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The True Witness AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

Vol. LII., No. 16 MONTREAL, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1902. PRICE FIVE CENTS

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

IS PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE TRUE WITNESS P. & P. CO., Limited. 255 St. James Street, Montreal, Canada, P. O. Box 1138.

Subscription prices: 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.

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.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

To the Editor of the True Witness

257 Rutherglen Road, Glasgow, Oct. 8, 1906.

Sir,—May I take the liberty of asking you to favor me with the addresses of Andrew and William McNicoll, Montreal, Canada. They are in business, and if alive would be about 80 years old.

Thanking you in anticipation and assuring you of my willingness to do anything in return.

I am, Sir, Yours respectfully, JAMES McNICOLL.

DR. DA COSTA'S LECTURE.—The "True Witness," as its readers will remember, recently copied a touching tribute paid by that distinguished American convert, Dr. Benjamin F. Da Costa, to the Rev. Martin Callaghan, of St. Patrick's, and to the Church, of which he is the esteemed pastor.

We are glad to be able to announce that Dr. Da Costa will deliver a lecture next Wednesday evening in the Monument National, on "The Irish in Education, Past, Present, and Future." His fame as an inspiring lecturer will doubtless result in the vast hall being filled to overflowing.

The latest authentic news, by way of cable, from the Chambre of Deputies in France, shows how clearly those who have been sowing the wind of religious persecution fear the harvest of whirlwinds that they must inevitably reap.

THE SITUATION IN FRANCE.—History repeats itself there is no country in the world that can afford more striking examples of that operation than France.

With the opening of business in the Chamber of Deputies, Ernest Roche (Nationalist) introduced a bill providing for the separation of Church and State, the abolition of the budget of public worship and the suppression of the French embassy at the Vatican.

question had figured long enough in the Radical platform, and that if the struggle against the congregations was sincere, the Government ought to carry out the separation of Church and State.

"The deputy demanded that the Chamber declare urgency for the measure, but Premier Combes refused to accept the motion, saying the bill was only intended to embarrass the Government.

"Henri Brisson declared that he and his Radical friends would also oppose urgency for the same reason. The Chamber rejected the urgency motion by 285 to 79 votes, but ordered an early discussion of a counter proposition referring all bills dealing with the separation of Church and State to a special commission, which M. Lasies (Nationalist) said meant 'a funeral for the bills.'

Was it on account of any real principle that Premier Combes declined, thus, to go the whole way along the road he has traveled? Evidently not. He has found that already he has gone too far, that he has sowed the wind with too free a hand, and that the whirlwind is gathering on all sides.

What is it, then, that has checked this Government in mid-career and made it turn back in its headlong descent upon the sacred traditions and institutions of the land? We will answer that by presenting our readers with a brief summary of what has been taking place in Catholic circles, throughout France, since the date of the enforcement of the Law of Associations.

The day was a great demonstration at Nantes, and a fierce condemnation of the ministry by Coppee, with whom were associated Plou and the Marquis de La Feronnays.

THE BIBLE IN SCHOOLS.—A question that seems to have as many conflicting interpretations as there are States in the Union is that of the constitutionality of reading the Bible in public schools.

Bible reading and hymn singing are barred from the public schools of Nebraska by a decision handed down by the Supreme Court of that state at Lincoln last Thursday.

Trouillot, Minister of Commerce, asked him if he intended "to frighten men born free," and reminded him that he had failed "even in the most elementary rules of politeness in their regard."

stitution." One interesting feature of the case is that one of the briefs filed was from John H. Lindale, a friend of the court, in which he protested in the name of the Catholic Church and its membership against the reading of the King James Bible in the schools.

It is some two years ago that Freeman brought suit in Gage county to secure an injunction against the Board of Education of one of the school districts of that county, restraining it from permitting the teacher, Edith Beecher, from conducting the customary religious exercises in the schools.

What does all this mean? It simply signifies that heretofore the Catholic element in France was passive and silent, without leaders or organization, while to-day it has been stirred, by persecution, into unwonted life and activity.

Does this mean revolution? Yes; but not in the sense of the "Reign of Terror." It means rebellion against injustice, oppression, tyranny; it means a revolution of the ideas of the country as they appear to the great outside world.

There was practically no denial of any of his allegations in regard to the holding of the exercises to which he objected, but it was shown that he had caused several teachers before Miss Beecher's time to discontinue them, and had caused the School Board a great deal of trouble by his determined opposition to any such services in the schools.

After all we find that the public school system is not such a great success. It is a source of dissatisfaction and of legal difficulties. Soon the country will begin to learn the wisdom of that system which the Catholic Church has so long struggled to have accepted, or, at least, allowed in the United States.

ADULTERATED FOOD.—Dr. Laberge has told the public of Montreal "I can buy strawberry preserves in Montreal which contain neither sugar nor strawberries."

The remains were escorted to St. Ann's Church, Montreal, where High Mass was chanted by the Rev. Dr. McGarry, C.S.C., President of St. Laurent College.

Mr. Scullion was an occasional contributor to the columns of the "True Witness."—R.I.P.

A Student of St. Laurent College Dead.

It is our melancholy duty to chronicle the death of Mr. Patrick Scullion, which occurred Saturday morning, Oct. 18, at the College of St. Laurent.

Mr. Scullion, who was born at Bellaghy, Co. Derry, Ireland, was preparing for the priesthood at the above named institution, and was well advanced in his studies.

The funeral took place from the home of Mr. Manus Scullion, McCord street, a brother of the deceased. The large number of mourners and the numerous floral tributes testified the esteem in which the young man was held.