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The True Witness

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JOHN REDMOND ON THE EDUCATION QUESTION

Speaking at a Catholic bazaar in Sunderland, England, on Nov. 5, Mr. John Redmond, M.P., stated the attitude of the Irish Party on the education question and the general election.

Mr. Redmond, who was received with loud and prolonged applause, said:

The history of the Irish Catholics in Great Britain in the past is full at once of pathos and of pride. They came here in the old days from Ireland the poorest of the poor. Poor to a great extent, ignorant and friendless, they came here because the means of livelihood in their own country was denied them by the conditions that existed, and no one would deal, or attempt to deal, with this question of Irish Catholics and their interests in England without bearing in mind this fact, which I take leave to state here to-day, that emigration from Ireland to this country and to all other parts of the world which is going on to-day with as deadly a drain as ever will never end until the conditions in Ireland are changed and until the country is governed by the people themselves (applause). Those Irishmen who came to Great Britain came here because they had not the means of emigrating to America (applause). They crowded into all the great cities of this great land, all the great centres of population, ay, wherever the toughest and hardest labor was to be found, they crowded in in their thousands. The Irish people, with their stout arms and brave hearts, men and women, young and old, they crowded in to all the mines and potteries and mills and gas works and factories of this great land, from the fine air of their native hills. They came in many cases into the semi-poisonous atmosphere of the slums of the great English cities. They found themselves here in those old days in a strange land, surrounded by a strange people, who derided their nationality, and often despised their poverty and often hated their religion (hear, hear). Now, ladies and gentlemen, I ask what would we have expected as the rational result of conditions such as that. Ay, this is why I say the history of the Irish in Great Britain is a history of pride. What would we naturally expect from a people coming to a strange country under conditions such as those? The loss of religion, abandonment of nationality, a sinking down of mere selfish materialism, or perhaps more natural than all, their utter annihilation in a vortex of misery and vice. That I believe would have been in the ordinary course of events, the history of any people under the conditions I have described. But, fellow-countrymen, what happened to the Irish who came to Great Britain? Truth compels us to admit, and with a sorrowful heart I admit it, a large proportion of our people who emigrated from Ireland, not only to Great Britain, but to America and Australia and elsewhere, succumbed to the circumstances of their surroundings, and it is a fact which cannot be lost sight of by those who desire to work for the spiritual as well as for the material welfare of the Irish race, that a large proportion of those who have emigrated, and do still emigrate, from Ireland fall from the high religious and national ideals of the Irish race. Yes, let there be no humbugging upon this matter. I have seen in every great city in the world where the Irish people have gone. I have seen a large proportion of them who have socially, morally and spiritually gone down in the dust; but, making all allowance even for this, the truth still remains that in the main the Irish people who have emigrated from Ireland have

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(applause). For the Irish race it is a question of life or death, a question which comprehends religion, nationality, and the chances of eternal salvation almost for our race, and therefore our policy to-day is the same as it always was and is, to subordinate the question of Irish freedom to no other political question whatever (applause). But in talking this line it may be asked are we acting in an insinical spirit to the interests of the Catholic schools of Great Britain. No, my Lordship, ladies and gentlemen. So far as my opinion goes, and those of my colleagues of the Irish party, on the contrary, we are strengthening the defensive forces upon which these Catholic schools can rely in the future (applause). Who, let me ask you, are the defenders of Catholic interests in the English Parliament? (A Voice—"The Irish Party.") (Cheers.)

Mr. Redmond—It is the Duke of Norfolk in the House of Lords ("No, no") and his nephew, Mr. Heps, in the House of Commons ("No, no"). The Duke has only to be rated as an opponent with ridicule that there are no other defensive force in the English Parliament for the Catholic cause.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

At St. Michael's Church on Monday morning a requiem Mass was celebrated for the repose of the soul of the late Father Strubbe.

Next Sunday a four weeks' mission will be opened in St. Ann's parish. The Redemptorist Fathers of Saratoga, N.Y., will be the preachers.

On Monday morning at 8 o'clock a requiem service was celebrated at the chapel of the Sisters of Mercy for the Rev. Abbe Bourassa, late cure of St. Louis de France parish. The Rev. Abbe Dupuis was celebrant, assisted by Rev. Abbes Richard, S.S., and Bernier, O.M.I. His Lordship Bishop Racicot presided at the Libera.

At a meeting of the St. Ann's Young Men's Society, held on Oct. 29, resolutions were passed expressing deepest sorrow on the death of Rev. Father Strubbe, their late spiritual director. It was resolved at this meeting to erect a memorial tablet in St. Ann's Church expressive of the great regret the society experienced, and to have a Mass offered weekly.

CONVENT AT ST. LAURENT RECEIVED GIFT.

The convent of St. Laurent was the recipient of a fine bell, the gift of Mr. Robitaille, advocate. His Lordship Bishop Racicot performed the ceremony of blessing it last Sunday. This bell, which weighs 600 pounds, bears the names Anne, Marie, Justine, Adolphe.

FEAST OF ST. CECILIA.

Last Sunday, by anticipation, was celebrated the feast of St. Cecilia. Solemn high Mass was sung at the Church of the Gesù, the preacher of the occasion being Rev. Father Loiseau, S.J. Seats were reserved for invited guests and members of the Union Ste. Cecile, who attended in a body.

COLONIZATION CONGRESS.

At present there is being held a Colonization Congress at St. Jerome. The session, which will last three days, opened on Tuesday. The day was taken up with reception of guests, reading of papers, speaking, and in the evening a banquet was held. The name of Father Labelle was frequently on the lip, he and the clergy after him taking such a live interest in the work of settlement and development of the country. His well-remembered words were quoted: "Where you build a church, you establish a centre of colonization."

BRANCH 26, C.M.B.A.

Branch 26, C.M.B.A., held a very successful reunion and dance last Friday evening at the King's Hall, over three hundred persons being present. The President, Mr. J. H. Maiden, assisted by Messrs. W. F. Wall, W. Palmer, T. R. Stevens and James McCabe received the guests. The lady prize winners were Mrs. Malcolm, Mrs. Joseph O'Brien and Miss Murray, and the gentlemen Messrs. J. J. Costigan, W. Grant, and A. Murray. Supper was served at midnight and was followed by dancing. Branch 24 will celebrate its twentieth anniversary by an "at home" in the Conservatory Hall on November 30.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOME.

The tombola which took place last Friday evening at St. Joseph's Home was a decided success, considering that Mr. David Bennett and Mr. J. Shanahan, who organized the little affair, were rather shy in disposing of the tickets. The ladies, however, came in the nick of time and persuaded their friends, so that every one was either sold by a house to house canvass or disposed of by the dice at the Home before the drawing. The prizes were a watch, given by Mr. David Bennett; a box of cigars, by Mr. J. Shanahan; a fountain pen, by the N. K. Fairbank Co.; a quarter of beef, by Mr. F. H. Carlin; a boy's winter suit, by Mr. M. Curran; a shaving set, by Mrs. M. J. Walsh; five pounds of tea, by Mrs. McArthur; two eggs, by Mr. H. Dubord; a work box, by Mr. Bennett; a dozen of so-

ST. GABRIEL'S JUVENILE T. A. & B. SOCIETY.

At the meeting of St. Gabriel's Juvenile T. A. & B. Society, held last Sunday afternoon, four new members took the pledge and were initiated. The nomination of officers then took place, and all the offices had contestants with the exception of President, Mr. J. J. Collins being re-elected by acclamation. The elections will take place in December. St. Patrick's T. A. & B. Society invited the Juveniles to their anniversary service and also to the reception to be held after the religious services. The arrangements are being accelerated twice a week, and the membership at present is reaching the 300 mark.

ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN'S ANNIVERSARY.

Last Sunday, St. Ann's Young Men's Society held its anniversary services. At 7.45 the members marched from St. Ann's Hall to the church and assisted at the 8 o'clock Mass and received Holy Communion in a body. The Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Lemire, C.S.S.R. In the evening they again assembled and marched to the church, where special services were held. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Thos. Heffernan of St. Anthony's Church. Taking for his text: "I beseech you that you walk worthy of the vocation in which you are called, with all humility and mildness, with patience supporting one another in charity, careful to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. chap. 4, vs. 1, 2, 3.) he said:

ARCHBISHOP BRUCHESI VISITS THE BOYS OF ST. ANN'S SCHOOL.

His Grace the Archbishop of Montreal paid his first visit to the boys of St. Ann's School on Wednesday afternoon last. The Archbishop, accompanied by Rev. Father Perrier, was escorted to the hall by Rev. Father Rioux, rector, and by Rev. Bro. William, director of the school. The large hall was beautifully decorated with flags, banners and appropriate mottoes.

Over the throno was displayed the Papal authority "Tira and keys," while on either side hung in graceful folds the flags of Erin and that of the Dominion and the United States. Over the stage hung an immense scroll on which were inscribed the words "Vivat, Pastor Bonus."

As His Grace entered the hall the school choir sang the chorus "Benedictus" in a very efficient manner. Then followed a programme of vocal and instrumental music, consisting of choruses by the choir and selections by the file and drum band.

The musical program finished, Master J. McCarthy, advancing to the front of the stage, read the address at the conclusion of which Master P. O'Reilly, on the part of the school, presented an offering to His Grace.

The Archbishop, in his reply, thanked the boys for the very kind reception they had given him, and expressed himself highly pleased with the musical programme rendered. He encouraged the boys in their studies and insisted on the necessity of being well grounded in all branches of knowledge, especially in Christian doctrine.

BLESSING OF CHIMES FOR ST. JAMES CHURCH.

Probably never has the ceremony of the blessing of bells attracted such a concourse of people as that which attended the ceremony last Sunday afternoon at St. James Church, St. Denis street. Hundreds were unable to gain admission. The interior of the church was gaily decorated, while the sanctuary and altars were ablaze with lights. Clergy from the different parishes of the city filled the sanctuary. Near the door of the church were the largest four of the bells, while an equal number were placed within the sanctuary. Each was covered with silk, on which was inscribed suitable emblems.

The dedication sermon was preached by Abbe Brosseau, of Mount St. Louis. He explained the significance of the ceremony and the place of bells in Catholic worship. Rev. Mr. Charrier, the parish priest, then addressed a few words to Archbishop Bruchesi, who was present and who in turn replied, saying that those in high stations had there come together with those in more humble positions to perform a pious duty, and he would pray God that it would ever be thus in Montreal.

SISTERS OF MOUNT CARMEL IN RETREAT.

A retreat is being held at present for the Sisters of Mount Carmel at which the Rev. Father Reivelt is the preacher. Among those present were Sir Louis and Lady Jette, Sir Alexander and Lady Lacoste, Hon. Lomer Gouin, Mr. Justice and Madame Robitaille, Mr. Justice and Madame St. Pierre, Hon. J. J. and Madame Rolland, Hon. P. E. and Madame Lablanc, Mr. F. J. and Madame Bisson, Consul-General Kiczakowski, Mr. Jacques Granger, Mr. and Madame R. Bellemare, Mr. and Madame H. Gervais, Dr. and Mrs. Mount, and Capt. Sheppard, A.D.C. to the Lieutenant-Governor. The bells will be immediately put in the tower, and when ready will rank next to those of Notre Dame.

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