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In and Around Toronto

CONFIRMATION AT ST. MARY'S.

On Thursday, the Feast of the Ascension, about one hundred and eighty of the boys and girls of St. Mary's Parish were confirmed. The training which the children had received was shown in their deportment and in the ready and intelligent way in which as a rule the questions put to them by the Archbishop were answered.

During the time of Confirmation the scene was very impressive; a flood of electric light streamed from the back of the altar and set forth the picture of the mitred bishop and the white, scarlet, purple and gold of the attendant priests and acolytes; it enhanced, too, the pretty picture of the row after row of devout children who approached the altar in a manner which showed they were fully cognizant of the solemnity of the occasion.

Despite the fact that the ceremony took place upon a week day the church was crowded, many standing in the aisles, and the interrogation and answers of the Bishop and the children were followed attentively by the large number present.

CONFIRMED AT ST. HELEN'S.

On Sunday the Feast of St. John Baptist de La Salle, thirty-two boys and sixteen girls of the schools of St. Helen's, received confirmation. The ceremony took place at High Mass, the celebrant being Rev. Father McGrand. His Grace the Archbishop was present in the sanctuary and was attended by Rev. Father Walsh, P.P. The candidates for confirmation presented a neat and uniform appearance and the Archbishop expressed his satisfaction as to the manner in which his questions were answered, a satisfaction which the Archbishop announced had been also shared by Rev. Father Canning, local inspector, who had previously examined the children in their catechism and had found them to be all things desirable in this respect.

The singing of the choir throughout the morning, with the exception of an Ave Maria at the offertory, by Gounod, was all plain chant. The patron of the day was not forgotten, a picture of St. John Baptist de La Salle, with lights burning before it holding a conspicuous place in the sanctuary.

THE CHILD'S POINT OF VIEW.

The fact that First Communion and Confirmation classes and ceremonies are being everywhere held during the months of May and June, causes anything in connection with either to be of importance at the moment. For instance, quite lately, varied opinions have come under notice regarding the advisability or the reverse, of giving presents to the children in connection with the events caused with prudence be arbitrary, but on one point there surely is no room for argument; if it is the custom of the locality to give presents then no child should be lacking in receiving such; the fact that he has received

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Confederation Life

ASSOCIATION—HEAD OFFICE, TORONTO. W. H. BEATTY ESQ., PRESIDENT. W. D. MATTHEWS, ESQ., FREDERICK WYLD, ESQ., VICE-PRESIDENTS. W. C. MACDONALD, ACTUARY. J. K. MACDONALD, MANAGING DIRECTOR.

none while his playmates surround him with their trophies in this regard, will make him miserable, and the misery so occasioned is of far too human a character to be altogether assuaged by the great spiritual gifts of the time. Just last week I saw in one of our papers an article which strongly condemned the practice of First Communion gifts; the writer was strongly impregnated with the idea that it was altogether wrong. I fancy that no child in the country would agree with him, and children, despite their childish years, are nearly always direct and logical reasoners on any subject within reach of their understanding. They would tell us that the presents given on such occasions will be cherished by them for a long time, perhaps forever, and even when the spiritual gifts may have been lost sight of under a covering of sin, the incidental contact of the tangible souvenir may be a message recalling to the spotless graces of the day of First Communion. Again, too, a little party or gathering to commemorate the event would surely not be out of place. In Quebec the celebration of the occasion lasts for several days and the little girls still wearing the white dress, wreath and veil, and the boys with their dark suits and their elaborate white sash, go from house to house receiving the congratulations and gifts of relatives and friends. Then, too, does it often occur to us adults through what a strain the children have just passed? When we see the orderly and uniform rows approaching the altars, do we ever think of the months of study of the catechism and the anxiety before one is assured of having "passed," and even then there is still the ordeal of standing altogether "alone in a crowd," and having to answer questions, answers which were before part of oneself, but which at the very first tone of the questioner's voice seem to suddenly form themselves into a dissolving substance of so intangible a nature that before the question is fully asked the answer has sunk far into oblivion. All children are, of course, not so constituted; many know nothing of nervousness or fear, but some even the brightest are completely lost at the sound of a strange voice in the otherwise great silence of the church. Then, too, the important day itself and the previous one are days of much physical and mental strain; there is sometimes exceeding scrupulously accompanying the necessary preparation, there is also the "helping mother" at home, consequent upon the extra making and buying; there are the numerous extra calls of the teacher to be attended to and it is sometimes near midnight on the night preceding before the child is ready to retire. Next morning he is up perhaps at five o'clock, he attends an early Mass for Holy Communion, then hurries back for confirmation at High Mass, and the strain is not over until somewhere in the vicinity of noon. No child grudges all this time and preparation, I merely summarize it to show that the children go through a good deal during those days.

Though all our city churches had some sign to mark Sunday last as the Feast of St. John Baptist de La Salle, it was at St. Mary's that the Brothers of the schools brought their strongest forces to bear, in order to honor the Saint and founder, and to bring his work prominently before the people of our city and the public generally. The Mass of St. Teresa, by La Hache, had been prepared for the event, by the boys' choir under the direction of the Brothers and Mr. Donville; this was sung at High Mass and in the evening Musical Vespers were given, and a sermon delivered by Very Rev. Vicar-General McCann. After a brief reference to the late Feast of the Ascension, the rev. speaker devoted his sermon to the life and works of St. De La Salle; he sketched the prominent features of the Saint's life, his sanctity, his founding school for the people and his great achievement of establishing an Order whose entire effort was to be given to the teaching of religion and science. The Vicar-General ended his discourse by an appeal to young and generous men to turn their attention to so edifying and noble a work. Immediately before Benediction a procession was formed, the cross-bearer was followed by sanctuary boys carrying censers and holy-water vase. A framed picture of St. De La Salle was then borne aloft followed by the main body of the procession, those taking part being the children of the First Communion and Confirmation Classes and the Holy Angel's Sodality. The lines moved gracefully towards the newly placed window in honor of the Saint of the day. The ceremony of the blessing of the window was then performed by the Vicar-General, and a hymn to the Saint and the sublime chorus "Inafidei Ve Portales," was sung by the choir. The boys added to their laurels on this occasion,

those who listened to the singing pronouncing it charming and most effective.

DEATH OF MRS. OSTER.

Many friends will be sorry to learn of the death of Mrs. Oster, wife of Mr. Peter L. Oster of Bathurst St., which occurred at 52 Cameron St., the residence of her daughter, Mrs. G. D. Creelman. Mrs. Oster had been ill for about nine months, during which time great pain had been borne with exemplary patience and fortitude. The end was somewhat sudden, the deceased lady having been out for a short time on the day previous to her death, which occurred on Ascension Thursday. Besides her husband Mrs. Oster leaves two sons, Louis and James, and two daughters, Mrs. G. D. Creelman and Mrs. Du Jude. Mrs. Oster was born and lived all her life in Toronto and is survived by her brothers, Mr. John Burns of Toronto, and Mr. Thos. Burns of Uxbridge, and two sisters, Mrs. McElroy and Miss Frances Burns of this city. The funeral took place on Saturday morning from St. Mary's church to Mount Hope Cemetery. Rev. Father Williams, who attended Mrs. Oster during her illness, saying the Mass at Requiem, and the pall-bearers being Frank Oster, Robert Oster, Charles Burns, and James Burns, nephews of the deceased. A good and affectionate wife and mother, an obliging and amiable neighbor, has gone to her reward. May she rest in peace.

CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF ST. LA SALLE IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

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20th Anniversary Branch No. 31, C.M.B.A.

From the Guelph Herald of May 10th. Branch No. 31, of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association celebrated on Monday the twentieth anniversary of its organization. The celebration took the form of an open meeting in the basement of the Church of Our Lady, which was attended by a goodly number of the members of the congregation. A feature of the evening that afforded much pleasure to the audience was the presence of their esteemed pastor who had kindly consented to occupy the chair and whose gracious performance of the duties of that office lent much brightness to the proceedings. The speeches, able and instructive, were interspersed by attractive musical numbers from an orchestra directed by Mr. Donald McLaren, with his talented daughter presiding at the piano, and Mr. Albert Kaiser sang with much fervor "The Holy City." All in all it was an enjoyable and profitable evening.

On the platform on either side of the chairman were seated: Rev. Father Rottot, S.J., J. J. Behan, Grand Secretary C.M.B.A.; Jas. E. Day, District Deputy; James Ritchie, President Branch No. 31; J. P. Downey, M.P., and Messrs. M. J. Doran, Jas. Weeks and Richard Pigott, charter members. Those present were made thoroughly at home by the felicitous address of Rev. Father Kenny, S.J. He was in his happiest mood. His words of welcome to the audience were followed by words of congratulation to the members of Branch No. 31, on the progress they had made and the blessed work they had been instrumental in doing in this parish. He appealed to the audience to lend heartier co-operation to the C.M.B.A., which among Catholic societies, in his opinion, answered all the needs of the people.

Mr. James E. Day gave an interesting address on the work of the association and the moral and material benefits derived from its membership. He pointed out the large field that was available for Branch No. 31, and said it should endeavor to occupy that field more fully than it had in the past.

The address of the evening was delivered by Mr. J. J. Behan, of Kingston, Grand Secretary of the Association. Mr. Behan is an excellent speaker. He has fine command of language and a quiet earnestness in his delivery that is certainly impressive. He knows his subject thoroughly, and lifts its consideration to a high plane. Mr. Behan referred to the great strides the Association had made since the organization of Branch No. 31. Then it embraced a mere handful; now its membership numbers nearly 20,000. In those years it had disbursed to widows and orphans of deceased members nearly three millions of dollars. Who could measure the good this association had accomplished, the distress it had relieved, the sorrow it had assuaged?

Mr. Behan went fully into the aims and objects of the association. Its establishment in every parish in the Dominion, he said, would be a blessing, not only to the Catholic people, but the community at large. No man was so poor that he could not afford to join, and, joining, he would have the greater happiness and contentment that came with the consciousness that he was going his duty by those dependent upon him. In a short address Mr. J. P. Downey referred to the organization of Branch No. 31 twenty years ago. He paid a tribute to its founder, the late Rev. Father Dumortier, S.J. whose memory would ever be cherished by those who had been privileged to move within the circle of his influence. The charter members of Branch No. 31 were: James Weeks, Thomas P. Coffee, John C. Coffee (now Rev. Father Coffee), M. J. Doran, P. J. Woods, the late Francis Gauthan, the late James Duff, the late Wm. Kennedy, Richard Pigott, the late Dr. Nunan, E. J. O'Brien, and Edward O'Connor (now judge at the Saulte). Of the foregoing only three were at the meeting: Messrs. James Weeks, M. J. Doran, and Richard Pigott.

Men who make a study of passing events believe that we have fallen on evil times. The struggle against truth, virtue, and God goes on and gains strength. Youth is losing respect for superiors; the moral sense is perverted by corrupt literature; drunkenness and immorality are at large in our thoroughfares; the sanctity of marriage is violated, and doctrines which sap the foundations of established institutions are openly preached. The words of the Royal Prophet are on the eve of being verified (Psalms xiii): "They are corrupt and are becoming abominable in their ways; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." To stem the torrent of such moral evils we appeal in vain to a fragmentary Christianity and to secular instruction, viz., reading, writing, and arithmetic. The remedy lies in the thorough religious training of youth.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for additions to Examining Warehouse, Toronto, Ont.," will be received at this office until Thursday, May 19, 1904, inclusively, for the additions to the Examining Warehouse, Toronto, Ont., according to plans and specification to be seen at the Office of H. E. Hamilton, Supt. Dominion Public Buildings, Examining Warehouse, Toronto, and at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa.

Tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed form supplied, and signed with the actual signatures of tenderers. An accepted cheque on a chartered bank, payable to the order of the Honorable the Minister of Public Works, equal to ten per cent. (10 p. c.), of the amount of the tender, must accompany each tender. This cheque will be forfeited if the party tendering declines the contract or fails to complete the work contracted for, and will be returned in case of non-acceptance of tender.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender. By order, FRED. GELINAS, Secretary, Department of Public Works, Ottawa, May 4, 1904.

Newspapers inserting this advertisement without authority from the Department will not be paid for it.

In the Surrogate Court of the County of York

IN THE MATTER of the guardianship of the estate of the infant children of Hugh Finn, late of the city of Toronto, in the County of York, gentleman, deceased.

TAKE NOTICE that upon the expiration of twenty days from the fifth day of May, 1904, an application will be made to the Surrogate Court of the County of York by the Trustee and Guarantee Company, Limited, of the city of Toronto, in the County of York, to be appointed guardians of the estate of Irene Marguerite Finn and William Leo Finn, who reside at the said city of Toronto, infant children of Hugh Finn, late of the city of Toronto, in the County of York, gentleman, who died on or about the second day of February, 1904, without appointing any guardians of the estate of the said infants and the said Trustee and Guarantee Company, Limited, being the Administrators of the estate of the said Hugh Finn, deceased.

Dated at Toronto this 2nd day of May, 1904. 4-11-19

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