

The True Witness

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WEDNESDAY.....MAY 5, 1897.

THE MONTH OF MAY.

"The exercises of the month of May, when they are truly religious and in consonance with the spirit of the Church, are a wondrous help to the faithful soul in detaching it from the miseries of this world and enabling it to rise on the wings of love far above the earth, even to those lofty regions where the august Queen of Heaven is revealed in all her beauty." These words, which we translate from a timely article in *La Semaine Religieuse*, are accompanied with warnings on which it is well to ponder at this blessed season. The devotion with which this month is so beautifully and so fitly associated, must, to be really acceptable and profitable, be something more than that easy religion which is as a pleasant promenade along a path all flowery and in which there is no thorn. Not indeed that the Church disapproves that worship in which eye and ear find the purest and highest pleasure and by which the soul is lifted up to the contemplation of things invisible and spiritual. All that draws the soul nearer to God, when it has the Church's sanction, good and salutary. But it must be constantly borne in mind that the Christian soul that is really devoted to the Most Blessed Virgin must be able to penetrate the hidden sense of those ceremonies of the Month of May which attract such a multitude of worshippers. The altar with its lights and flowers and those anthems that fill the sanctuary with joyous sounds of praise have a profound significance. That altar, now transformed into a throne of verdure, surrounded by the statue of Mary, is that same altar on which every morning Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is offered up for us. That altar teaches you self-renunciation, self-forgetfulness, the grandeur of sacrifice, the love of God and of souls.

Those lights image forth that ardent and shining faith which is not only a reflection of life eternal, but a central fire of generous thoughts and worthy actions. The soul, illuminated by the splendor of truth, shines among its sisters, enlightens, guides, inflames them and directs them to Jesus, the light of the world. Those flowers with which pious hands have adorned the altars of Mary have also their glorious language. They invite us to the practice of the virtues of which they are but the symbols—humility, innocence, purity. But in the fruits that they pressage we must look for Nature's true purpose. So piety must be not merely lovely; it must be fruitful, active, practical.

Those hymns, again, of the Month of May, so touching and so true, may become on the lips of Mary's faithful servants the best of all prayers. To the Divine Mother they may seem an echo of the souls of Heaven. They are, indeed, songs of exile, and still not songs of mourning, like those of the children of Israel by the waters of Babylon. Each couplet is a cry from the heart.

Thus, rightly understood, this homage to the Mother of Heaven, in this the Month of Mary, may be made a precious lesson in the Christian life.

OUR OPTIMISM.

Our Toronto contemporary, the *Catholic Register*, commenting on our remarks regarding the establishment of a Catholic daily newspaper, considers us "somewhat optimistic." If we had not been "somewhat optimistic," our paper, now pressing onward to the jubilee goal, would long since have ceased to contend with adverse circumstances and have added another to the list of Canada's journalistic failures. So far from taking the Register's reflection on us as a reproach, we are glad that it thought us worthy of being ranked among the op-

timists. Where would the Register itself be if it were not endowed with a goodly share of the same characteristic? We live in an age when pessimism and decadence are the real or pretended watchwords of a good many who pose as leaders or guides of mankind. They are always ready to sneer at any expression of aspiration after higher things and to frown down any enterprise that does not tally with their own wretched fads. They represent the spirit of negation, of discouragement, of retrogression; and interpose obstacles to every movement that would benefit humanity more than themselves. It is, we humbly believe, the duty of our Catholic contemporary and ourselves to protect our people, whenever we can, from the essential selfishness of such obstructionists.

It is quite possible that our efforts may not succeed in winning a complete triumph, but all sincere and well directed effort has its result and is fruitful for good. It may be that he who starts the movement may never see its fulfilment, but those that come after him will profit by his labors. Again and again in the long striving of our race (not to speak of humanity at large) to better its condition, how often has it happened for the wearied leader, reformer or champion to close his eyes after having just obtained one eager glimpse of the land of promise, leaving it for others to carry on his work and to enter into the land of his desires! And, if we may compare little things with great things, how many an enterprise, destined ultimately to have signal success, has languished miserably in its early stages notwithstanding the heroic exertions of those who conceived the plan and brought it into existence. *Qui autem plantat et qui rigat unum sunt.* The cause is the same, the work is the same and the credit is the same. The optimism that the Register indirectly condemns is the spirit that has assured the triumph of Christianity and civilization and we need more of it, not less, at the present time. The Register is very modest in its appraisal of the merits of the Catholic as compared with the secular newspaper. We are disposed ourselves to form a modest estimate of our accomplishments. But we would not venture to humiliate ourselves on behalf of our Catholic contemporaries also, lest they should tell us to speak for ourselves and let them do the same. We have certainly seen Catholic weeklies that had no reason to fear comparison with the best product of secular journalism, and we see no reason why the Catholic daily should be inferior, if only the means were forthcoming. On this point we continue to be "somewhat optimistic."

MR. REDMOND'S NEW MOVE.

The words attributed to Mr. John Redmond in his speech at the recent Parnell Convention in Dublin have aroused considerable surprise and no slight indignation among Irish Catholics on this continent. One of the planks that he is said to have suggested for his new platform is "civil and religious liberty and no further interference of the priest in politics." The Irish World, in commenting on the cable despatch which assigned to Mr. Redmond the responsibility for this new doctrine, calls attention to its glaring inconsistency. In the same sentence, the World points out, Mr. Redmond asks for two principles that are wholly incompatible. What kind of liberty, civil and religious, is that which deprives of their rights as citizens one of the most important, intelligent, public-spirited and patriotic portions of the Irish people? It demands the grounds on which Mr. Redmond bases his plea for this restriction on the liberty of priests. He has not proposed to place a veto on the exercise of their political rights by Protestant ministers. The Bishops of the Established Church of England still sit in the House of Lords and those of Ireland used to have the same privilege.

Mr. Redmond does not object to the subscriptions of Catholic bishops and priests to the Parnell family fund which was initiated by the generous gift of \$100 by Archbishop Walsh—an example followed by Archbishop Croke and other bishops and priests according to their means and good will. Indeed, it is probable that three fourths of the money so far sent in has had the slender treasury of the episcopate and priesthood for its source.

Is it because they have not been friends to religious and civil liberty that Mr. Redmond thus condemns the interference of the Clergy? All the evidence is against such an assertion. Again and again Protestants have been elected by Catholic constituencies and with the willing concurrence and help of the Catholic clergy. It ill becomes Mr. Redmond to use such language. The history of Ireland, not only during recent controversies and struggles, but during the last three hundred years, is in clear antagonism to such a conclusion, and that any professed friend of the Home Rule cause should commit himself to such a theory is an insult not only to the bishops and priests, but to the whole Catholic population of Ireland.

THE RIGHT SPIRIT.

Among the many letters that we have received in acknowledgement of the excellence of our Souvenir Number, we prize especially some of those that have reached us from our country subscribers. We only wish we had room for the whole of them. There was one, however, that pleased us greatly, because it showed so high a loyalty to principle and at the same time revealed a patriotic generosity that does credit to the writer's Irish heart. "I have," he says, "had an opportunity of reading the TRUE WITNESS for the last eighteen years, and during that time I have many times said: Thank God we have Irishmen and sons of Irishmen in Montreal able and willing to defend our holy Mother the Church and the Irish cause! I wish to thank you particularly for your St. Patrick's Day Souvenir. It cost me but 25 cents; I would not take \$5 for it, if I could not get another."

It is in letters like this that we find our reward for years of thought and toil, and our best encouragement to continue in the path of loyal devotion to "Mother Church and the Irish cause."

May our correspondent (with all who think alike and are alike disposed) have many prosperous years, and may we receive many another kindly and comforting message from him.

MONTREAL IRISHMEN ABROAD.

We want the readers of the TRUE WITNESS to be interested in the Rocky Mountain News of Denver, Colorado. It is not so old a paper as the TRUE WITNESS, if we have regard to merely the number of years during which it has been shedding light on the Rocky Mountain region and its people. But if its age be compared with ours from the standpoint of the comparative antiquity of Colorado and Canada as a home for white people, the News must take the prize. It began to live when the first settlements from the East began their laborious existence. "One of the first desolate shanties (here depicted) that adorned the banks of Cherry Creek was," says our Western contemporary's historiographer, "the home of the News, and the first event that prophesied the arrival of civilization upon the frontier was the first issue of the News, twenty minutes ahead of its earliest competitor." These last words bear witness to the all-aliveness of the pioneers of Colorado in the Year of Grace 1859, and the anniversary number of the R. M. News, with its 16 pages of local annals, topographical descriptions, industrial and commercial history and wealth of illustrations, furnishes evidence of the success of that journal. Amongst the illustrations is one of the new home of the R. M. News at the corner of Seventeenth and Lawrence streets. The portrait gallery contains likenesses of the editorial, business, composing, mailing, mechanical, circulation and travelling departments; portraits of the founders and proprietors, at different times, and views of the interior of the building showing the various rooms and offices. The 23rd of April was the 38th anniversary of the foundation of the News. The founder, Mr. W. N. Byers, narrates the early history of the enterprise, and the account of the progress achieved and the improvements effected is suggestive reading for all newspaper men. The daily March circulation, we are told, was 23,918.

Among those who have contributed to the later success of the Rocky Mountain News of Denver, Colorado, is Mr. T. E. McKenna, formerly of Montreal, who holds the important position of Managing Editor. Mr. McKenna, who was for many years a prominent figure in athletic circles in connection with the Shamrock Lacrosse Club, is a young man of intelligence, cultivation and firmness. He is a son of Mrs. Thomas McKenna, so well and favorably known as the Treasurer of the Charitable and Benevolent organizations of St. Patrick's Church. Mr. W. J. McKenna, cashier of the Custom House, is his brother. Mr. J. C. Martin, City Editor of the News, is also a Montrealeur, and was for some time connected with the Post. He is a man of gifts that fit him for the responsible position that he occupies. Their old friends in Montreal will be glad to learn that Messrs. McKenna and Martin are doing credit to their birthplace and training.

L'ABBÉ DANIEL'S JUBILEE.

The fête that took place last Wednesday at the Montcalm School in honor of the Sacredotal Jubilee of the Rev. Abbé Daniel, P.S.S., was a tribute to a priest of rare merit, whose half century's service to God has been of especial value to men. Three generations of Montrealeurs—the earliest of which is approaching old age, the second has reached middle age, while the third is at various stages of adolescence—have received from this excellent priest their preparation for First Communion. The greater part of Abbé Daniel's life has indeed been devoted to the ministry of children, and it is said that those who have owed to him their spiritual training form a total of from 11,000 to 12,000 young girls. Need-

less, therefore, to explain why so many mothers of families and their children and grandchildren hold him in reverence. It is just fifty years since the good Abbé arrived in Canada, whose population he has seen renew and double itself. His fifty years of priesthood, thanks to an excellent constitution—thanks above all to a heart that has remained young and buoyant through service to others—seem to be a light burden to the venerable septuagenarian. He has witnessed many changes in the personnel of the Seminary, and early colleagues became yearly fewer and fewer.

The scene at Montcalm School was in keeping with such an occasion, and the programme, dramatic, musical and social, was all that could be desired. Among those who took part in the literary and musical tournament were Misses M. Brophy, A. Lagarde, P. Labelle, Z. Tanguay, H. Casavant, A. Desmarais, A. Huot, R. Darveau, L. Depocas, M. Rivet, E. Renaud, L. Levesque, L. Hillman, M. Bonenfant, H. Dumoulin, M. Racette, A. Lepage, J. Lafond, B. Larose, Y. Lafontaine, E. Robert, Y. Courville. The addresses were spoken by Misses E. Demers and S. Fafard. Among those who encircled Abbé Daniel, as he sat in his chair of honor, were the Reverend Canons Bruchési and Racicot; the Rev. Abbé Carrier, curé of St. James, Palatin, Chevrier, Laurier, Guibeau, also of St. James; Sorin, Roconi, of Notre Dame; Elie Anclair, professor at Laval University; M. Dequoy of St. Jean Baptiste; the Rev. Fathers LeFebvre, Tranchemontagne, Laperrière and Lauzon, of St. Peter's; M. l'abbé Marsolais, chaplain of the Sisters of Providence; Hon. M. G. Oulmet, ex-Superintendent of Public Instruction; M. U. Archambault, Lippens, Dr. Fafard, M. Demers, etc.

We wish to add our sincere felicitations to those of the many who have greeted the Abbé Daniel on an occasion so auspicious and memorable.

SHAMROCK A. A. ASSOCIATION.

The fourth annual report of the Directors of the Shamrock Amateur Athletic Association, presented at the annual meeting of the 29th ult., is, on the whole, satisfactory and encouraging. There have, indeed, been some drawbacks, but these drawbacks are all temporary. There is nothing in the year's report calculated to dampen the ardor of those who have the interests of the Association at heart.

The success of the institution depends on the display of the spirit of unity, forbearance and mutual confidence, and the prompt repression of every temptation to indulge in those feelings of jealousy or self-importance which are too likely to spring up in a composite society once a conflict of aims is allowed to exhibit itself. Few organizations in Canada have advantages equal to those possessed by the S. A. A. A. The success that it has hitherto achieved is to the credit of the Irish community in Montreal and especially of those who gave so much of their time and energies to bring the enterprise to the goal of accomplishment.

The officers elected for the current year are full of zeal and devotion to the cause, and the prospects are bright enough to cheer the hearts of all who sincerely wish the Association prosperity.

There is one feature in the events of the past year that will make it memorable for all time to come—the visit of Lord Russell of Killowen. The members are not likely to forget the words of counsel which that great Catholic Irishman left behind him for their guidance and the whole community. "It is," said his Lordship, "only the character of a people that tells. They become great by endeavoring, with regard to the rules and duties of life, to be guided by them and fulfil the obligations which come in their way in their profession or business, trying to discharge the duties which appertain to them like honorable and honest men. But after all, the aggregate weight of a nation depends on the aggregate weight and influence and character of the individuals who make the nation."

The words that followed those just quoted increase the obligation to make them a principle of action for every member of the Association and of the whole Irish population of Montreal. For Lord Russell said: "I will cherish the recollection of this day. It is the first distinctly Irish compliment that has been paid to me since I arrived on this side of the Atlantic. I thank you all most heartily for your kindness, and I shall preserve with pride the address you have given me, and will hand it down to my family as an heirloom of the generous sentiment manifested towards me by the young Irish-Canadians who have received us so kindly this afternoon."

Let his timely and welcome words be an heirloom—not for ornament only but for use—to the Association and to all the Irishmen of this city. There will then be no question of our attainment of the success best worth having.

DURING his stay at Ottawa, His Excellency Mr. Murray del Val said Mass every morning at 7 o'clock, in the beau-

tiful chapel of the Gloucester street Convent, a branch of the Congregation of Notre Dame. This, it is almost needless to say, is a great honor to an Order that has so many claims on the gratitude of Canadians. The choral organization in connection with the services held at this institution, which is composed of the pupils, is one of a high order of merit.

MRS. JAMES SADLIER.

In connection with the Testimonial to the distinguished Irish authoress, Mrs. Sadlier, there has been some confusion of names, which we unintentionally encouraged by calling her "Mrs. James A. Sadlier." Mrs. Sadlier the authoress is, as most of our readers need hardly be informed, the widow of the late Mr. James Sadlier. We regret that through inadvertence this mistake should have been continued in our columns. Mr. James A. Sadlier was another member of the family.

It may be well at the same time to correct a mistake regarding the name of Miss Anna T. Sadlier, whose story, "A Summer at Woodville," has been attributed to "Emma T. Sadlier." Both Mrs. James Sadlier and her daughter are too well known in the world of letters for such slips of the pen to mislead many persons. Still such inaccuracies may cause perplexity in the minds of some readers and if often repeated might give rise to lasting uncertainty.

CARDINAL MORAN ON MORAL PATRIOTISM.

During a recent speech at Bathurst, where a conference in furtherance of the cause of Australian Federation was held, His Eminence Cardinal Moran said:

"I love the little shamrock of my native land. It typifies the undying fidelity of the Irish heart, and the indomitable patriotism of Ireland's sons. It is the symbol of the faith and hope and charity which, through weal and woe, have never ceased to shed their blessings on the green hills and smiling valleys of Erin. That shamrock, transplanted to Australia, retains all its vigor and freshness, but, emulating the land to which it has been transferred, expands its triple leaf in giant growth. May we not trust that in like manner the virtues and blessings which it symbolizes may be enhanced and multiplied throughout this fair land! As a motto for our United Australia, I would inscribe upon its triple leaf patriotism, prosperity and peace. With such a motto the flag of Australia, unfurled over a free people, cannot but be the herald of blessings to the whole Southern and Eastern world, and generations yet unborn in many lands will joyfully salute it as marking the centre and source whence came to them Christian enlightenment and the manifold blessings that follow in its train. Gentlemen, from my heart I pray that such patriotism, prosperity and peace may be the inalienable inheritance of our United Australia."

BOSSUET AS AN ORATOR

Was the Subject Treated by Mr. Brunetiere at the Great French Clinic, at the Laval University.

Mr. and Mrs. Brunetiere, accompanied by Rev. Abbe Colin, Superior of the Sulpicians, Rev. Father Quinlivan, pastor of St. Patrick's, Mr. Justice Jetté, Mr. Kleczkowski, consul-general of France; a large number of Laval professors, as well as several ladies and gentlemen, prominent in French society circles, visited McGill University Monday morning.

The members of the party were received at the Peter Redpath Library by Principal Peterson, Vice-Principal Johnston, Dean Bovey, Mr. Justice Archibald and Mr. W. C. McDonald. After the formal introductions, the visitors were conducted through the different university buildings, beginning with the library and ending with the medical building. In the amphitheatre of the physics building a most interesting lecture and demonstration of the X-rays was given by Prof. Callendar. Interesting experiments were given, showing the power wielded by an ordinary magnet over the cathodic ray. The strength of 50,000 volts was also shown, and a vivid illustration was given of the ease with which a 3,000 volt could pierce glass. The party then adjourned to the testing room of the faculty of applied science, where numerous experiments in hydraulic pressure were conducted for the entertainment of the visitors, who were afterwards conducted through the building by Dean Bovey and shown the various laboratories and class rooms. The mechanical building was subsequently visited, and an inspection made of the various pathological and chemical departments.

At the conclusion of the visit, Mr. Brunetiere formally thanked the college authorities for the pleasure they had given him.

In the evening an immense audience greeted Mr. Brunetiere in the large commencement hall of Laval University, to hear the lecture on "Bossuet as an Orator." Members of both the faculties of law and medicine of Laval occupied seats on the platform, while seats of honor were reserved for the authorities of sister universities and members of the clergy. Mr. Justice Jetté occupied the chair, and introduced the lecturer.

Mr. Brunetiere's effort was a magnificent one. He ranked Bossuet as the greatest of French writers and as an orator he surpasses both the ancient and modern speakers, not excepting Demosthenes and Cicero. The reason of his superiority he ascribed to theology. Bossuet, as a funeral orator, has never been equalled, not even by Bourdaloue or Massillon, who were very highly thought of and admired in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and whose orations are to this day ranked as

models in their class. Voltaire and Victor Hugo had in many instances drawn their inspirations from Bossuet, but they had never reached the high eminence achieved by the author of "Le Discours sur l'Histoire Universelle." In conclusion, Mr. Brunetiere urged his listeners to love Bossuet as the true representative of the French literature and of old France, whose traditions were so dearly kept by all patriotic French-Canadians.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN MORGAN.

THE SAD EVENT OCCURRED AT THE HOTEL DIEU THIS MORNING.

The many friends of Mr. John Morgan, leader of St. Ann's Choir, and a very active and prominent member of St. Ann's Young Men's Society, will regret to learn of his death, which occurred at the Hotel Dieu this morning, after a long and painful illness.

Mr. Morgan was one of the most popular young Irish Catholics of Montreal, and he will be sadly missed in the circles of the young men where he was, during his lifetime, one of the most earnest and most devoted of workers to further the cause of his religion and nationality.

MR. W. J. O'HARA

NOW AT ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., AND RAPIDLY RECOVERING FROM THE EFFECTS OF HIS RECENT ILLNESS.

The many friends of Mr. W. J. O'Hara, Assistant Collector of Customs at the port of Montreal, will be relieved and pleased to learn that he is progressing favorably at Atlantic City, New Jersey, where he went a few weeks ago on the advice of his physicians. Mr. O'Hara stands high in the estimation of the business community and is held in the greatest regard by his fellow Irish Catholics of Montreal, and the cheering reports coming from the sea will be heartily welcomed by the large section of citizens who have had the pleasure of meeting the Assistant Collector of Customs in his official capacity or in social life.

Mr. O'Hara's illness is the result of years of close, assiduous attention to public business, an attention which has not received the appreciation from the Government which it merited, and which probably never will. But the administrators of the country's affairs to-day have it in their power to perform an act of justice by paying Mr. W. J. O'Hara the difference between his salary as Assistant Collector and that which would have been paid a Collector during the three years in which he acted so conscientiously and well in the latter capacity.

COMBINATION AGAINST ENGLAND.

Mr. Harold Frederic cables the New York Times as follows: Again we hear loud and confident talk from Berlin about an all-powerful combination against England, which is to drive her alike out of Egypt, the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and South Africa, and in Paris people really believe that William has been arranging, or striving to arrange, some such bargain. These despatches have often pointed out that Chamberlain in his anti-Transvaal policy was relying on proofs of Kruger's underhand dealings with Germany to justify it. What these proofs are it is impossible to get at, but I continually hear they are so convincing that the English will be all of one mind when the time comes for their disclosure. England is certainly acting as if some big international complication was yoked up with the Transvaal question.

TO FIGHT GRASSHOPPERS.

PROF. BRUMER EMPLOYED BY A SYNDICATE IN ARGENTINE TO DESTROY THE INSECTS.

Prof. Lawrence Brumer of the University of Michigan left Washington last week for the Argentine Republic, where he goes to fight grasshoppers. He has been employed by a large syndicate to investigate and report upon the methods to be employed there in order to exterminate the grasshoppers. For several years these insects have been a pest to the farmers of Argentina, and the syndicate which employed Prof. Brumer is determined to rid the country of them, if possible.

Prof. Brumer will study the habits of the insects, the local conditions under which they now thrive, and will recommend the best means of ridding the country of them. It is likely that the distribution of disease among grasshoppers and the destroying of their eggs will be the principal means of getting rid of them. Prof. Brumer is one of the most noted ornithologists and entomologists in the country; and distinguished himself during the grasshopper plague which prevailed in this country, from 1875 to 1878. The grasshoppers which Prof. Brumer will try to exterminate came into Argentine nine years ago from Bolivia, and have increased yearly until they are now an actual menace.

There were 1,400 immigrants in the three steamships which arrived on Wednesday and Thursday at New York, and of these 915 were Irish and 600 of the latter were girls. Two hundred and fifty were booked for the city.

A movement has been started in New York city for the formation of a Citizens' Union, the object being the separation of local issues from State and national elections.

There are some portions of this country, says the Boston Republic, where the Catholic population does not make much of a showing. For instance, down in South Carolina there are but 8,000 Catholics to 1,375,000 non-Catholics; in Florida, 7,000 to 382,000; in North Carolina, out of a total population of 1,618,000, there are only 8,500 Catholics; and in the two Virginias, 50,000 out of 1,500,000. When you want to find a large Catholic population you have to go north of Mason and Dixon's line.