

The True Witness
is published every Thursday by
The True Witness P. & P. Co.
312 Lagacheville St. West, Montreal
P. O. BOX 1138

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE
Canada (City Excepted) and New-
foundland \$1.00
City, United States and Foreign \$1.50
Terms: Payable in Advance.

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**ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST SOLI-
CITED.**

**IN vain will you build churches,
give missions, found schools—
all your works, all your efforts will
be destroyed if you are not able to
wield the defensive and offensive
weapon of a loyal and sincere Cath-
olic press.**

—Pope Pius X.

Episcopal Approbation.

If the English Speaking Catholics of
Montreal and of this Province considered
their best interests, they would make
of the TRUE WITNESS one of the most
prosperous and powerful
Catholic papers in its country.

I heartily bless those who encourage
this excellent work.

PAUL,
Archbishop of Montreal.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1909.

A CONFUSION OF TERMS.

In an article on "The Marriage
Laws of the Church" in last week's
paper, we made the statement that
the Archbishop of Montreal alone
could grant a dispensation for the
marriage of two young people who
were married at Plattsburg some
days ago. His Grace points out that
this is not quite correct. The young
gentleman is a Catholic and a resident
of New York, while the young
lady, a resident of Montreal, is a
Protestant. Neither are therefore under
the jurisdiction of the Archbishop
of Montreal. His Grace Arch-
bishop Farley, of New York, is there-
fore the only competent authority
who could grant a dispensation. This
he did. It remained, however, for
the Archbishop of Montreal to grant
permission for a priest of this diocese
to serve as a witness to the
marriage. As dispensations for mixed
marriages are not granted, for the
present at least in Montreal, His
Grace Archbishop Bruchesi did not
feel justified in granting such per-
mission to a party from another diocese
when he would have to refuse
one of his own subjects. With
this slight exception, His Grace en-
tirely approves the article published
in last week's issue, and we gladly,
at his suggestion give the above ex-
planation.

WHERE WRONG IS RIGHT.

While the proposition that wrong
is right is one that will be denied on
all sides, there is one exception that
proves the rule. Prof. —, of Toronto
in an address before the Canadian
Women's Historical Club of that city
recently made some statements with
which we all heartily agree. Said
the learned professor:

"In a period of over 300 years
there has hardly been a single scan-
dal caused by the conduct of the Roman
Catholic clergy of the province
of Quebec. I doubt if any commu-
nity, outside of Quebec, can show such
a record."

"The French-Canadian clergy show
a record of devotion to their cause
purity of spirit and pureness of pur-
pose," he went on to say. "The clergy
have devoted themselves with
amazing self-sacrifice. The Cure
works hard and takes his duties se-
riously. He is the friend of his peo-
ple and the people trust him. Their
relations are cordial. Any aloofness
is due to his sense of the solemnity
of his position."

"The habitant is profoundly and
sincerely religious."

Speaking further of the state of
mind of the farmers of this province,
Prof. Wrong continued:

"When a man is injured a habitant
will call a priest before he calls a
doctor. It was exceedingly rare for
a priest to die and leave any for-

tune. Each priest has a parish of
from 400 to 500 people. They get
their stipend from tithes on cereal
products only. A man can raise only
stock on his farm and not of neces-
sity pay a tithe. When a man
raises cereals only one twenty-sixth
of it goes to the priest."

It was saying a lot for the priests
when it was said that some have
encouraged farmers to go into rais-
ing stock.

Surely such a pronouncement from
a man who declares that he has been
studying the social forces of French
Canadian villages life for twenty
five years justifies us in stating em-
phatically that in this case "Wrong
is right." We heartily echo the wish
expressed by the lecturer that a bet-
ter understanding should be brought
about between the French speaking
and the English speaking people of
this country.

LAWLESSNESS IN IRELAND.

A gathering of landowners in Ire-
land, held in Dublin last week de-
nounced the state of lawlessness ex-
isting in Ireland. While there has
been for many centuries a reign of
lawlessness in the unfortunate coun-
try of our fathers, the offences
against the moral law have not been
committed, in the main, against
those who are accused by the group
of absentee landlords who held forth
under the shadow of the castle. The
criminal evictions that have desolat-
ed that country, and reduced her
population have been caused by these
same absentees who with their rack
rents and other methods of procedure
supported by the laws made by those
who did not know much, and cared
less, of the feelings of the people for
they legislated, have at times, in-
deed provoked reprisals that we
must regret but which were to be
expected, for, after all the Irish are
very human, and it is divine to stand
everything without striking back.

The landowners, in convention as-
sembled, have been singularly unfor-
tunate in their choice of a time for
making their calumnious declaration
anent the alleged lawlessness in Ire-
land. Only a few days ago on the
opening of the Clare assizes, Judge
Bodkin, at Clare, was presented with
a pair of white gloves to mark the
fact that there were no cases of
crime to be tried. The same thing
happened at Drogheda and at Lime-
rick. In all the districts where the
land purchase bill has been put into
even partial operation, agrarian
crime, the only kind of lawlessness
that exists to any extent in Ireland,
has disappeared.

We prefer to the declaration of the
absentee landowners the statements
of Hon. Herbert Gladstone, the Eng-
lish Home Secretary: "I wish the
calendars of crime in England were
as light as they are in Ireland," the
statement of Judge Bodkin, at the
opening of the Clare assizes: "So far
as ordinary crime is concerned, Clare
—and I believe the same remark ap-
plies to all Ireland—compares favor-
ably with any country in the world." These
declarations from men who
are not identified to any extent
with the Irish national movement,
and are surely worth the vapors of
the absentee landlords and of
Sir Edward Carson, since those who
spoke thus have access to the sta-
tistics of the courts of Ireland. Mr.
John E. Redmond, the Irish National
leader, whose sincerity and up-
rightness no man dares question,
goes further and declares: "By com-
parison with England and Scotland,
Ireland is in a state of perfect im-
munity from crime. There is practi-
cally no crime in Ireland. The jails
all over Ireland are being closed up."

Any sane person may take his
choice of the above statements and
there is not much doubt as to the
conclusion which will be reached.

SPREADING CATHOLIC DOCTRINE.

While we are far from claiming
that our paper is the only means
for upholding the Catholic spirit in
our population, we do claim to be
doing our share towards this end.
Those who encourage our work are
also doing their part. There are still
a great many, however, who should
be engaged in this good work, but
who, for one reason or another, have
not given their adhesion to the work.
We would ask our subscribers to
call the attention of such as these to
the following paragraph from the
pen of a great Irishman and a good
Catholic:

A few days since a friend told us
of a parish which fifteen years ago
had four hundred and fifty members;
now it has barely three hundred.
The clergyman in charge toiled night
and day at his post, but his people,
with few exceptions, took no Cath-
olic journals. As the young peo-
ple grew up they followed the secu-
lar spirit, and little by little fell
away from the Church. Were these
fathers and mothers without blame?
Very truly has Leo XIII. asserted:

"A good Catholic journal is a per-
petual mission in a parish." As the
years go by this will be more widely
recognized.—Charles J. O'Malley.

THE IRISH NATIONAL CONVENTION.

Last week witnessed one of the
most remarkable meetings ever seen
in Ireland in recent years. Fully two
thousand delegates representing all
shades of opinion in the dear old
land gathered together to deliberate
on the best means of securing the
happiness and prosperity of the be-
loved island which is so dear to all
her sons and daughters. The press
agencies have endeavored to throw
as much cold water as possible on
the proceedings by exaggerating dif-
ferences which arose in the con-
vention. Such differences, how-
ever, were only such as might be ex-
pected in such a large body of men
of differing views. All, however,
were agreed on the main issue, the
need of a measure to grant Home
Rule for Ireland. They were also
agreed that the problem of
land purchase must be solved as a
preliminary of the settling of the
larger question.

A difference of opinion exists, it is
true, as to the best means to bring
about the solution of this problem,
but the main fact remains that all
want it solved in the same direc-
tion, the only question be-
ing which is the best way
to bring it about. The
vast majority, however, accepted the
views of Mr. John E. Redmond, the
Irish Nationalist leader, and his
views triumphed all along the line.
The opposition was so slight that
when the question was put to the
vote, only two votes were registered
against it.

In the face of this result, all the
talk of the Irish disagreeing must
fall flat. True, the convention as
a body voted against the stand
taken on the Irish language as
a compulsory subject in the National
University. This, however, for the
time being, is only a subsidiary ques-
tion and the divergence in opinions
is not so great that it cannot be
settled by mutual concessions which
will, in all likelihood, be brought
about with slight delay. Taken as
a whole the great convention was a
striking success and demonstrates
that the Irish people stand as a
unit behind the parliamentary party
which speaks for them with a man-
date that admits of no doubt.

A FRIEND OF TOLERANCE.

Mr. F. X. Dupuis, one of the Re-
corders of the city of Montreal, has
once more demonstrated his unfitness
for the high position which he occu-
pies as a dispenser of justice in the
city court. His remarks upon the
statements of his colleague, Mr. R.
S. Weir, besides being in bad taste,
were also in opposition to the laws
of the country, as well as calculated
to weaken the moral tone of the
city.

When a warrant is issued for a
thief or any other criminal, the of-
ficer charged with that warrant im-
mediately proceeds to arrest the ac-
cused with all due diligence. Why
should any exception be made for
those guilty of the most degrading
crime in the calendar? When Mr.
Dupuis declared that the ends of jus-
tice are well served by the practice
of sending a warning to the keepers
of disorderly houses that they must
come before the court to answer the
charge, he is guilty of legal heresy.
The warrant covers not only the in-
mates of the house, but the frequen-
ters as well, and how can the fre-
quenters be brought before the court
when they are warned that the place
which they frequent is placed under
the ban and that those who frequent
it are liable to the penalties of the
law? We prefer the view of Sir
Henri T. Taschereau, Chief Justice
of the Court of King's Bench, upon
the legality of the question at issue,
while as to the moral issues involved
we feel on safer ground with such
men as His Grace Archbishop Bru-
chesi, His Lordship Bishop Racicot,
Rev. Dr. Farthing, the Anglican Bi-
shop, Rev. Arthur French, and the
members of the Anglican Synod,
both clerical and lay, than we would
in following the views of Recorder
Dupuis, Dr. Dagenais, Mr. Godfroi
Langlois, M.L.A., and the other
friends of "tolerance" in such mat-
ters.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Who will give the first thousand
towards the new palace for the
Archbishop? Don't all speak at
once.

Those who came to Montreal to
try our winter climate got the Cana-
dian winter with a vengeance.

The Canadian Extension Society
has received funds for two chapels
as a memorial to the son of the
donor, Mr. A. A. Hirst, of Philadel-
phia.

Let it be our happiness this day to
add to the happiness of those around
us, to comfort some sorrow, to re-
lieve some want, to add some
strength to our neighbors' virtue.

The sixth annual meeting of the
Catholic Educational Association
will be held in Boston the second
week of next July. The invitation
to hold the convention in Boston
was extended to the Association by
Archbishop O'Connell at the con-
vention in Cincinnati last July.

A notable feature of the University
of Virginia's elaborate celebration in
honor of the Edgar Allan Poe cen-
tenary was the bestowal of medals
on seventy-five persons who have
aided materially in furthering Poe's
reputation as a man of letters.
Among those to whom these memo-
rials were awarded was Father
John B. Tabb, of St. Charles' Col-
lege, Ellicott City, Md., widely
known as the poet-priest.

Half a million lives are wasted an-
nually through the use of opium. The
use of the drug is the ruin of the
Asiatic race and has unfortunately
extended to America. President
Roosevelt has interested himself in
the opium evil at the suggestion of
Archbishop Harty of Manila, and
delegates have been appointed by
China, Japan, Siam, Persia, Rus-
sia, Germany, France, Great Bri-
tain Holland and the United States
to attend a universal conference to
remedy the opium habit.

Those persons who are afraid that
American institutions would perish
and liberty be unknown if a Cath-
olic were elected President of this
republic, should look at Canada
which is happy and prosperous un-
der a Catholic Premier, Sir Wilfrid
Laurier, now in his third term of
office. He has not invited the Pope
to move to Quebec, nor requested the
College of Cardinals to direct him in
politics. He has in his cabinet 4
Catholics, 4 Episcopalians, 2 Metho-
dists, 2 Presbyterians, and 1 Inde-
pendent.—Catholic Columbian.

Recently in Salem, Ore., the Rev.
Father Chiappa, S.J., read a paper
before the Ministerial Association
convening in that city. The learned
Jesuit's subject was "The Authority
of the Catholic Church: Its Origin,
Nature and Extent," and a discus-
sion followed in which nearly all
the Ministers present took part. Af-
ter the discussion Father Chiappa was
permitted to answer the objections.
Throughout a most friendly spirit
prevailed, and, though dissenting,
his audience fully appreciated the
paper. It was the first appearance
of a Catholic priest before the asso-
ciation in that city.

The Catholic View of Darwinism.

The present year, 1909, is also
the centennial of Darwin's birth. He
was born Feb. 12, 1804. Father
Gerard, the eminent English Jesuit,
has an article in the February issue
of the Messenger, from which we se-
lect these paragraphs.

It was on the 1st of July, 1858,
at a meeting of the Linnean so-
ciety, that the essential principles of
the Darwinian system were publicly
exhibited, in an essay jointly con-
tributed by Mr. Darwin and Mr. A.
R. Wallace, who had arrived inde-
pendently at similar conclusions.

Phrases used by the authors to ex-
hibit their more essential principles
in summary form have become classi-
cal. Darwin spoke of "Natural
Selection" as the agent to which or-
ganic developments are to be at-
tributed. Wallace of "The Struggle
for Existence." As will be seen,
both phrases mean practically the
same, and combined by Herbert
Spencer as "Survival of the Fit-
test" they compendiously describe
the root idea which underlies the
whole Darwinian scheme.

THE OLD THEORY.

It was to be expected that many
of the older school of Naturalists
would be set against a doctrine
which contradicted beliefs that had
long held sacred, and threatened to
sweep away all landmarks in the
field they had spent their lives in
exploring. There was, in particular,
an obstinate belief in the absolute
fixity of species, the paramount im-
portance attached to which, in the
eyes of all parties, is now not easy
to comprehend. For a century no
one has questioned the authority of
Linnaeus, who denied a species as
being created in the type trans-
mitted to their descendants.

But while both in England and
on the continent, especially in
France, some leaders of scientific
opinion showed themselves hostile,
or at least unconvinced, the theory
of evolution coupled with Darwin's
name, soon gained general accept-
ance, although many of its warmest
partisans were lukewarm in the ad-
vocacy of Natural Selection as the
ruling factor in its operation—and
thus were not characteristically Dar-
winian. A signal instance was that
of Professor Huxley, who, while he

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sion by the Cedars Rapids Manu-
facturing and Power Company for an
Act extending the time granted by
its charter Chapter 65 of the Sta-
tutes of 1904, (Section 12) for the
expropriation of lands; and for
other purposes.

C. DESSAULLES,

Solicitor for Applicant.

Dated at Montreal this eighteenth
day of January, 1909.

did more than any other man to
promote the spread of Darwinism,
always exhibited a marked reserve
in regard to this, its most essential
element.

PRESENT STATUS OF THE THEORY.

As to the subsequent progress of
Darwinism and its present standing
in the scientific world, it is by no
means easy to speak with assurance
on account of the almost universal
lack of precision with which the
term is employed. In the large
classes of the general public who
talk of science and call themselves
Darwinians, the great majority have
evidently never read the works of
Darwin himself, or his authorized
exponents, and have most vague and
erroneous ideas of his doctrine.
Amongst those who are really men
of science, whilst a profession of loy-
alty to Darwin's teachings is consid-
ered imperative, it is hard to dis-
cover any who are genuine Darwin-
ians. In Evolution the vast majority
implicitly believe, but round the
factors by which it has been wrought
controversies have ever raged and
show no symptom of ceasing to do
so; while as to Natural Selection,
though it is constantly invoked in
general terms as potent to solve all
problems, we usually hear different
language when crucial points are dis-
cussed.

THE CATHOLIC VIEW.

The Darwinian hypothesis cannot
possibly come into contact or con-
flict with any fundamental truth
either of religion or philosophy, for,
as already observed, it makes no pre-
tence to explain the origin of any-
thing, and leaves the problem of ori-
ginal causation exactly where it has
ever been. Secondly, from what we
have seen it will in any case be time
enough to enquire how to reconcile
other beliefs with the doctrine of
Darwinism or Evolution when we
shall have clear and certain knowl-
edge as to what it is with which
they are to be reconciled.

As to the theory of Evolution it-
self, there can be no grounds for sup-
posing that it is atheistic or mate-
rialistic, provided always that we
acknowledge, as common sense obliges
us, that it is the effect of a power
and wisdom transmuting all the
forces which we discover operating
in nature. As St. Augustine said, in
creating the seed God creates the
plant, no less than if He created it
in its mature development; and, si-
milarly, the same doctor held, God
created the world by a single act or
word, and all the animals and plants
which it contains, not separately as
they now exist, but potentialiter at
que causaliter, in the force destined

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to produce them, and the capacity of
their production in the elements from
which they were to be produced.