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MONTREAL, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1904.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

HOW THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION WAS CELEBRATED IN MONTREAL CHURCHES.

The golden jubilee of the promulgation of the dogma of the Immaculate throughout the Catholic world on Thursday last, marked an important epoch in the history of the Catholic churches, monasteries, convents, schools and charitable institutions, is styled "The Rome of America," the celebrations were never equalled. the celebrations was a faith, piety, such an outpouring of faith, piety, There was no sermon, this being rezeal and good will brought joy to special prayers had been offered in preparation for the great day. All the city churches had been crowded each morning and evening at those services. Wednesday afternoon and their turn patiently to approach the sacred tribunal of penance.

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At five o'clock on Thursday morning the church bells pealed forth their joyous sounds. The early ser-vices were thronged, and as the astical year and at the very close gaily decorated altars lit up by myriads of lights made the scene one of surpassing beauty, thousands and the evensong of the world; she approached the Holy Table, to honor a special manner the Mother of God, and to ask special graces and Attuning her praise to the glories of gifts from her. At the solemn high Mary in the prelude of her anthem, Masses the beauty of the decorations was seen to advantage. Special with enthusiasm to burst forth in a sermons were preached, and the first climax triumphant, its echoes linger part of the day's great work was in the choir and chancel, while its over. In the afternoon thousands strains merge with the heavenly again assembled for the Vesper service, which was rendered in some of the Churches, to listen to a beautiful discourse on our Immaculate Mother, to witness the imposing procession of the sodalities, and to daughter with the Church Triumphask God's blessing at the solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. At 7 o'clock the many peals of bells rang out again to summon the faithful to the climax of the day's celebration. wended their way to their respective churches, the scene which met their gaze was one never to be forgotten. The manifestations of their devotion to the Immaculate One was apparent on all sides. The poor and the Church of Christ has extolled her; rich vied with each other in showing the fathers have written soulful pages some exterior act of devotion in honor of the great event. Statues of chosen her as patroness; nations the Blessed Virgin surrounded with have crowned her statues; bards have electric and other lights, including sung her life-deeds; mariners have lanterns, candles and oil floats, lit called her their guiding star, and up thousands of houses, while Catholic halls, schools, convents, presbyteries and other public buildings were gems of artistic illuminations. But the scenes inside the churches were still more grand. Weeks had been spent in arranging special electric illuminations, and now the time had arrived when they would shed their brilliancy over the many decorations used specially in churches for the celebration. Such grandeur has never been seen in our churches. It was an event in a lifetime, and well worthy of a heavenly Conception was defined but fifty premium at the evening services, and Pius IX., whose name still lives unto hundreds stood or knelt throughout blessing, surrounded by the Cardithe whole service. Beautiful discourses on the power and greatness bishops and bishops of churches, auof our Immaculate Mother were degust with the long-drawn grandeur livered, followed by processions of the Sodalities around the church flocks from the far-off mission field, carrying the statue of the Blessed proclaimed her glorious privilege Virgin, preceded by banners, and inging canticles of praise to their Heavenly Mother. The day was one that was unique in its celebrations, loyal in its devotions, magnificent in its grandeur, showing forth that dogma ever new and ever old, which solid and lasting piety and zeal which proclaim the Catholic Faith. faithful children bent at the word of which the catholic Faith. of the faithful. It was, indeed, a lasting tribute from a grateful peo-

ple, and one that will live in after

years and be referred to as a day of

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH.

The religious exercises in honor of Conception, which was celebrated the great feast were splendidly carried out. The sanctuary was gracefully festooned with white, blue and yellow bunting, together with flags and banners. The shrine which had Church. In our own city, which on been erected for the occasion was account of its being the centre of particularly elegant, in its draping Catholicity, its many magnificent of white and gold, abundance of plants, tapers and fairy lamps. The High Mass was sung by the Rev. Martin Callaghan, assisted by Rev. Jas. Killoran and Rev. J. Polan, deacon and sub-deacon respectively. zeal and good will brought joy to served for the evening service. At our Immaculate Mother, and made 7/15 there was solemn Vespers. Bethe courts of Heaven rejoice again and again. Novenas, triduums, and the day was preached by the Rev. Father FitzHenry, C.S.C., St. Laurent College. We give it almost in

"Tota pulchra es et macula non est is no spot in thee."

This is truly a day the Lord hath nade. The Church celebrates the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the civil. Mary's praise is, therefore, the matin lay of the sanctuary shines as the morning star of life and the evening star of death with God. Holy Mother Church swells the song chorus of angels and saints. To-day the church acclaims her loveliest child. To-day the full-hearted believers of the Church militant unite in hymns of praise for Zion's sweetest ant, while the tearful but hopeful sufferers of the Church in bond plead for mercy. Prophets had foretold her coming; figures forestalled her; confessors have preached her and virgins As the people have imitated her. From the rising of the sum to its setting her name has been blessed through all generations, in the costly cathedrals of the greatest nations and on the barren rock-shores of the neophyte. The in her honor; religious orders have prince and peasant have placed their heart's best offering at her feet.

Rejoice, ye Christians, Sing the praise of her whom Hea-

ven's Church obeys, Sing out ye all her sweetest lays,

Tota pulchra es. In hymn and song, at work and play, Thro' darksome night, at break of day,
To her your sweetest homage pay,

Tota pulchra es.

The dogma of Mary's Immaculate Standing room was at a years ago, when the Pope and king, of centuries, and by the pastors of amid the applause of people and the exultation of nations. Thus in a century when heresy surrenders its tenets to meet the fancy and caprice of the hour, the Church announced a their mother and from their hearts in a holy eagerness to give to the they said: We believe. No duty is sweeter, no consolation more sooth- the Immaculate Conception, all the ing, no love-work so welcome, no task more soulfully fulfilled for

Ghost made His cherished spouse, whom mariologists call the spotless Lily of Israel and poets our tainted nature's solitary boast. She is the nation's comfortress. Her name has quickened Christian nations into deeds of valor. She has been the hope of the Church and of nations. *

If the dogma was but lately defined the truth did always abide, and the festal day of Mary's sinless conception has been celebrated down through the course of ages. A day of prayer and rejoicing it has been in the orient and the occident. throughout the universal Church of God from the XIIth century Christendom. It can be traced with certainty through the Church's annals even as far as into the 5th century in the East and to the 7th in the West. * * * * Oh! Mary, thy doctors have extolled thee and vie with love and childlike goodness to brighten the halo of thy renown. Thy throne is not that of the Most High, but of God. Thou art the noblest creature, crowned by Jehovah with the queenly diadem of Heaven's great realm and hailed by the court of the elect as the chosen Wednesday evening thousands waited in te. Thou art all fair and there one of God. * * After the unerring witnesship of Scripture; after the age-honored approval of tradition; after the treatises of doctors and the heartfelt protestations of the faithful, the whole was sealed by thyself at thy shrine of Lourdes, when at the instance of an innocent child, thou saidst: I am called the Immaculate Conception. * * In this, the jubilee year of Mary's dog- tude. In graceful accompaniment to ma, another Pius reigns. To-day in Rome, the eternal city of our Pon- banners of delicate blue, on each of tiff and the capital of the Church's foully-robbed king, the vast choir and aisles and sanctuary have rung with Mary's praise. May it bring blessings upon the Church of God. May our sweet mother in Heaven raise her hand in benediction the Pontiff and his people; may it be a pledge of soothing for God's Vicar in his hours of anguish; may it bring

> to our heavenly home. There was then a procession of the school children carrying a statue of the Blessed Virgin while the choir sang the Magnificat, after which fol-

joy to the portions of God's Church

now in suffering; may she cause the

erring sheep of Israel to seek the

sheepfold again; may she guide us

all in our exile and lead us gently

lowed the Benediction. The Presbytery was tastefully decorated. Chinese lanterns, flags and innumerable lights were splendidly arranged and gave a real festive air to the dear old parish. St. Patrick's school was like a fairy-land. Every window was hung with Chinese lanterns, and from the street could be seen lanterns suspended from the gasoliers, making a remarkably dainty effect. The Orphan Asylum was in gala attire also. Candles were in all the windows, over which was green paper, and the soft light coming through cast such a pretty reflection on the grounds.

+ + + A DOUBLE JUBILEE.

Grand Celebration in St. Ann's .-Fiftieth Anniversary of the Parish Foundation.

The day of days of this, our jubilee year, the day whose dawn Catholic hearts throughout Christendom have longed to greet, has come and gone, and but the memory of its glory re-Truly has it been a day mains. which the children of Holy Church the world over have rejoiced to see. Catholic Montreal, the "Ville Marie," has indeed demonstrated to the world that not in vain does it bear its name, for on Thursday last it proved itself without doubt the loyal, royal city of Mary.

For many months the several parishes of the city have been engaged jubilee celebration of the dogma of

dor befitting the occasion for and be referred to as a day of loy and triumph in our lives. Below we give a detailed account of the day's celebration in many of the parishes of the city.

Although both interior and exterior decorative schemes in most city churches were magnificent, it was beloved daughter, whom the Son called the mother, and whom the Holy the sublime ideal suggested by the

occasion carried out with greater propriety and grandeur than in old Jesus Christ. Oh, my friends, I am-St. Ann's.

The vision of the Apocalypse-"The Italy's Madonna and Spain's hallow- woman clothed with the sun, the ed Senora; England's Lady and moon beneath her feet, her crown France's wonder-worker; while for twelve stars of even," was the vigrief-stricken Ireland she stands as sion which, in all but heavenly splendor, burst upon the enraptured gaze of the thirty or more thousand spectators who from early morn till late at night visited the church.

If heretofore one had had a difficulty in forming a conception of the signification of those mystic words, never again, it would seem, after beholding that entrancing scene in St. Ann's, should the most belated imagination want for material in framing to itself a picture of what beloved disciple saw in prophetic vision. . . . Surrounded by a sun-burst of myriads of electric bulbs stood a most exquisite statue of Mary Immaculate; while at her feet glowed a crescent bearing within its silvery arms, in rich, red coloring, her glorious title, "Immaculate." In the background hung the royal mantle and crown, rich in design and feelings which adorn every Catholic exquisite in workmanship, emblematic of Mary's royal dignity. On either side of the altar, in half-moon shape was a gradual ascent to the throne above; this ascent was banked with flowers of the richest hue, intermingled with delicate electric lights-the whole making an ensemble of solemn yet bewitching beauty, and typifying in the arrangement the lifting up of hearts to her who was called by such sweet and significant titles as "Lily of the Vale," "Flower of the Field," and the final union of devout souls with her, their Queen, in beatithis arrangement, hung beautiful which was elegantly inscribed a text from the Papal Bull, declaring Virgin "Conceived without Sin."
"Lily among Thorns." "Garden en-closed." "The delight of God," were among the texts chosen.

All in all, the sanctuary of St. Angs on Thursday, and on the three successive days during which the illuminations continued, was a sight inspiring in the extreme, and worthy the master mind and spirit to whom the patish is indebted for the planning and executing of so sublime a spectacle.

Surely the Virgin Queen, in whose honor this demonstration was made, must have looked in love upon the devoted sons of St. Alphonsus-Mary's Knights-and upon the faithful gathered with them, round her beloved shrine on those three days of double jubilee. Surely those grace-laden hands, so lovingly shown at the first declaration of her glorious prerogative, to the little Bernadette, must have extended in plentiful benediction on the noble, generous people of St. Ann's who have so ably seconded the efforts of the Fathers in making this occasion so memorable a one. Some there were taking part in the ceremonies of December 8th, 1904, who participated in the jubilee celebration of fifty Church last Thursday, eve after fathers, they themselves, and their children have worshipped, so grand a demonstration of faith and devotion, were willing to sing their "Nunc Di-

The people of St. Ann's feel indebted to the preacher of the tribeautiful conferences delivered each evening. At each of the evening serdevout worshippers, who listened the earnest exhortations delivered to graces and all the titles He has bethem, and henceforth the name of with one of the happiest memories of

who has given us the victory through her honor, by spending the day as our Lord Jesus Christ, yes, a thou- one of jubilee and congratulation: sand times, a thousand times be Does not the whole city of Montreal thanksgiving to God for the words give vent to that pious helief to-of St. John in the Apocalypse, hon-night? Undoubtedly it is the Villa

Jesus Christ. Oh, my friends, I am sure that your hearts are filled with joy and exultation. We have seen sterling Catholic faith which they within the last few days how Mary, the spotless one, the sinless one, the only one born without the stain of original sin into this world, is the triumph of God the Father, Son and ings, give such expression and honor to our Blessed Mother Mary. Oh, is the cause of the triumph of the angels and saints; it is a triumph of prived of the love he should have for peace and happiness to us poor chil- his Blessed Mother Mary, for rememdren of sin here on earth. Yes, praise honor and thanksgiving and glory to dedication to the Blessed Mother. our God, who has been so good to us in having chosen Mary, the spotless, the sinless one, to be the ideal to claim in this jubilee that both of Christian perfection, to be the ideal of Christian virtue, of Christian love and of Christian purity. Thanks be to God, the eternal, everlasting One, on the victory He has gained over the enemy of man, namely, sin and the devil, by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Mother Mary.

Oh, my friends, these are some

the thoughts, these are some of the

heart to-day, for to-day is the day of days, the day of Jubilee, of exultation, of joy, of praise and thanksgiving. It is the Lord's day and therefore the words of St. Paul applies to each one of you. Rejoice my dear friends, again I say rejoice, for this is the day, our day, the day of days, the day the Lord has made Oh, Catholic men and women, today we celebrate the anniversary of that glorious day, when our Holy Father, inspired by the Holy Ghost and moved by our Blessed Mother herself, proclaimed to the world at large that the teaching of the Church, the pious belief held for ages and for which men laid down their lives, for which men were slain, that our Holy Mother was Immaculate that is, born into this world without the stain of original sin. Oh, today fifty years ago, perhaps some of you, then very small ones, now old men and women, can remember that day. We of the younger generation recall it by facts given down to us in history. But to-day, could we have been in Rome this morning, when another Pius proclaimed to the world, as did Pius IX., that the Imnaculate Conception was indeed Catholic doctrine, was indeed the faith of the one infallible Church of Jesus Christ himself, then would we have joined with the crowds of others in that grand hymn of victory and thanksgiving. We would have joined our hearts and feelings in the Magnificat, in praising the Lord, for great things has He done to us through His Mother Mary, and to-day we find these words well applied, "all generations shall call me blessed."

Oh, blessed men and women. Oh,

blessed is she for the fruit of her

mine.

Catholic men and women, I stand here to-night as a priest of God, as a Father of the Catholic Church, and urge you this last night of our Tridium, this last night of the jubilee years ago-some who have watched year, to give expression to the feel-St. Ann's grow with the growth of ings of your heart. I tell you Ca-Catholicity throughout the land; and tholic men and women that the Imthose were they who, on leaving the maculate Conception is the symbol of our belief through the merits of witnessing in the temple where their Jesus Christ. I say, do I remind you of Mary, the woman clothed in the sun, the moon beneath her feet, is our Mother, and for us has won the great victory. Oh my friends, we have every reason to rejoice and be glad on this, our Mother's Jubi lee day. Oh, how our hearts went duum, the Rev. Father Scholly, C. out to her this morning, at least SS.R., of Saratoga, N.Y., for the in many cases, when her own Son was laid in our breast, and then we offered Him, the eternal and evervices the church was thronged with lasting lamb of God, who shed His blood for our sins, in thanksgiving with marked and intense interest to to His heavenly Father for all the stowed on Mary Immaculate. His Father Scholly will be associated Mother and our Mother. Oh. how the angels and saints were delighted their lives. The sermon delivered on with the prayers we said to-day, with Thursday evening by Father Scholly the prayers and thanksgivings, with was as follows: My dear friends, Thanks be to God our Mother by visiting churches in or and praise and glory, thanksriv-ing and power he to our God, Who through Mary Immaculate has given God and His blessed Mother for the

brought from Ireland with them. I say that in America, my own

country, across the line, we could not give such expression to our feelto our Blessed Mother Mary. Oh, no, there the poor Catholic is ber, the States belong by right of Mary, to the Immaculate Conception, and therefore I have the first right Americas were consecrated to the Immaculate Conception, and therefore I say thanks be to God who has given us the victory, given the whole world, and Catholics especially, a proof that Mary was conceived without sin. All these things the Almighty gave her when he chose her to be the mother of His Son. Actions speak louder than words. It shows to the non-Catholics that the teachings of your Church are not empty fancies or mere phantoms. No they are not, they have taken root in your hearts and bring forth fruit. Oh, Catholic men and women, I will not take up your time in counting the virtues of Mary. Your presence here to-night is proof enough of the triumph and glories of the Immaculate Conception. Oh, Mary Immaculate, look down upon us poor sinners as our mother, as our model. Unlike you, our mother, we were born into this wicked world with the stain of original sin on our souls and we were purified by the waters of holy baptism. Oh Mary, my pure one, my only one, lily of the valley, lily among the thorns of the children of Adam, how shall we approach thee with our vile breath of sin? But Mary's conception, her immaculate, sinless, spotless life is our victory, and we claim it as our own by imitating her.

Oh, then, prove your spirit of the

Jubilee. Then your thoughts, words,

deeds and desires must give out the

expression that dwell forever Mary's sinless heart. Oh, Catholic men and women, ever keep Mary, the one clothed with the sun, before your eyes. When the little bark of your life is drifted from God, then raise your eyes to the woman high, and soon she shall dispel the darkness of sin. Yes, when the ill wind of temptation and sin besieges you, then raise your eyes to the woman clothed with the sun, her. light shall show you the way you will travel. Yes, she will conduct your soul through temptation's tortuous path. When the world of amusements and approximate ways of sin will draw you into dark ways, oh, then, remember your Mother Imwomb, Jesus, your Redeemer and maculate, then turn your eyes to the woman clothed with the sun and she will enlighten your minds to see the hidden rocks and shallows. matter where you be always have Mary, your Immaculate Mother, before you, always have her on your lips, and remember that it is God to-night that has given us this victory over sin through Mary and by Mary. She will give us the glorious victory and rlumph over all our temptations, no matter how severe they may be, no matter how your blood may boil with the spirit of rerenge, no matter haw base impurity may draw you down, even to the very bottom of hell, no matter how trong your temptations may Mary Immaculate will bring you peace and happiness, for she rushed the serpent's head from the very first moment of her life by her sinlessness and purity. Catholic men and women, if I could night open heaven to you, what a glorious vision would you not behold. Mary crowned with twelve stars, symbolizing every Christian virtue. Mary sitting on her throne of glory, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost before her, the angels and saints bowing before her, acknowledging her as their supreme, their so vereign, their spotless one, yes. as the mother of their Lord. And then, if you could see that place that Mary has marked out for each one of us, if we prove faithful to her. Oh, Mary, our last words of this tridium, our last words of this Jubilee, shall be to repeat what I

(Continued on Page 5.)