conscience as far as members of Parliament were concerned. By degrees, it was amended in a similar manner, through the efforts of the historian Lingard, and Sir Coleman O'Loughlin, until 1867, a bill passed the House of Lords, by virtue which no British subject was thenceforth obliged to make the declarations of the oath. Most logically does Father Fallon thus argue:--

"Now, it it is offensive and unjust for Catholics to be termed idolatrous by the subjects of the Crown, the offensiveness and injustice are increased beyond endurance when the charge is made by the sovereign and on the most solemn occasion. Every argument used in favor of the abolition of the oath for office-holders makes with ten-fold force against its being taken by the Supreme Head of the in the case of the few who used to State."

If we mistake not, on a recent occasion one of the Lieutenant-Governors of this Province declined to take the oath of office on account of obiectionable expressions contained therein; and, in consequence, the form of the oath was changed. What could be changed for a Lieutenant-Governor may be changed also for a Governor-General, and with still more reason for the sovereign whom both of them

In any case, the movement is now on foot, how strongly it will be pushed remains to be seen; but, certainly, the Catholics of Canada and of all the empire owe a debt of gratitude to Rev. Father Fallon, for his manly and timely initiative, and to the Catholic Truth Society of Ottawa for having so readily taken up the question and brought it before the public, While we know the Coronation oath is more a matter of form than of policy, still we hoped that those who commenced this laudable work will soon behold their efforts crowned with success, and that these objectionable terms will be forever blotted off the page of the statute book.

THE "EX-PRIEST."

tunate men who, having been raised to the dignity of Catholic priesthood, have, for one cause or another, fallen away and abandoned the Church, we have always been careful not to terms used by the sovereign of Great , make use of the term "ex-priest." The expression "ex" prefixed to a word that indicates a function, or a state "I. A. B., by the grace of God, conveys the idea of the disappearance Ireland, Defender of the Faith, do existence of such a state. We rights of all sections of joys. The ways of God are really clare, that I do believe in the Sacra-member of Parliament"; in so doing his mission to St. Petersburg, and of ed to show its appreciation of this the community and a friend, especial—wonderful, and in the life and labors—and of the Lord's Grant the community and a friend, especial—wonderful, and in the life and labors—and of the Lord's Grant the community and a friend, especial—wonderful, and in the life and labors—and the community and a friend, especial—wonderful, and in the life and labors—and the community and a friend, especial—wonderful, and in the life and labors—and the community and a friend, especial—wonderful, and in the life and labors—and the community and a friend, especial—wonderful, and in the life and labors—and the community and a friend, especial—wonderful, and in the life and labors—and the community and a friend, especial—wonderful, and in the life and labors—and the community and a friend, especial—wonderful, and in the life and labors—and the community and a friend, especial—wonderful, and in the life and labors—and the community and a friend, especial—wonderful, and in the life and labors—and the community and a friend, especial—wonderful, and in the life and labors—and the community and a friend, especial—wonderful, and in the life and labors—and the community and a friend, especial—wonderful, and the life and labors—and the community and a friend, especial—wonderful, and the community and a friend, especial—wonderful, and the life and labors—and the community and a friend, especial—wonderful, and the community and a friend and the community and a fri the community and a friend, especial- wonderful, and in the life and labors ment of the Lord's Supper there is we mean to state that the person in his treaty with Russia, must be estimable organization.

question is no longer a governor, a known, before any estimate can be mayor, a lawyer, or a member Parliament, and this also includes ercise the functions peculiar to the state, office, or profession indicated. In the same sense there may be "exmonks," "ex-nuns," and "ex-Catholics." That is to say, a person who once belonged to a religious order male or female—even as a person who "ex."

But in the case of a priest of the Church of Rome, provided he be a really ordained priest, there can be no "ex" applicable. He may leave the Church, he may attack the Church, he may abandon all the rights and privileges of priesthood, he may despise the functions of that high office, but he cannot cease to be priest, he cannot divest himself the sacerdotal state, he cannot efor annul the same or declare that face the effects of ordination. Thereit was null and void from the begin- fore, it is morally and actually impossible for a genuine priest to be-We can readily understand how of come an "ex-priest." He may become a renegade priest, an anti-Catholic priest, a priest-hating priest, or any other stamp of priest; but he remains a priest all the same, and all the "exs" that he could write in a year before his name would not make him less a priest. It seems to us that this should be the most fearful thought that could haunt the soul of the unworthy priest.

THE "DAILY WITNESS" PRAISES CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS,

The "Daily Witness" is sometimes honest enough to speak in praise of Catholic institutions; and whenever it does we do not fail to give it credit. Referring to the visit, last week. of the Lieut.-Governor to several Catholic institutions in Montreal, it published the following editorial article, devoting a column and a half to a report of the proceedings attending His Honor's visit:---

We are overjoyed to hear of a startling reform in the care of babes taken charge of by charitable institutions in Montreal. Instead of the old mortality of ninety-two to ninetyseven per cent., the obvious causes of which, in the case of one large institution, the "Witness" had frequently the pain of exposing, the mortality in the Asyle Nazareth is now reported at from twenty-five to thirty per cent., and that the Grey Nunnery is, we believe, reduced to a similar measure. The change is due in part to scientific progress and sterilized milk, and in part to more humane methods. The old system of farming the infants out to suburban and rural haridans, who in many cases entirely neglected them, has been done away with and the best efforts are now made to save the lives of the children, with a success, as compared with former results, amounting in number to nearly seventy in every hundred, and probably even then a better average result in health than struggle through. We are pleased to hear that instead of being known the world over as being in the rear of civilization, Montreal now leads the van and has an infant-saving institution which can boast of being the best in the world."

FRANCE.

The carefully prepared revolution, that was to have destroyed the republic, and placed one of the pretenders on the throne of France, has failed to materialize. For weeks it was heralded throughout the world, that everything was ready for the overthrow of the present regime. A demonstration in a theatre, organized by the adherents of the Napoleonic faction was called abroad, with all the seriousness of a natural ourburst. Yet in the midst of all the anarchy, that was alleged to be ready to break forth without a moment's notice, the President of the republic was touched by the cold hand of death, the State was left without its duly elected head, and no blow was struck, nothing was convulsed. The nation expresses its sorrow, at the sudden disappearance of a man of good motives who fell beneath the heavy burdens of the cares of state. Solemn services, for the repose of the soul of the illustrious departed, have been held in In referring, when unhappily occa- Paris, and a new president has been sion required, to any of those unfor- elected, all this giving evidence that despite the utterances of brawlers at home, and of the enemies of France abroad, men of sound sense are in the great majority, and things may be looked forward to as likely to be managed in the best interests of the country, let pretenders to the throne remember the great enthusiasm it do as they will, in obscure corners, where they hatch their apparently insignificant plots and plans. Felix neither time or expense to equal, Faure has disappeared from the not surpass their brothers of the scene. His presidency was an event- past, feeling assured that they will ful one, but the true inwardness of be heartily seconded by the Irish

formed of the influence of his career upon France and Europe generally. the statement that such person has The election of his successor, M. Emno longer the right, or power to ex- lile Loubet, was a remarkable one. He was, virtually, placed in the Presidential chair, by acclamation. People abroad were prepared for stormy scenes and national disruption, but everything passed off with apparent harmony. M. Meline's name, and the name of M. Dupuy as well as those of one or two other prominent statesmen were mentioned, but patriotism is strong in France, despite what her enemies may say and hope for M. Meline declined to accept a nomination, so did M. Dupuy. Egotism played no part in the hour of peril; all rallied round M. Loubet. and the dreams of those who thought the hour for the downfall of the republic had arrived were displeased-The new President has a great place to fill, at a most critical moment in the affairs of the old world. Fortunately he is no novice in statecraft. He has arrived at an age when he can look at things calmly, having been born in 1838. His first entry into politics was in 1876. Since he sat in the assembly, and was sent to the Senate in 1895, where he subsequently became president of that body; a position he filled when he was elected to the chief Magistracy. All agree that he is a calm and resolute, as well as an able man. Amidst all the turmoil and recrimination on the Dreyfus affair, he has observed a dignified silence, on all sides he appears to be trusted. In such hands the affairs of the Republic are likely to be safe. All friends of peace will hope and pray that he may be able to guide the nation's bark into tranquil waters, and that these questions which have threatened to embroil the country in difficulties with her neighbors, having been disposed with honor, to all concerned, a new era of calm and prosperity may dawn, for the great and chivalrous nation, who, whatever their faults may be, have played a glorious part. in the history of the world and its civilization.

> The conference of Irish National 80cieties to make arrangements for St. Patrick's Day celebration will be held in St. Patrick's Hall, Alexander St., next week.

> Rv. Abbe Colin Superior of the Saminary of St. Sulpice, who is an old resident of Paris, speaking of the new president of the French Republic, M. Loubet, stated that he considered him a true representative of the moderate element in France, and that he felt assured that the country would greatly benefit by his administration of affairs.

Lord Strathcona of Mount Royal, better known as Sir Donald Smith, has just donated \$1,000 to the St. Jean Baptiste Society, toward the debt fund of the association. This is another instance of his benevolence to Catholic institutions and bears out the fact that Lord Strathcona makes no distinction between creed or mationality.

On Tuesday in all the Christian Brothers' schools, the Most Blessed Sacrament was exposed from none o'clock, a.m., until noon, in order that the blessing of God would attend the sitting of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, which held its final meeting in Rome on Tuesday, preparatory to the canonization of Ven. Jean Baptiste de la Salle, the celebrated founder of the Christian Brothers.

The members of the Mount St. Louis College Literary Society intend this year to surpass their previous efforts in the celebration of the feast of ireland's National Saint. They will produce the Shakespearian drama, "Julius Caesar," This effort may be thought, by some, to be presumptuous upon their part as the portrayal of Shakespeare's plays have seldom,if ever, been attempted by amateurs: but we know from experience and can confidently assert that under the direction of their able instructors, the production of "Julius Caesar" will add fresh laurels to the histrionic ability of the pupils of Mount St. Louis College.

Our readers, especially the older ones, will be glad to hear that the Young Irishmen's L. and B. Association, after the lapse of many years, are going to repeat that stirring Irish drama, "Robert Emmet," at Her Majesty's Theatre, on St. Patrick's night. Many of our readers will remember the elaborate scale on which this historic play was staged, in the old Theatre Royal, in 1879, and can evoked at that time. It is to be assumed that the Young Irishmen's Dramatic Club of to-day will spare