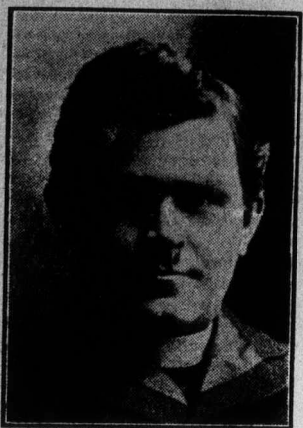


## IN OUTSIDE CATHOLIC DISTRICTS.

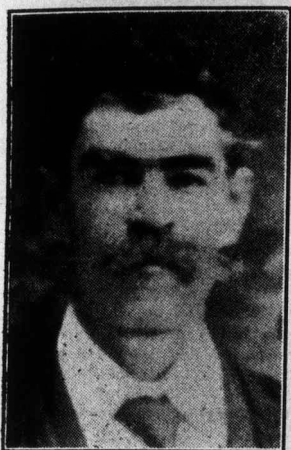
In the valley of the Ottawa, especially in the County of Labelle, not only are there Irish settlements, but centres where Old Country names are retained, and a serious and practical patriotism is conserved. Of these interesting places none more so than the settlement of Mayo. Some time ago we received a communication from a special correspondent of the Gaelic League, which has been established in that locality, and it is full of deep interest, not only as an item of news, but also on account of its suggestiveness. The story of the founding and the maintaining of Mayo's Gaelic class is one that we may regard as a beautiful example set for other districts. Distant from the great centres, and remote from the main highways of commerce, perched up in the Laurentians this little town, or village, with its scattered inhabitants, has found a means of keeping alive the tradi-



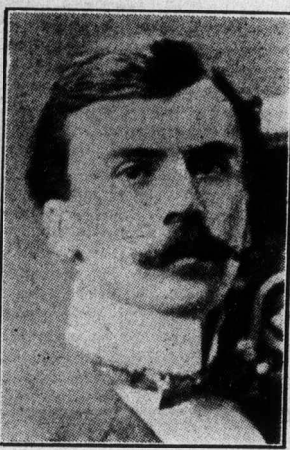
REV. W. E. CAVANAGH, P.P.  
President Gaelic League.

tic little band of Mayo Irishmen, old and young, organized a grand gathering at which the physical prowess of the Celt and his offspring was made manifest; that in the little Canadian town all that concerns physical culture there are to be found exponents who can uphold the honor and reputation of the grand old race. In this connection we reproduce the portraits of some of the leading residents who organized the athletic meeting which was crowned with so much success, and we are pleased to note amongst the number the representatives of another sturdy race.

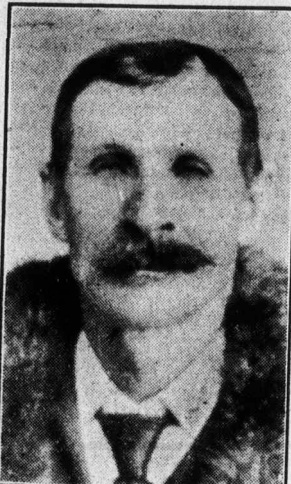
In many outside places in this old province of Quebec there are Irishmen and their descendants who are doing noble work in the cause of faith and nationality, and we would be grateful if they would follow the



MR. RANDELL McDONNELL.  
Hon. Pres., Gaelic League.



MR. JOHN L. O'NEIL.  
Manager of Gaelic Games.



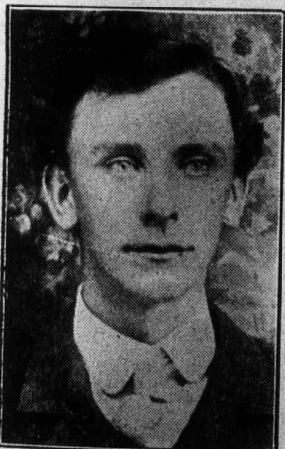
MR. MICHAEL O'CONNOR,  
Gaelic Balladist.

tions of the Old Country, and even of preserving and perpetuating the language of the sea-divided Gael." For somewhat over a year this Gaelic class has been in existence, but it was not till last autumn that it took definite shape. In May of last

Cavanagh, who is the official head of the organization, and who in addition to the important and onerous duties associated with the spiritual welfare of the parishioners, is the most enthusiastic figure in all that concerns their temporal welfare. In

example of one of our subscribers of Mayo, and tell us of their progress and success.

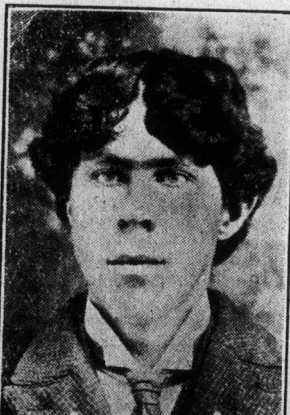
Our people throughout Canada should use the opportunities within their reach in making known their



MR. JAMES MCGREGOR.  
Scot. Gael, 2nd in All-round Games.



MR. MATHEW MALONEY.  
Junior Athletic Champion.



MR. JOSEPH BURKE,  
All-round Athletic Champion.

year a celebration was held to which were invited all who were known to have an interest in the Gaelic movement. Amongst those present may be mentioned Hon. John Costigan, and some of the leading members of the Gaelic Society of Ottawa. Rev. Dr. O'Boyle and Mr. Clark, of the Militia Department, were amongst the visiting friends. Much of the credit is due to the pastor, Rev. W. E.

connection with the Gaelic League, the esteemed pastor is ably supported in the undertaking by Mr. Randell McDonnell, Mr. Michael O'Connor, Miss Burke, and by the able and energetic secretary-treasurer, Miss M. C. Spooner.

In May of last year the enthusias-

undertakings in every city, town and village in the Dominion. They should use their press, which is in sympathy with them. Let the old organ, the "True Witness," be the medium. No event of a spiritual or temporal character should pass unnoticed. Their publication will have a mighty influence over the minds and actions of other races whose eyes are upon

ance. They are not mere optional regalia. They have each a history, each a story to tell, a lesson to impart, a sermon to preach. There are Catholics to-day who would be at a loss to answer, if they were asked to explain the vestments of their clergy. We will study the Mass in its every particular, and analyse that grandest of public offerings, prayers or services. Let the reader pay special attention to these short articles. They may contain things that will be of use to him some day. These articles shall be simple and plain, free from the embellishments of rhetoric, or the ornaments of style. When writing upon the sublimest of themes the simplest of language is the most appropriate. And our object is not to dazzle or attract admiration to the composition, but to instruct the reader in that which every Catholic should know, and which too many ignore completely.

We will go through the whole Mass from the beginning to end, from the "Introito ad altare Dei," to the "Ite missa est." From the foot of the altar we will follow the priest to the introit, the offertory, the canon, the Pater, the Communion, and on to the last Gospel. As every star in a system revolves around its central sun, and derives its light therefrom, so each of these parts revolve around and depend upon the grand centre, the great feature of the Mass—the consecration! If in the ornaments there is a special meaning, so in the various colors of the vestments there is also a meaning. If the objects that attract our eyes upon the altar speak to us lessons that we should learn, so the very actions of the priest tell us things that we must not forget. Whether he bends the knee, or kneels; whether he stands erect with hands extended, or bows his head with hands clasped in front; whether he places those hands over the sacred vessels, or makes the sign of the cross upon the altar, in every move, in every attitude, in every word that accompanies his motions there is something to be learned.

Enter a temple or church or any denomination of Christianity, and what do you behold! Four walls in the form of a house, without ornament, order, or ought to attract the attention, drawing the mind from the things of earth to those of heaven. No priest, no altar, no sacrifice! Cold, dull, shivering Christianity, with nothing that speaks of adoration, nothing that tells of God's presence, nothing that even resembles worship. Even the Pagans offered sacrifices. Even the Druid in the sacred grove had a sacrifice, an altar, a victim, a priest. In all ages, in all lands, the conventional worship of the Deity was sacrifice. The Catholic Church alone preserves that mark of religion. And what a sacrifice! Mysterious and terrible, yet sweet and love inspiring—deep beyond the ken of man—lofty beyond the flights of the richest imagination. Perfect in its entirety, perfect in its parts, perfect in its founder, perfect in its Victim, the sacrifice of the Mass is the continuation of that upon Calvary! It is the great shield of humanity that saves the race of man from the wrath of a justly offended God. It is the eternal incense that ascends hourly to Heaven and appeases the anger of Almighty God. Besides the Mass, all other prayers, all other sacrifices, all other forms of adoration pale and become as dim as the brightest stars when the sun lights the world at mid-day.

The sacrifice on Calvary saved and redeemed the world—a sacrifice upon the altar continues the work of salvation and redemption. When we pause to contemplate the death of Christ, the passion of a God-man, we stand in awe, wonderment, fear, hope, love, gratitude. A thousand sentiments commingled in the breast and we are mute before the mystery that surpasses our comprehension, while it consoles our hearts. The sun becoming dark, the veil of the temple being rent asunder, the earth trembling upon its axis, the dead coming forth from the tomb, all these extraordinary occurrences that awakened the fear of the Roman soldiers and made them cry out "truly this man is the Son of God"—all these convulsions of nature were as naught before the mysterious convulsions that the death of Christ produced in the spiritual world. Even so with the Mass! The prayers, the penances, the alms, the good works of the people, are all so many stepping stones to the Kingdom of God; but the Credo, that most perfect act of Faith; the "Pater," that most perfect prayer of man to God, are embodied in the Mass, and all the Gospels, Epistles and prayers are but the accidents of that one supreme part of the sacrifice, "Hoc est enim Corpus meum."

We will first study the decorations of the altar, the ornaments and vestments of the priest, then we will come to the words of the Mass, and we will explain and reflect upon each

part thereof, explaining the object of each prayer, and the meaning of each action of the priest, while reflecting upon the beauty, perfection and solemn grandeur of the entire sacrifice. Study the Mass, know what it is, and your pleasure will be augmented a hundred-fold when you hear it said or sung. Once more we invite our readers to kindly follow these articles carefully, and above all to our Protestant readers do we recommend them.

## Civic Supervision Of the Stage.

(By An Occasional Contributor.)

Mayor Maybury, of Detroit, is coming in for a deal of favorable comment and gratitude for the energetic manner in which he is following up and checking the immoral and suggestive plays that are being placed on the stage in that city. In one case he attended in person the matinee performance at the Whitney Opera House, and at once ordered the manager to eliminate certain lines from his play, and to change certain scenes, under pain of having the play house closed and the drama forbidden by the City Council. According to reports these plays are attended principally by women and young girls, and they draw full houses. We are pleased to learn that Catholic young women are generally noted for their absence on such occasions; but, unhappily there are a few ignoble exceptions to this rule.

It is not our intention to enter into the details that we have read regarding this and other theatres which appear to be of a low type; but we can, in a general way, claim that the majority of the theatres of the present time are most dangerous to morals. The legitimate drama, the interpretation of the great masterpieces, the presentation of the many moral and instructive plays, may be set down as educational in proper sense. But, unfortunately, the craving for sensation, at this hour, create a demand for the double-meaning, the suggestive; and playwrights, managers, actors and actresses prostitute their talents and their opportunities to the satisfaction of this thirst. It is a thirst which that for drink is mild; it is an infatuation to which that of opium is a trifle; it is a craze to which that of gambling cannot be compared. Thoughts lead to desires, desires to actions, actions to their consequences. The immoral stage suggests the thoughts, creates the desires and indicates the path to the actions; and then leaves the victim to the consequences. Above all are these traps, these moral snares, dangerous for the young. They may not be of the extremely open and lewd character; but the atmosphere within them is tainted with the germs of corruption, and no soul can come forth from them without having left behind a portion of its moral strength, of its innocence, of its brightness. Mothers, above all, should make it a rule to prevent their daughters from frequenting such places of distraction and amusement. Unless they do so there is no salvation for the rising generation. A generation nurtured in youth upon such food must inevitably end in an old age of corruption and misery.

## Parnell's Widow a Bankrupt.

A receiving order in bankruptcy has been granted against the widow of the late Charles Stewart Parnell.

## Premium TO Subscribers.

We offer as a premium to each Subscriber a neatly bound copy of the Golden Jubilee Book, who will send the names and cash for 5 new Subscribers to the True Witness

This is a splendid opportunity to obtain a most interesting chronicle of the work of Irish Catholics Priests and laymen in Montreal during the past Fifty years.

## BALTIMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT SWEEP BY FIRE

Once more has the world been startled and shocked by the news of a conflagration that will leave a fiery mark on the annals of this year. The burning of the very heart of the city of Baltimore on last Monday is one of the most appalling disasters that the commercial world has known for many years. Millions of dollars of property laid in ashes within the short space of a few hours.

But if the extent of material destruction has been great, there was one remarkable and consoling feature in the awful catastrophe—the absence of any loss of human life. From this point of view the burning of the Iroquois theatre, in Chicago, last December, was a thousand times more terrible; but from the standpoint of property loss, that of Baltimore surpasses anything that we have read about in recent years.

By the following details, which we have condensed as much as possible, our readers will be enabled to form some slight idea of the vastness of the loss sustained on that occasion. We take the following from the despatches of last Tuesday. It must, however, be remarked that the fire only swept the business section of the city, and that none of the citizens were left homeless by the conflagration—the residential parts being untouched by the fire.

Throughout the terrible contest which firemen and fire waged for supremacy, humanity was handicapped by a gale, which carried burning brands to remote sections. But for the work of volunteers in extinguishing these embers it is almost certain the burned area would have been much greater. As it is about 75 blocks, or 140 acres, are gone. The burned district is within the territory bounded on the west by Liberty street, on the north by Lexington on the east by Jones Falls, and on the south by Basin. Within this district were the big structures on Fayette, Gay, Lombard, Charles, Balderson, Ellicott, Hollingsworth and Cheapside streets. Passing south east along the basin the following large docks were destroyed. McClure's, Patterson's, Smith, Frederick, Long and Union. Small thoroughfares do not extend as far north as Lexington street, and which were in the path of the flames are Commerce, Frederick and Mill streets.

The district thus swept by fire comprised nearly 2500 buildings. Insurance companies have opened temporary offices in Lexington Hotel, but their representatives decline to estimate their loss. The answer of one is typical of all: "Its too big. We have not figures to describe it. Make it above \$100,000,000, the best we can do."

Notwithstanding the magnitude of the catastrophe, the absence of disorder and confusion was remarkable. This was due to the prompt action of the state and city authorities, who, as soon as they realized that they had a calamity to deal with, took a tight grip on the situation, and never for an instant let go.

To-night the fire district and territory immediately surrounding is under the strictest military control. Fearing that with nightfall looting would start, the line of troops around the ruins was so tightly drawn that it will be impossible for thieves to enter the fire zone. As the financial district is included in the burned territory, there is untold wealth hidden in the blistering vaults of banks and safe deposit companies and any unauthorized person found inside the lines will be severely dealt with, and the officers in charge of that particular spot will be called to account strictly. The auxiliary policemen sent here from Washington, Wilmington and Philadelphia, numbering about 400, have been relieved. These men were nearly exhausted, having been on duty about thirty hours. They were warmly thanked by the Mayor.

Mayor McLane to-day closed all saloons, and there was little drunkenness seen, except among some of the visitors.

In the several departments that make up the city government, there were busy scenes all day. Every city official, and those under them, had been on duty since Sunday, and the strain on these men was particularly great. These men had an extremely busy time of it. The Mayor was besieged for passes through the fire lines, but refused all. General Riggs took similar action.

The fire was most remarkable in many ways, especially so in the lack of casualties. Not a single life has been lost, and not a human being has been even dangerously injured. The hospital lists consist of minor burns, with the exception of Jacob Ingelbritz, a fireman from York, Pa. He has a fractured leg, and is badly burned.

## The Mass

(By a Regular Contributor.)

We propose commencing a few articles upon the important subject of the Mass. As it is our intention to write these articles for the benefit of our Protestant as well as our Catholic readers, we desire it to be understood from the very outset that the Church is in no way responsible for

the explanations we shall give. We write entirely on our own responsibility, and our opinion are open to comment, criticism, and even correction, should we—through lack of adequate knowledge—in any way err.

What is the Mass? The Catechism tell us that "the Mass is the continuation and renewal of the Sacrifice of the Cross." The definition is correct, but it is not sufficient for our purpose. How few Catholics know the real meaning of the Mass! How very few study the great lessons that are preached to us in that dread and holy sacrifice! How few can tell the meaning of the different part of the Mass!

We wish to study thoroughly this grand service of the Church of Rome. The time will not be lost. Everything in the Catholic Church speaks. There are mute sermons that come from the Altar, which, if understood, are far more eloquent than the most perfect orations from the pulpit. From the Crucifix upon the altar to the Ciborium in the Tabernacle; from the Chalice in the priest's hands to the patens that covers it; from the amict and alb to the maniple and stole; from the cord wherewith the priest girdles his body to the chasuble that covers him, each and all of these objects have a special meaning—a particular significance.

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