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The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

Vol. LII, No. 32 MONTREAL, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1903. PRICE FIVE CENTS

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE
IS PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE TRUE WITNESS P. & P. CO., Limited,
2568 NOTRE DAME STREET, MONTREAL, CANADA. P. O. BOX 1188.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE—City of Montreal (delivered), \$1.50; other parts of Canada, \$1.00; United States, \$1.00; Newfoundland, \$1.00; Great Britain, Ireland and France, \$1.50; Belgium, Italy, Germany and Australia, \$2.00. Terms, payable in advance.
All communications should be addressed to the Managing Director, "True Witness" P. & P. Co., Limited, P. O. Box 1188.

EPISCOPAL APPROBATION.

"If the English-speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province consulted their best interests, they would soon make of the 'True Witness' one of the most prosperous and powerful Catholic papers in this country. I heartily bless those who encourage this noble work."
—PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

A BUSINESS POLICY.—In this issue we publish almost in its entirety the masterly address recently delivered by Mr. John E. Redmond, M.P., in Edinburgh. It is a splendid review of the actual situation in Ireland, and we need add no comment to what the leader of the Nationalist party has so clearly expressed. However, we desire to draw the attention of our readers to one special characteristic of the speech. It will be remarked that it is a regular business address. There are no flights of rhetoric, nor efforts of the imagination, no appeals to mere sentiment or to the passions; it is a calm, dignified and logical exposition of a very difficult and critical situation.

It cannot be denied that Max O'Rell was right when he said that "if you want to get at John Bull's heart, you must reach it through his pocket." The Britisher, if anything, is practical, and the commercial, or business instinct in him predominates every other influence. Show him clearly that a transaction is to his pecuniary, or business interest, and he will sweep aside many a prejudice rather than neglect to take advantage of the deal. This is exactly the feeling, or sentiment to which Mr. Redmond appeals. There is no cry for justice, for the effacing of past impositions, or tyrannies; the address is a clear statement of a case from a commercial, or rather business standpoint. He shows that it is to England's advantage, both politically and commercially to enact such measures as will satisfy all elements in Ireland. The amounts required from the British Treasury are proven to be a safe, a profitable, a judicious investment. He indicates how the returns will not only be in the form of pecuniary interest, but also of political freedom of action. Then he is careful to safeguard the interests of the landlords, who, without positive security, would be reduced to destitution by the enforcement of the sales that are proposed. There is a spirit of fairness, unselfishness, of honesty, of purpose evident throughout the address that cannot fail to appeal to the higher and better feelings of those whom he seeks to convince.

Decidedly, if Ireland's situation be not ameliorated, within the very near future, under conditions such as exist to-day in the political arena, it is vain to hope, within the lifetime of any of us for a favorable change in that unfortunate land. But we feel a great, an abiding confidence in the situation. It seems to us that nothing, practically, has been left undone to ensure success in the land question. And as soon as that paramount matter is fairly and satisfactorily settled, there can no longer exist any reasonable objection to Home Rule. And we may add that we have even greater faith in the permanency of any measure of the kind since it must be established on a business basis.

FAITHFUL TO THE OLD LAND.—We read, from time to time, advice to the effect that Irishmen in Canada should seek to adapt themselves more to the new land to forget all they have imported from the old land. We are told that if we look at the United States we will find the second generation of Irishmen, in that land, growing up Americans in every sense, and not hampering their future in the new world with useless dreams of the old country and all its native associations. Possibly the advice is not worded quite as plainly as this:

but it amounts to the same thing. Now we are of the opinion that young Irishmen in Canada should consider this as the home of their future and that they should devote all their energies to gaining success, in every walk of life, in this Dominion. But that need not efface the recollections of the motherland. There are ties and associations that are so sacred that only the basest ingratitude could possibly seek to efface them. It is not true that Irish Americans are oblivious of the scenery, the relics, the traditions, the memories of Erin. In fact, we are inclined to believe that there is more enthusiasm in the Irish patriotism in America than is to be found in that at home. Besides the Irish in America not only conserve the souvenirs of the old land, but they even keep up the attachments to different sections, or provinces and counties of Ireland. As an evidence of what we here advance we will quote the first paragraph from each of three reports that appeared in a recent issue of the "American Herald," of New York, just note the significance of these announcements.

"On Saturday evening, Jan. 17, at the West Side Lyceum, took place one of the handsomest affairs of the season—the annual ball of the Armagh Men's P. and B. Association. The hall was very prettily decorated with flags and bunting, the flag of dear old Erin, of course, predominating. Above the stage, in a brilliant glitter of lights, appeared the name of the association."

"The twenty-third grand annual ball of the Kerry Men's P. and B. Association will be held on Saturday evening, January 31, at Sulzer's Harlem River Casino, 127th street and 2nd avenue, Manhattan. This event has always been one of the principal social achievements of the season, and this year indications point that the affair will surpass all previous efforts in this direction. The sale of tickets to date has been phenomenal, which is an evidence of the popularity of the Kerry Men's organization."

"The annual ball of the Sligo Men's Association was held in Tammany Hall on Saturday, Jan. 10, and turned out to be an immense success. Although such is always the happy result of all their affairs, it seemed as if on this occasion they had gone one better. It must have been a source of great satisfaction to the arrangement committee, which worked so energetically for its success, under the chairmanship of Mr. Thos. Kelly, to see that they were so well rewarded for their efforts."

Here are three of the thirty-two counties of Ireland represented by men born within them, or else descendants of immigrants from these counties. In all probability the greater number of the other twenty-nine counties are represented by individual associations of this kind. The significant fact, that these entertainments bring before us, is that even the Irishman in America is attached to his own special county as well as to the Old Land; in truth, we believe that his heart clings to the most sacred spot of earth for him, which is the barony, or the village, or the hill-side, or the rath, or the glen that his infant feet kissed, or where the ashes of his fathers rest. When such a spirit animates the Irishman in the United States let no person come to us with the story that neglect or forgetfulness of the old land is an evidence of devotion to the new one.

OLD COUNTRY PROGRESS.—In

one of our exchanges we met with the following comment—

"In Glasgow (Scotland) the municipal ownership and working of the trolley car system realized last year for the city treasury the sum of \$500,000. American cities allow far larger profits to go into the pockets of private individuals. Which in these matters is the more progressive—the old country or the new?"

In view of the strike that has taken the breath out of Montreal during the past few days, we might find this question of municipal ownership of city trolley systems very interesting. But possibly the same results might be met with no matter who were the owners of the system. Decidedly Glasgow has given strong evidence, of a practical kind, in favor of municipal ownership. But the success of Glasgow does not constitute, of itself, a proof of old country progress. No more "does one swallow make a summer." Glasgow is an exception; it is a very exceptional city. Possibly no city, on either side of the Atlantic, has ever been more successfully governed and had its affairs more satisfactorily administered, than has Glasgow. And it is just quite possible that the Glasgow aldermen, were they elected to represent the wards of any other city, would carry out a like policy and transfer to that other city the reputation that they have made for Glasgow. We, therefore, conclude that the question is not so much one of policy as one of individual worth; let us begin by securing the very best municipal representation, and all the rest will follow.

A GREAT ANNIVERSARY.—On the 20th of February, this year, the universal Church will celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the election of His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII, to the Papal throne. The third of March will be the twenty-fifth anniversary of his coronation. Sixty years ago next Tuesday, the 17th February, the present Pontiff was consecrated titular Archbishop of Damietta; fifty years ago next December, he was proclaimed Cardinal. On the 2nd March, he will be ninety-three years of age, and he will have been sixty-five years a priest. When the leading events in a human life are to be counted by fifty, and sixty, and eighty, and ninety odd years, it becomes a matter of astonishment for the ordinary observer, and we cannot fail to perceive something, not only Providential, but even beyond and above the natural, in such a wonderful preservation. And at the age of ninety-three we find this extraordinary man writing a poem, that is most highly appreciated by the best literary critics of Italy, upon the "Means of Preserving Life." There is, after all, too much in the life of Leo XIII, of greatness, of exceptional qualities, of striking talents, of exalted virtues, of mental and of physical vitality, for any person to adequately grasp the full meaning of such a career. When the proper time comes we trust to be able to give our readers a fair appreciation of the life and reign of the most illustrious Pontiff that has occupied the papal throne since the days of St. Peter.

LATE EDWARD M. ROWAN.
The firm of Rowan Bros. & Co. has again sustained a heavy loss in the death of Edward, which occurred on the 28th of January, after a lingering illness of several months. Mr. Rowan was a sincere Catholic, devoted husband and earnest worker, promising much for the prosperity of the young firm.
During his illness he was attended by the Rev. Father McGinnis, of St. Michael's Church.
The deceased was only 29 years, and leaves a wife and two small children to mourn his untimely death. To Mrs. Rowan his afflicted parents and family we extend our deepest sympathy.
The funeral took place on Friday, the 30th Jan., from his residence 447 Clarke street, to St. Michael's Church, where a solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Kiernan, assisted by Rev. Father Pauze, Chartier and McGinnis.
The musical portion was under the direction of Professor Fowler, of St. Patrick's choir, and a number of the choir, of whom the deceased was a member.

Dangers of Child Labor.

Of recent publication are a great many pronouncements on the subject of child labor and its prevalence in almost every country at present. Some short time ago an association called the Consumers' League, had a meeting, at which a Dr. Louise Fiske Bryson delivered an address upon this question. In her introductory remarks this professional lady said:—
"To thousands of children at work in the sweatshops, mills, tenements, factories, and other crowded and prison-like localities, our country is free in one sense only: Free to die in. Yet no one means to be unkind. The parents who allow their children to work for pay do not mean any harm; they think they need the money. The employer has no evil intent. The consumer is merely thoughtless, the voter indifferent. Yet between us all we manage to inflict a monstrous wrong on a host of pathetic and bewildered little creatures."
The lecturer shows clearly that child labor instead tends the thwart every development of the young being, and in the majority of cases to leave it forever hopeless and forlorn in the ranks of unskilled labor. It was Richter who said: "God will forgive you for sending your children in bread when it is so dear. But what will he say to you for depriving them of His free air?" It seems from the most reliable statistics, that this system of child labor invites a disease far more deadly in its effects than wars or famines; it is the dread tuberculosis. Dr. Bryson says that if the American people wish to help in stamping out tuberculosis they must abolish child labor in the tenements, in the stores, shops, factories, mills and laundries, and in the street at night. Here is a picture pointed from life in New York, and it is based upon facts:—
"Boys delivering milk during the dark hours of early morning, from four till nine o'clock; little children washing dishes in cheap restaurants and hotels after dark or before the sun is up; lads of six and eight trudging up long flights of tenement house stairs to deliver papers, or selling them in the streets after dark; small girls assisting janitors to clean out halls and cellars where the sun never shines; messenger boys, telegraph boys, little parcel deliverers, rushing to and fro from one all-night place to another, are each in turn doing all they can to invite tuberculosis, which is a disease that literally walks in darkness. The germs that cause it die in a few hours when exposed to the direct rays of the sun. They will live for years in a dark closet. Tuberculosis is distinctly preventable and unnecessary; and in the majority of instances perfectly curable, according to modern methods of treatment. In view of these facts, conditions of darkness, damp, and overcrowding that favor its spread and development, constitute a barbaric menace to public health."

Referring to the classes of work, or of trades that may be styled "dangerous" we are given a list of seven. It is only when these things are brought directly under our notice that we are forcibly impressed with their importance and that we recognize their exactness.
"The character of the substances used renders these employments technically dangerous, as lead in glass polishing, arsenic in wall paper, mercury in rubber work, the use of certain poisonous dyes for textile fabrics, and the mere handling of animal products, such as wool, hides, and furs, in which lurk the germs of deadly disease."
In European countries there are some sixty classes of trades that are affected by legislation and that are considered dangerous. In America there is no law regarding any such employments. It has been shown by medical experts that lead poisoning or plumbism causes loosening and dropping out of the teeth, frightful colic, blindness, paralysis, and sometimes death in convulsions. Phosphorus ulcerates the gums, causes decay of bone, terrible disfigurements and often death, blindness, and para-

lysis of the wrist. Mercury gives rise to anaemia or bloodlessness, to spongy gums, loosened teeth, and paresis of the limbs. Nitric acid, used for cleansing, may cause instant death. The germs of lockjaw reside in hides, wool, and fur.
There is no need to go on with details and quotations. It seems to us that it should be sufficient to draw attention to the subject and that all who are interested should be able to draw their own conclusions and to act accordingly. In this country child labor has not as yet assumed any formidable proportions, but with an increase of population in our large cities and a development of industries, it will very naturally come to the front as an important issue. It is now high time to prevent the introduction of the small end of the wedge, and to exert ourselves to save from drudgery and misery the helpless young ones that are growing up about us. And one of the most effective means of attaining that end is to persist in keeping them at school. This brings us to a subject that will constitute the theme of future articles.

The C. M. B. A. Euchre.

The progressive euchre party and social, to be held under the auspices of Branch No. 232, Grand Council of Canada, will take place in the Windor Hall, on Friday evening next, February 20th, at 8 p.m. sharp. It promises to be the most successful ever held in this city.
The committee in charge of the arrangements have completed their labors. All the tickets have been disposed of, and the committee, owing to the great demand for them, have been compelled to announce through these columns that under no circumstance whatsoever will any tickets be sold at the door. The full complement of 200 tickets (which are double) calls for 400 persons, and as the committee have decided to only have 100 card tables in operation, it will be readily understood that it will be futile for those who have been unfortunate enough to delay in procuring tickets for this "great event" to think that they can secure them at the hall on the evening of the entertainment. Another matter that the committee desire to make known is that the tickets issued will admit a lady and gentleman, or two ladies, and that no extra ladies' tickets are issued, or will be accepted at the door. The committee request their many friends to come early, and avoid the crush, as they desire to commence the euchre sharp on the advertised time, otherwise late comers will lessen their chances to participate in the prize winnings. Twelve very handsome and costly prizes are to be given. Six for the ladies, and a similar number for the gentlemen.
An efficient orchestra has been engaged for the occasion.
Invitations have been extended to the Grand President of the C. M. B. A. of Canada, Hon. M. F. Hackett; Grand Solicitor, Hon. F. R. Lathford; and to Grand President Bro. P. F. McCaffrey, of the Quebec Council of the C. M. B. A., and acceptances from these gentlemen have been received by the committee.
The refreshments will be under the personal supervision of Bro. Walter J. Shea, who will be aided by a corps of competent assistants.
The Committee of Management intend doing everything possible in their power to make the forthcoming entertainment the social event of the season.

In Aid of Building Fund Of St. Mary's Church.

On Tuesday next a dramatic entertainment will be held in St. Bridget's hall, corner of St. Rose and Maisonneuve street, in aid of the fund for the re-building of St. Mary's Church. St. Ann's Young Men's Society, dramatic section, and a number of other talented performers will take part in the programme.
The object for which the proceeds of the entertainment is intended, is one which should receive the support of Irish Catholics generally, and we hope that St. Bridget's hall will be crowded on the occasion.

Attendance at Vespers

One of the New Year's resolutions we would suggest to Catholics is a more faithful attendance at vespers. There are many Catholics who never think of missing Mass on Sundays or holydays, but who are extremely indifferent about assisting at vespers. This is not as it should be. Of course the obligation is not so binding in the one case as in the other, but this is a poor excuse to give for neglecting this beautiful service of the Church. If we did nothing save what we were obliged to under pain of mortal sin, it is very poor Catholics we would be at all. Vesper service is almost as old as the Mass, and is second only to it in beauty and significance. It was the custom of the earliest Christians to assemble in the evening, when the work of the day was done, and sing the songs of Israel. Thus they glorified God with their hymns of praise, and brought peace and joy to the hearts of men. So should we, and such is the intention of the Church in the service she has appointed for our afternoon or evening devotion. To reward those who attend she has added the Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament wherein Our Lord Himself closes the day with a blessing upon us.
It is well to remember that by assisting at Mass on Sunday we have not fulfilled the whole law that bids us keep the day holy. The whole day should be sanctified. We are obliged to rest from servile work, but we are not expected to spend the time in utter idleness or in frivolous amusement. We should use the day when free from the cares of business to try to know God better and to serve Him more faithfully. The service of vespers is beautifully suited for this purpose. How much better it is to go to the church for an hour in the evening than to spend the time in idle gossip, in games, or in the endless perusal of Sunday newspapers! Of course all cannot attend but those who can should make it a duty to do so. A week begun with the Sunday Mass and attendance at Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is well begun, and those who assist devoutly will bring the blessing of God with them the whole week long.—The Golden Magazine.

Health Talks by Catholic Doctors.

The second series of "Health Talks" was inaugurated on Monday evening in St. Anthony's Hall, St. Antoine street, by Dr. Edward Semple.

About 400 women were present.

The lecturer treated his subject in an able manner and dwelt at length on the treatment of disease. Fresh air, rest and overfeeding, he claimed were the chief things to combat disease in its infancy.
The next lecture will be given Monday, the 16th inst., by Dr. Hugh Lennon.

"What to do While Waiting for the Doctor," will be his subject.

There are souls in the world who have the gift of finding joy everywhere and of leaving it behind them when they go. Joy gushes under their fingers like jets of light. Their influence is an inevitable gleaming of the heart. It seems as if a shadow of God's own gift had passed upon them. They give light without meaning to shine.—F. W. Faber