

OUR OBSERVER

MAKES A PREDICTION ABOUT THE ONCE FAMOUS TORONTO LACROSSE CLUB.

THE DANGEROUS BASIN NEAR OLD CUSTOM HOUSE SQUARE—THE SPARSITY OF YOUNG MEN AT SEASIDE RESORTS—THE VALUE OF CONFIDENCE IN ONESELF—A HINT TO IMPROVE THE FIRE BRIGADE—A WELL-DERIVED TRIBUTE TO DOLORES—OTHER TOPICS.

(Specially written for THE TRUE WITNESS.)

If you would appreciate good pure air and sweet balmy breezes, stand on the dyke immediately opposite the Custom House on a sultry afternoon where humanity all around you is sweltering with the heat and the beast of burden laboring beneath its load. The appreciation of pure air will come to you suddenly, all in a rush, and will remain with you as long as you linger there. You will realize with a force and emphasis hitherto unknown to you how sweet are nature's unpolluted breezes, how invigorating and healthful the breathing of pure, unadulterated atmosphere. Why? On the same principle that the starving man realized the true worth of a crust of bread, the wanderer, though desert wastes the happiness and comforts of a home, or the cripple the value of a limb. There is an odor arising from a basin immediately in front of you which can be done but scant justice by the word stench. This basin is a cesspool of disease, a hotbed for fever germs and a nursery for microbes. If something is not done there will be several vacancies in the Customs service not caused by superannuation nor by the swing of the Liberal axe, and crepe will be found hanging on the doors of the residences in that vicinity. That such a state of affairs should exist is a disgrace to our city and a reflection on the City Hall administrators. I understand the nuisance is nothing new, having been experienced, though in a milder form, during previous summers. The Health Committee should look into the matter at once, as a question of public health is always of paramount importance. Should an inspector be sent around on an auspicious day to "inspect," there can be but on result, unless, out of self-protection, he takes the precaution of putting a clothes-pin on his nose.

It looks very much now as if the Toronto Lacrosse Club would have to be relegated to the shelf. Its ancient glory can no longer keep it in the Senior League—the glory has passed away, whither nobody knows, and it never came back. I would be sorry to see old Toronto dropped, but this is a prosaic age and lacrosse men have imbibed the prevailing ideas of it. Unless something unforeseen happens, with the expiration of the present season the once famous Torontos shall have gone, where many other good men and things have preceded, into history.

Reports say that young men are at a premium at our seaside resorts. The maidens fair are there in numbers, and any young man who would enjoy a nice quiet time should drop down to Murray Bay or Cacouca. Now, don't go all at once or there may be another sudden decline in the market attributed to the "silver craze."

I have been informed by several credible authorities during the past week that "it is hot." In fact, after a time, I came to believe it myself and to them who sought for knowledge and put the query "isn't it hot?" I unhesitatingly answered, "No, it isn't not hot."

Confidence in oneself is a great boon. Many a genius has remained on the lower rungs of life's ladder for the lack of it, and thousands of mediocre ability have climbed to the very top, eye, even reached the apex of fame through its possession. Confidence in oneself gives others confidence in you. There is a distinction between self-confidence and self-conceit. The former can be acquired through the determination to do every act well and by consistently carrying out this determination. In the course of time you get accustomed to performing your work properly, to bringing all your effort to a successful issue, and you naturally acquire that self-confidence which makes you believe that no matter how great the task set before you its accomplishment is not beyond your power. Conceit is an inborn mental deformity which jumps at the conclusion that everything is within its reach. But conceit is lazy, and if forced to undertake a difficult work will probably weaken before long, consoling itself with the characteristic remark, "that thing is not worth worrying my brain about. Why, so-and-so, who doesn't know enough to pound sand, can do it."

What a good sight the burning Exhibition buildings made last Thursday morning as viewed from the slope of Mount Royal! Too bad the hour was so unpropitious.

Can Montreal's fire brigade with reasonable hopes of success fight two big conflagrations simultaneously? This is an extreme emergency, but should it not be provided for?

The idea which emanated from Toronto, of having a meeting of the Canadian delegates to the Irish National Convention in Montreal previous to sailing for Dublin, should be carried out. It would cement the delegates together and they would go to the Old Land as friends from a common country, not meet as strangers in the home of their fathers.

The letter, by the talented representative of the TRUE WITNESS at the Catholic Summer School, which appeared in the

last two issues of the paper, are generally voted as highly interesting and creditable to the paper and to its able correspondent. Anything which emanates from the facile pen of K. Dolores repays its perusal and forms the subject for good, elevating thought.

WALTER R.

A DISASTROUS FIRE

AT THE EXHIBITION GROUNDS—THE OLD CRYSTAL PALACE COMPLETELY DESTROYED.

The Crystal Palace is nothing but a pile of charred bricks and ironwork. By its destruction one of Montreal's historical buildings disappears from view. It was modelled after the Crystal Palace in London, and was originally built on St. Catherine street, opposite Victoria street, in 1869, to accommodate the industrial exhibition inaugurated by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales.

A fire occurred last week in a small shed on the Exhibition Grounds at Mile End, and as a result the main building, or Crystal Palace, the annex, the carriage building, Machinery Hall, Lorne Restaurant, the swine building, and the trolley barn, with their contents, including the electrical plant and twelve cars of the Park and Island Railway Company, which used Machinery Hall as a power house, have been completely destroyed.

Mr. S. C. Stevenson says that the loss of the Exhibition Company will be between \$30,000 and \$45,000, on which there is insurance to nearly \$40,000. Mr. Holgate, General Manager of the Park and Island Railway, stated that the Company's loss is between \$40,000 and \$50,000. The loss altogether will be in the neighborhood of \$140,000. Mr. Stevenson, the Secretary of the Exhibition Company, was seen, and asked the question, "Will the fire prevent the holding of the annual exhibition this fall?"

"No," Mr. Stevenson answered, "the exhibition will be held. I have already made arrangements to have the grounds cleared in order that the necessary temporary buildings may be erected as soon as possible, and I hope that exhibitors will stand by us, for we have suffered a great loss. The new buildings will be erected in such a way that the timbers used in them will be available for the construction of new permanent buildings. We shall utilize some of the buildings on the Park side of the grounds for the purpose of exhibition."

A RACE FOR LIFE.

SEVEN MEN HAVE AN EXCITING EXPERIENCE TRYING TO ESCAPE A TRAIN.

Four men on a hand-car had a race for life against a train on the Newark and New York branch of the Central Railroad of New Jersey last week, and finally won, although one of their number was badly injured just as the goal of safety had been reached. With three other section hands, Patrick Morley, fifty-four years old, of No. 254 Van Horn street, Jersey City, had been at work on the line just outside of Jersey City, and when 5 o'clock arrived all boarded the hand-car to ride into town. As they bowed along the whistle of an approaching train sounded, and, looking back, they saw the train was upon the same track. The hand-car was being propelled at such a rapid rate that for them to have jumped would have meant death, so putting on a burst of speed, they began a race for life against the train. Faster and faster the four men worked the handles. A moment's cessation meant that they would be overtaken and hurled to death. The train inch by inch gained upon them, although the engineer, recognizing their peril, shut off steam and whistled for breaks. At last, as the hand-car neared the West Side avenue station and the men upon it saw safety, the train overtook it. The cowcatcher of the engine bumped against the hand-car, throwing it from the track. All four men were landed in the ditch alongside the track, the hand-car rolling upon them. Morley was the only one injured, his left leg being crushed. He was removed to the Jersey City hospital.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE.

The most remarkable instance of a human being's rapid growth and maturity, followed by decline, is one recorded by the French Academy in 1729. It is that of a boy, whose voice changed at the age of 5; whose height at 6 was five feet six inches, and whose beard was then grown, making him appear to be about 30 years old. He had great physical strength, and could easily lift and carry a bag of grain weighing 200 pounds. His decline was as rapid as his growth. His hair and beard turned gray when he was 8 years old; at 10 he tottered in his walk, his teeth fell out and his hands became palsied. He died at 12 with every sign of extreme old age.

A PREACHER ON OLD MAIDS.

"Miriam, the Old Maid" was the subject of a sermon preached by the Rev. S. A. Sammis, of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, New Brunswick, N. J., recently. Mr. Sammis is a bachelor. His remarks caused the spinsters in the front pews to beam with pleasure. The preacher said: "I have no sympathy for those wealthy girls who will go out into the woods and pick up an isolated prince or a God-forsaken duke and bestow large sums of money upon them for their titles. I don't care for dukedom, principedom, or any other kind of 'dom.' They find when it is too late the mistake they have made and then expect the sympathy which no one has for them."

Mr. Sammis told of the part Miriam played in the finding of Moses. He spoke of the Egyptian princess, who was, he said, an old maid, in taking the child. "If she had been one of our new women, she would have had a poodle dog with a fine coat spangled with buttons in her arms, and Moses would have stood no chance at all."

"Next," said the dominie, "we find Miriam with the children of Israel in the desert. After her triumphant song she was made a prophetess. Bad results came of it. She became ambitious. Then she became jealous of her brothers,

then slanderous, and was finally punished by being afflicted with leprosy. Here is a striking lesson. Give a woman too much power and you will repent it. Universal suffrage would be an excellent thing were it not for this. If the lady of the house gets full control of domestic affairs you will soon see her coming it over her husband in an alarming manner. Just limit her power a little and all will go on pleasantly; but give her complete control, and that settles it."

RETREATS FOR PRIESTS.

The Necessity of Retreats—Their Order of Exercises—Advantages Which Flow From Them.

This is the season when the Catholic clergy of the various dioceses throughout the land enter on the annual spiritual retreat. What is a retreat, and why is it held periodically, are questions that not all persons can answer satisfactorily. Rev. Dr. A. A. Lambing in the Pittsburg Catholic treats the subject interestingly and instructively. He writes:

What then, is a retreat? It is often called the spiritual exercise, and indeed this is the proper name. It is well known that when a person enters into a new state of life, or at least a considerable part of it, he has thought the matter over carefully, and has worked himself up to an unusual degree of earnestness, and perhaps enthusiasm. But it is equally well known that this fervor naturally grows weak by the very lapse of time; and this cooling is frequently accelerated by the force of the circumstances in which he may be placed. For this reason it is found necessary to adopt means to renew and revive that spirit of zeal. This is seen in the periodical conventions, and other assemblies of persons of the same profession, whatever name they may assume. The object is to renew, and, if possible, intensify the original members of the organization. It is the same with the retreats of the clergy. They endeavor by a few days spent in recollection, meditation, prayer, and self-examination, to discover whatever might have been wrong or imperfect in their past, that it may be repented of and corrected; and that additional light may be obtained to direct them in the formation of rules for their guidance in the future, and additional divine grace to enable them to put these good resolutions into practice. Animated with the zeal for their own sanctification, and new energy for the performance of the duties of their exalted state, they return to their respective fields of labor, saying with the psalmist: "Now I will begin; this is the change of the right hand of the Most High."

The necessity of retreats is apparent to all. Religious whose surroundings shield them from many of the distractions and temptations incident to life, and whose pious exercises furnish them with abundant supernatural assistance, are, notwithstanding, required to make an annual retreat of at least nine days, and generally a shorter one between these, with a retreat of one day every month. And lay persons in the world are frequently met who make an annual and a monthly retreat. But the secular priest is thrown into the midst of the turmoil of the world, is daily engaged in the most distracting and multifarious occupations where a spirit of recollection is almost if not quite impossible, and is yet required for a three-fold reason to lead a life of more than common holiness. He must for his own sake attain to the holiness proper to his state of life, because it is in that state and in that state only that he can be saved. He must sanctify himself for the sake of the people entrusted to his pastoral care, because he must lead them in the way of salvation, not only by word but also by example; for his words however timely and eloquent will produce but little effect if they are not accompanied by that union which only a holy life can breathe. And he must be holy for the sake of the church, because he is one of her ministers, chosen by God Himself to advance her interests among men, and he cannot do so unless he is a worthy minister.

It would be difficult if not impossible to give the history of the institution of clerical retreats; and it is not necessary, nor would it prove interesting. But the manner in which they are conducted will be both interesting and instructive.

The very name retreat signifies a withdrawal from the place, the occupation and the associations in which a person is generally found; and, considered, in so far as it affects the mind, a forgetfulness of the occupations in which a person is commonly engaged. The better to produce both of these desired effects, the clergy are directed to repair at certain times to a place selected by the bishop and there spend a number of days in common exercises conducted by a strange priest also selected by the bishop. Recollection is enjoined, and silence is as far as possible. But this latter it is impossible to secure perfectly because some of the priests have not met for an entire year, they are laboring in the same holy cause, have mutual interests to advance and, consequently, to discuss; and, besides it is not inconsistent with recollection to give a limited time to quiet conversation.

With regard to the order of the exercises, they begin with meditation and Mass in the morning and end with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the evening, the rest of the day being divided between public and private devotions. The public devotions consist of meditations, conferences, pious readings, examination of conscience and the recitation of the divine office. The private devotions are only recommended, and consist of the Rosary, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, the Way of the Cross and such other devotions as each one may prefer. Time is given for necessary relaxation also; but any one who imagines that priests on a retreat have an easy time are very much mistaken. They have little rest of mind or body from 5.30 in the morning to after 9 at night. It goes for saying that all the exercises, both public and private, are directed to the same end, the success of the retreat.

Little need be said of the advantages of a retreat for the clergy. The fact that it has been so long practised and is so

highly recommended by those who are the most competent to judge of its utility, should be sufficient. It is the fulfilment of the words of the prophet Osee (2, xiv): "I will lead her into solitude, and I will speak to her in secret. It is following the example of our divine Lord who, having sent His apostles to preach, said to them when they had returned and given an account of their labors: "Come apart into a desert place, and stay awhile." (St. Mark 6, xxx.) The illustrious Pius IX., among many other advantages, and he urges on the clergy the obligation they are under of seeing that their clergy make them at regular intervals; and his words, which it is not necessary to quote, are incorporated into the decrees of the third plenary council of Baltimore (No. 75) which is the law for the church in this country.

Much more might, of course, be said on this subject, but I think these few remarks will be sufficient; and I have no doubt they will prove both interesting and instructive, especially when many Catholics will have the thoughts of retreats before their minds.

MUTILATED SILVER

BECOMING A NUISANCE IN THIS CITY.

IT IS PRINCIPALLY AMERICAN—THE MONTREAL STREET RAILWAY COMPANY IS NOT AN OBLIGE TO REFUSE IT ON THE CAR—THE OPINION OF A WELL-KNOWN BROKER ON THE DEVALUATION OF AMERICAN BILLS.

The ordinary business man could not fail to observe the increase which has gradually taken place in the circulation of American silver during the past year. There was scarcely a dollar of silver passed over the counters of our retail stores which did not contain one bit or twenty-five cent in that coin. The matter is attracting the attention of some of our leading financial operators and being otherwise referred to in a manner which must bring about a remedy that will prevent the circulation of such battered, bored and plugged coin in this country.

An evening paper, after referring to the mutilated silver nuisance at some length, publishes the following interview with a prominent broker in this city, in which the serious phases of the effects of the circulation of American notes is producing, or likely to produce, is entered upon.

"The circulation of United States silver money in Canada is a more bagatelle in amount to the United States bills in circulation here," said Mr. George R. Marler, banker, to a *Witness* representative yesterday. "Although we dislike very much seeing American silver used here in the same manner as our own coin, he continued, the great harm to our banking institutions here is the circulation of American bills, both silver certificates and national notes. These circulate to an enormous amount in Canada. In the Eastern Township one sees almost as many American bills as Canadian. We now hear that at last some of the largest banking institutions in this city are refusing these greenbacks."

In answer to the question as to why the banks do not unite in this matter and all refuse to accept the money instead of working on the present basis of shipping all they received to New York, Mr. Marler said: "It is just because some of them do not understand the situation. They imagine that they can by the present means ship all the money out of the country, and that will settle the question without any disagreeable action against the bank's customers who hold the bills. But don't you see," exclaimed Mr. Marler forcibly, "the fact of these banks accepting the greenbacks is what keeps them in circulation. They will receive them in small amounts, and there are more coming into the country than they are sending out. Every United States note in circulation in this country is just so much loss to Canadian banks and the Canadian Government. They replace our own notes and those of Canadian banks, which would be in circulation were these not here. The very moment they refuse to accept them, or accept them at a heavy discount, they will go out of circulation and be forced back to the United States. A man cannot refuse to take money from his customers, while some banks will accept it, without appearing to be obdoling, so that the action of a few banks can virtually force the bills upon the public."

The Montreal Street Railway Company are among the first to commence the crusade against the bored coin, as may be inferred from the following statement of one of its officers:—

Mr. Warren, the comptroller of the Montreal Street Railway Company, said this morning that the company's action had been caused by the fact that it was found impossible to get rid of the United States silver. The Bank of Montreal would no longer accept it from them, and the alternative of shipping it to the United States is too expensive; therefore the company could do nothing else than refuse the coin.

CATHOLIC SAILORS' CLUB CONCERT

The continued success attending the usual Thursday evening concerts of this worthy Club, held in their own nice hall, corner of St. Peter and Common Streets, is surprising. Mr. P. J. Gordon, the permanent chairman, who only gets the necessary talent during the evening, has to arrange and conduct his programme, as he proceeds along, which he does in a most clever manner. Last week Miss Delaney and Miss Wheeler opened in a duet—"Music and her sister song," followed by Mrs. Tigh, singer, in fine style; Miss B. Brown, song. Mr. J. W. Greenwood, by request, recited his now famous piece, "Bill Adams," which seems always welcome. Mr. P. Sheridan, violin solo; Peter Cyne, seaman, danced a sailor's hornpipe; T. W. Reid, seaman, song—"Don't call us common sailors any more," which he ably rendered and was loudly applauded. Mr. Peter Morninge, favorably known for his fine pieces, recited in

How weak the soap and water seems when you begin your washing! You don't get any strength out of it till the work is about done. Plenty of hard work and rubbing and wear and tear, even then—but more of it at the beginning; when the water is weakest. Now with Pearline, the water is just as strong at the beginning as at the end. This is one of the reasons (only one) why Pearline acts so much better than soap, in all washing and cleaning. Use no soap with it. Millions now use Pearline

his usual manner, "Sheridan's Ride." A number of seamen representing the different steamships in port, rendered some fine songs. J. P. Lawlor, song "Dear Little Shamrock"; J. Milloy, song. It is expected that the Independent Church choir will take part to-morrow evening.—F.C.L.

TELLING A HORSE'S AGE.

"The popular idea that the age of a horse can always be told by looking at his teeth," said a veterinary surgeon, "is not entirely correct. After the eighth year the horse has no more new teeth, so that the tooth method is useless for telling the age of a horse which is more than eight years old. As soon as the set of teeth is complete, however, a wrinkle begins to appear on the upper edge of the lower eyelid, and a new wrinkle is added each year, so that to get at the age of a horse more than eight years old you must figure the teeth plus the wrinkles."

A GOOD TOOTH POWDER.

Charcoal powder is good and safe, and acts as a deodoriser as well as whitening the teeth. Moreover, it possesses a great advantage over ordinary tooth-powders, inasmuch as it cleans them without injuring the enamel. The following recipe, made up, not only cleans the teeth, but takes away any offensive taste or smell in the mouth. Two ozs. of crushed bone, one oz. of sweet almonds (raw) pounded, five ozs. of prepared arrow root charcoal. Perfume with a few drops of essence of violets, or any other scent you prefer.

Murray & Lanman's FLORIDA WATER THE SWEETEST MOST FRAGRANT, MOST REFRESHING AND ENJOYING OF ALL PERFUMES FOR THE HANDKERCHIEF, TOILET OR BATH. ALL DRUGGISTS, PERFUMERS AND GENERAL DEALERS.

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Polished Hardwood Refrigerators from \$8.50 to \$32.50, and 10 per cent Discount for Cash. ICE CREAM FREEZERS also very Cheap at L. J. A. SURVEYOR, 6 St. Lawrence Street.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, DISTRICT OF MONTREAL, SUPERIOR COURT. No. 1976. Dame Jessie Smith, of the Village of Saint Louis du Mile End, in the District of Montreal, vs. this day instituted an action, in separation of property, against her husband, John Marison, of the same place. Montreal, June 3rd, 1896. MCOITTE, BARNARD & MACDONALD, Attorneys for Plaintiff.

DANIEL FURLONG, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER IN CHOICE BEEF, VEAL, MUTTON & PORK. Special rates for charitable institutions. 54 PRINCE ARTHUR STREET, TELEPHONE 6474.

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RAILWAY TIME TABLES. FAVORABLY KNOWN SINCE 1826 BELLS HAVE FURNISHED 25,000 BELL SCHOOL BELL PUREST BELL WEST-TROY, N.Y. CHIMES, ETC. CATALOGUE PRICES FREE.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RY. Leave Windsor Street Station for: Boston, 9.00 a.m., 8.20 p.m.; Portland, 9.00 a.m., 10.20 p.m.; New York, 8.10 a.m., 8.42 p.m.; Toronto, Detroit, 8.20 a.m., 8.50 p.m.; St. Paul, Minneapolis, 8.30 p.m.; Winnipeg and Vancouver, 8.50 a.m.; Ste. Anne's, Vancouver, etc., 8.20 a.m., 11.30 p.m., 4.15 p.m., 8.15 p.m., 8.15 p.m., 8.15 p.m.; St. John's—8.50 a.m., 4.05 p.m., 8.20 p.m., 1.15 p.m.; New York—8.00 a.m., 4.05 p.m., 8.20 p.m.; Halifax, N.S., 8.10 a.m., 1.15 p.m., 1.15 p.m.; Sherbrooke—4.05 p.m. and 10.4 p.m.; Beauharnois and Valleyfield, 8.10 a.m., 11 a.m., 4.45 p.m., 7.10 p.m.; Hudson, Rivard and Point Fortune, 11.30 p.m., 8.15 p.m., 6.15 p.m.

Leave D'Albion Square Station for: Quebec, 8.10 a.m., 8.20 p.m., 10.30 p.m.; Joliette, St. Gabriel, Three Rivers, 5.15 p.m.; Ottawa, Lechate, 8.30 a.m., 6.05 p.m.; St. Lin, St. Eustache, 5.30 p.m.; St. Jerome, 8.30 a.m., 5.15 p.m., 5.30 p.m.; St. Agathe and Labelle, 6.30 p.m.; Ste. Rose and Ste. Theres, 8.30 a.m., 1.3 p.m., 5.30 p.m., 6.25 p.m.; Saturday, 1.45 p.m., 1.15 p.m., 8.15 p.m.

CITY TICKET and TELEGRAPH OFFICE, 129 St. James St., next to Post Office.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY SYSTEM EXCURSIONS. Sunday Schools and Societies should make early applications for their summer excursions, as the choice dates for Otterburn Park, Clarke's Island, Valleyfield, Ormstown, Itherville, Rousses Point, etc., are being rapidly secured.

Moonlight Excursions Through Lake St. Louis. The club can now be arranged for with societies, clubs, military and other organizations. The Trip is as follows: Leave Bonaventure Station by special excursion train about 8 p.m., twenty minutes ride to LaSalle Wharf, where the "Duchess of York," a steel steamer, electric lighted, and with a carrying capacity of 700, will be in attendance for a three hour moonlight sail through Lake St. Louis, and return to LaSalle Wharf in time to reach Montreal by special train at 11.30 p.m. These moonlight excursions will only be run on application of societies, clubs, etc., the Excursion Committee being allowed to control the sale of tickets if desired. For choice dates, rates, etc., early application should be made at City Ticket Office, 129 St. James Street, or to D. O. Pesse, District Passenger Agent, Bonaventure Station.