

The True Witness

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

OUR READERS are requested to note the dates of the coming pilgrimages to Ste. Anne de Beaupre. Last week we made mention of the St. Patrick's Pilgrimage, which leaves on the evening of the 17th, under the direction of the Rev. Father James Callaghan. On the evening of the 30th, the Men's Pilgrimage, from St. Ann's parish, under the direction of Rev. Father Strubbe, C. S. S. R., will leave Montreal, arriving on Dominion Day at the far-famed shrine. In another column will be found a local notice of this religious excursion. As to pilgrimages in general, and those to the shrine of Ste. Anne de Beaupre, in particular, they have been ever sources of great pleasure and innumerable graces. From a physical standpoint, no more healthy and delightful excursion could be taken. From a spiritual point of view, there is everything connected with these pilgrimages to elevate the mind, fill the heart with noble pulsations, and clothe the soul in a garment of faith that so well befits the nobler part of our being. There are to be many pilgrimages this year; yet there is room for all and more still. But we would advise our friends to take advantage of the earlier ones, as the season is more delightful than when the great heat comes on.

SO THE CITY COUNCIL, by a majority of one, has passed the four per cent. lager license. Well done good and faithful City Fathers! Thanks to the number who have voted against this iniquitous measure; but what are we to say of that slim majority? We have so much to say that we feel it necessary to refer our readers to our editorial columns. The name of Montreal's City Council will certainly become historic, its members are reaping notoriety, if not fame; the wonder is, what next blunder they will commit before the long-wished-for day comes when the people will have an opportunity of raising a unanimous voice in pronouncing a political death-sentence upon the violators of every popular wish.

THE Herald, referring to THE TRUE WITNESS, in a short editorial says:

"If our contemporary will attach to each editorial a carefully drawn diagram clearly demonstrating where it is at, THE Herald will be pleased to break a pen with it."

In order that the Herald's very simplest and shortest editorial might be made comprehensible it evidently would require to append not only a diagram, but also several very clearly expressed notes explaining its explanation. Take the foregoing as a sample. If our contemporary wants to know, regarding the TRUE WITNESS, "where it is at," we can inform that wise organ that it is at No. 761 Craig street. There is no necessity for the Herald breaking its pen with us. We would be perfectly satisfied with a broken lead pencil, provided the chivalric feat resulted in checking the Herald's ill-advised and ungenerous sneering at Irish-Catholic Home Rulers of prominence. We are glad that our "old cam-

paigner" admits that even the "pellets" from our "pop-gun" "hit the mark." We did not intend them to slay or maim our sarcastic contemporary; we only wanted to tickle it into some kind of shame. A pop gun is not dangerous when aimed at an eagle, but, it is more effective than a canon when fired at a wasp. We choose our weapons according to the game.

WE CLIP the following interesting item from the Northwestern Catholic, of Sioux City, Iowa, one of the most enterprising and popular organs in that section of the Union:

"In a parish in Northwestern, Iowa, recently occurred a wonderful event which we record for the benefit of our readers. It is the case of a sick lady receiving the use of her faculties, so as to enable her to receive the rites of her church. As soon as the priest got the sick call, he hurried to the home of the dying person, some six miles distant, only to find her unconscious and speechless. Her friends were prostrate with grief at the prospect of her dying without the consolation of religion. The priest, having waited a couple of hours without seeing any indications of returning speech or reason, at length invited those present to join with him in prayer that God would be so merciful to the dying lady as to give her sufficient reason to receive the holy sacraments worthily. Still she did not appear to rally from the sad, senseless condition. Finally the priest said that it appeared as if he could not do much for her, but that, if he could do no better, he would administer the Sacraments Sub Conditione; but before doing so he would read the prayers of the Church prescribed in the ritual for the sick. Soon after he had commenced praying the sick lady showed signs of consciousness which the priest observed and handed her the crucifix. She kissed it fervently and whispered to him not to desert her. The priest moved to tears as well as the attendants at the manifestation of God's mercy, assured her he would remain to console her, as it was for this he had come. When the prayers were over she was completely restored to her faculties. Then she received the holy sacraments with great fervor for the last time, after which she sat up and partook of some refreshments. Scarcely had the priest left the house to return home than she became unconscious from which she never rallied and died soon afterward. We have the names of the parties and can vouch for the accuracy of the above facts. This is only one of the many manifestations of God's mercy that this priest has been an eye-witness of in his sacerdotal administrations."

EVER since the advent of the electric cars the public has been in constant danger, and it is wonderful that more accidents have not taken place. On this subject His Honor Mr. Justice Wurtele made some very timely remarks in the course of his charge to the Grand Jury, at the opening of the present term of the Queen's Bench (crown side). They are words of wisdom and deserve the serious attention, not only of the officials of the company, but also of the public. His Honor said:—

"Another subject to which, in the public interest, you might call the attention of the City Council, is the overloading of the cars of the Electric Street Railway. It is true that this overloading is due in part to the fault of the passengers themselves who, of their own accord, get on cars which have already as many passengers as they can comfortably or safely carry, but the company and its officers and servants remain responsible, notwithstanding this, for the safety of the passengers that they carry. Should an accident occur, in consequence of the overloading of a car, the company's officers and servants might have to answer to a charge of manslaughter. The punishment, however, of those whose misconduct has caused the accident would be no consolation to the relations and friends of those to whom the accident may bring death. All we can do is to sound a warning note by which the attention of those having a supervising power may be directed to the dangerous practice."

IT IS VERY strange that our economical City Fathers can find means to grant \$10,000 to the Exhibition Company, and \$400,000 for permanent improvements, and yet are obliged to reduce the salaries of employees in order to meet the demands upon the City Treasury. A few

weeks ago we spoke very emphatically upon the subject of reducing the firemen's salaries; the same remarks apply in great part to the case of the policemen and of the other employees of the city. There is something radically wrong in all this, and sooner or later there will be a reckoning. If the wise ones of the Council, the men so interested in the financial prosperity of the city, would take a small piece of advice perhaps it might turn to their own advantage later on. It is not wise to fling thousands unnecessarily away and to strive to make up for these amounts by stinting the deserving, the hard-working and the honest officials upon whom the working of municipal affairs so completely depends. Not only is there no justice in such a course, but we can boldly say that it is the perpetration of a high-handed and a cruel wrong.

WE WERE about to write a few words of congratulation on receiving the splendid edition of the Western Watchman, which was issued on the occasion of that truly Catholic organ's silver jubilee. But having read the following in another of our contemporaries we thought that we could not better endorse its sentiments than by reproducing it.

"The Western Watchman came out last week in a magnificent edition in celebration of its silver jubilee. Its veteran editor received compliments and congratulations from every quarter. Twenty-eight years ago Father Phelan first tried his prentis hand at editing. He was then pastor of Medina, Missouri. There were at that time two bitterly anti-Catholic papers in that town. To stop the ignorant slanders of those two sheets Father Phelan conceived the novel idea of purchasing their type and machinery. In 1865 he bought them out for \$1,500 and started the Missouri Watchman. Thus he made those instruments of opposition weapons of defense. From that day to this he has never relinquished the editorial chair, and he is therefore, the oldest Catholic editor in the country. Father Cronin, of the Buffalo Union and Times, comes next. In 1867 Father Phelan was removed to a parish in the city of St. Louis. He brought his Watchman with him, changing the name to the Western Watchman. It soon took a position of influence which it has more than maintained ever since. He is, therefore, justly styled by Mgr. Satoilli the Dean of the American Catholic press. The delegate Apostolic in congratulating him took occasion to give his views on the work and methods of the Catholic newspapers, which we publish in another column."

A CORRESPONDENT, from Vernon, has written us some time ago making inquiry regarding the financial status of the Bank of Montreal. He asks "if the Dominion Government is responsible for the Bank of Montreal and whether said Bank is no better secured than was the Bank of Upper Canada some years ago." As to the relations that may or may not exist between the Government of Canada and the Bank of Montreal we are not sufficiently posted to be able to give a satisfactory reply. But to the second part of the question we can say that there is no more reliable financial institution in Canada than the Bank in question. Only the other day a species of sensational report was concocted to the effect that the Bank was on the verge of a crash. This caused a very momentary and spasmodic panic, the only in certain quarters. The slightest reflection was sufficient to show the hollowness of such a rumor. In the fluctuations of commerce every institution in the world has its periods of depression, when certain measures must

be taken to economically tide over the momentary wave. On such occasions small crafts sometimes sink; but the very weight and construction of an immense fabric, like the Bank of Montreal, constitute its own safety and the guarantee of all interested in it.

A FRIEND, signing himself "Observer," writes to ask if we will answer several questions regarding the union between England and Ireland and the course pursued by the former country in China. These questions one of our evening contemporaries declined to answer. We will gladly comply with the request; but as off-hand replies to such important interrogatories would scarcely suit "Observer's" purpose, we beg to be allowed a little time to look up the authorities that will substantiate our answers. Under a pressure of work we have not been able this week to examine, to our own satisfaction, these references. It will be more gratifying to the inquirer to know that the replies given are based upon historical evidence and not merely made at hap-hazard. We do not wonder that any one of our evening contemporaries would decline to consider these questions—because, for some people, especially those who are not over much in love with Ireland and her cause, they are simply ticklers.

THE New York Catholic Review tells the following story. We give it in full, and we ask the people who have charge of our public institutions, for the mentally or physically infirm, to read it carefully, and to examine honestly their own consciences and say whether or not they have been guilty of similar cruelties—perhaps not to the same degree, but in any way verging upon it. There are strange and well-hidden deeds performed inside many an asylum walls that the world knows nothing of. We must remember that, because God deems it proper, in His Infinite Wisdom, to darken the minds or afflict the bodies of some poor creatures, they do not become any less our fellow-beings and the deserving objects of our commiseration and charity. Cruelty toward them is at once inhuman and cowardly:

A ninety-year old woman (Mrs. Martha Emily Adair) died the other day in the Insane Asylum at Flatbush and when the body was taken to the home of a married daughter in Brooklyn, it was found to be covered with bruises. The coroner was summoned and the autopsy made by the direction disclosed that there were dark discolorations over the whole left breast and chest and part of the lower jaw, one on the upper part of the left arm; marked discoloration of the nose and both eyes, and also of the left cheek. There were several scratches on the right hand, and a deep wound on the middle finger, which had begun to suppurate. There were two abrasions on the right knee, two below the left knee, one on the left leg, two on the toes of the right foot, several on the left foot, also one on the fourth finger of the right hand and one on the forehead. There was fracture also of the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, and eleventh ribs on the right side. The cause of death, they said, was fracture of the ribs and shock. The nurses at the asylum declared that she had not been ill-treated by them, and the doctors of the institution stated that the cause of her death was senile exhaustion. The coroner's jury rendered a verdict that Mrs. Adair came to her death from injuries she received in the Flatbush Insane Asylum, and that there was culpable negligence on the part of the officials and especially in giving a wrong certificate of death. Think of the brutality that must be practised in that public institution when a defenceless old woman could have ten ribs broken by the attendants in it and the doctors would put in writing that the cause of her death was only the debility of old age!