

N. O. 8, meets on Wednesday of 1868 Notre Dame Hill. Officers: Alary, M.P., President; Vice-President; Sec.-Secretary; Brophy, Hughes, Financial; Young, Standing Com.; Donnell, Marshal.

# The True Witness AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE



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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 excellent work." - PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

### A GREAT PAPER.

One of our business representatives entered the establishment of a large tea merchant on St. Lawrence street, one day last week, and the proprietor who is a Protestant, referring to the "True Witness," said: "You have a great paper; it is a credit to the Irish Catholic people of this city, in fact of Canada." We rarely make any reference to our own paper, we feel that the paper should be its own passport to deserved support. Last week, in justice to our correspondent "Crux," we published some remarks of approval from the pen of a subscriber—a person of keen judgment and great ability. But these are exceptions to our rule. It would be more than wonderful, however, if we could neglect to record such an expression of appreciation as the one above-written. It is principally remarkable as coming from a Protestant and an Englishman. Unfortunately, while we never complain about it, we have rare occasion to feel gratified with the spontaneous encouragement of our own people. As long as some people feel confident that, should the need come, they have a paper ready and competent to assert their rights and defend their claims, they quietly leave to whomsoever may choose to interest themselves or to take the trouble, or bear the labor and expense, to carry on that organ. In fact, if some of them speak at all, it is to disparage and injure rather than encourage, or even to do simple justice to their best and most reliable friend and advocate. But this is Christmas time, and we feel inclined to be contented with everything and with every person; so we are grateful to all who give expression to their appreciation of our humble efforts, and as far as concerns those who know nothing of the labors and sacrifices demanded by Catholic journalism, we are grateful for even their comments as they indicate that at least they take the paper, but evidently do not read it—to their own great loss.

THE SCHOLASTIC YEAR. — We learn that there is a somewhat lively discussion going on, at present, in the Ontario press, on the subject of curtailing the school term, or scholastic year of ten months, that now obtains in the country districts. "La Patrie," in commenting upon this movement, points out that what would apply, in such cases, in the Province of Ontario, applies, with greater force, in the Province of Quebec. The idea is that eight instead of ten months should suffice. One of the reasons adduced is that in the country young lads are frequently required to aid in the lighter work on farms during certain months of the year, and as a consequence the school attendance naturally shows a falling off, when these times come. That there is force in the contention we will not gainsay, but we are under the impression that there is much to be said on the other side—that is in favor of the longer term for the pupils. We do not think that the agitation has, as yet, as-

"If the poor wish to provide for the expenses of burial and for doctor's fees, let the insurance company guarantee those expenses, and pay them. To speculate in the life and death of a child is sufficiently greivous, without any hastening of death. It is intolerable to think that companies can be found to issue such speculative insurance, and to reward the murderer who successfully murders a child and escapes detection."

In England child insurance is entirely prohibited. The death rates amongst children and the exposure of untold crimes of a most abominable class brought about this legislation in that country. We do not know, for we have not yet made special inquiries, whether or not, in Canada, there are any insurance companies that take risks on the lives of infants. But since there are thirty-five of them in the United States, we may conclude that some of these companies may possibly have their branches here and be inclined to carry on the same business in our Dominion. If such were the case it would be a most Christian act for some of our legislators to move in the matter and have a prohibitory law, similar to that in England, passed. And even were it true that we have so far escaped this curse, it might be no harm to prevent all danger of it ever getting a foothold here, by having the legislative enactments passed as a matter of precaution. We can scarcely bring ourselves to believe that there are companies, composed of reputable citizens, that are so debased as to make money at the cost of innocent lives. Yet, we are forced to the sad conclusion by the facts that are set before us. It is a question which is the more culpable, the company that takes such a risk or the parent who applies for the same. Both are certainly criminal. It is a fearful thought for a civilized person that instead of protecting and helping the feeble and unoffending child to retain the little life that God has given it, the very thirst for money should demand the sacrifice of the tiny victim in order to satiate its passion. Unwilling as we may be to admit that humanity could fall so low, we must accept the situation as it presents itself, and ask that, at least, our young country be saved from such a stigma upon its character.

MARCONI'S SUCCESS. — There are obviously many difficulties still to be overcome. The system cannot prove its full value until it is efficiently systematized. One wire one message is as vital as one man one vote. It is doubtful whether Signor Marconi is advancing matters for the world at large so long as he enjoys a monopoly which arrogates to his own use a considerable tract of that useful element in the air.

This is the manner in which the "St. James' Gazette," one of London's leading organs, comments upon Marconi's wireless telegraphic success. It may be a very good thing to be cautious in building upon the promises of theories or inventors; but we certainly think that when facts prove a triumph there is room for a little more encouragement and enthusiasm. What the ultimate result of the Marconi discovery will be no one can tell; no one could tell half a century ago what the possibilities of the Atlantic cable were. However, we cannot ignore the clear fact that a message has actually been sent from Canada to England by Marconi, and that he has made use of his wireless system in so doing. What he has done once we may reasonably suppose he can do again; and if the experiment is susceptible of repetition, it is obvious that wireless telegraphy must finally take its place amongst the living factors in the affairs of this world. We are no more enthusiastic than any person else in regard to the invention, but we have a holy horror of those people who are constantly inclined to "throw cold water" on ever enterprise that is not their own. Besides the assertion that Marconi, or any other person, can have a monopoly of the air, is rank nonsense. There is nothing—except its own lack of scientific knowledge to prevent the "St. James Gazette" from setting up a rival wireless system of telegraphy, and thus occupying its own share of the ethereal element. And if Marconi can send messages through the air, and others cannot do so and are unable to understand how he does it, we do not see what fault is to be found with him. The air of heaven is as much his as any other person's, and the empire is sufficiently vast to frustrate any desire for a monopoly of its use. At all events we are proud to know that this able Catholic scientist has been enabled to carry his projects to a point that may be reasonably called a success, and we do not think that all the vaporing of a London paper can materially affect the situation. But criticism is not to be wondered at when we find our own "Daily Witness," taking advantage of this remarkable event, in the annals of discovery, to ventilate its spleen against aught Catholic or to be credited to the Church or any of its members. Editorially our Protestant religious daily says—

A RELIGIOUS RETROSPECT. — In a most interesting column our French-Canadian contemporary "La Presse" tells of the many remarkable religious events that have taken place during the year that is going. After referring to several conversions to the Faith of persons who belonged to non-Catholic churches, and having told the story of the many churches and religious institutions that have been either founded or completed during the year, we are given a list of the many losses which the Catholic Church, especially in our city, has sustained. In this connection we will translate a few paragraphs from that instructive article.

CHILD INSURANCE.—One of our American Catholic exchanges gives us this startling piece of information:—"There are more than thirty-five companies insuring the lives of children in this country, even from birth. Commissioner Durham, of Pennsylvania, intends to ask for remedial legislation." The New York "Evening Journal," dealing with this important subject, says—

"Mr. Marconi could not have done the thing three hundred years ago without danger to his life as a practitioner of wizardry."

The "Witness" fails in its shaft; because even a century and more nearer to our own time, had Marconi set up his apparatus on American soil, the Puritan fanatics of New England, the witch-burners of Salem, and Boston, would probably have placed the fagots around him and lit the torch of death, as was their superstitious and crazy practice in the cases of poor, innocent, and harmless old women and young girls, in the days when it was dangerous to be a "Papist" and a crime punishable by law to attend a "Mass House." These are dark pages that we do not care to turn up or read, but they are the records of facts that blacken the history of the descendants of those famed "Pilgrim Fathers," while the allusion of the "Witness" is baseless, having no truth in history to justify it.

### Catholicity in Newark.

The silver jubilee of Bishop J. J. O'Connor, of the diocese of Newark as a priest, was observed on Sunday last. The celebration opened with Pontifical High Mass in the Cathedral. Many prelates and priests were present. After the religious ceremony the Bishop held a reception at the Krieger Auditorium and entertained the visiting clergy. The next prominent feature in the celebration will be a reception to the Bishop at the new auditorium in Orange street, Newark, on January 5, by the Knights of Columbus. On January 7 the Catholic Young Men's Societies will tender a reception to Bishop O'Connor at Krieger's Auditorium. The approaching year is the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the diocese of Newark, and the golden jubilee is to be devoted largely to the raising of funds to further the work on the cathedral. The Rev. John A. Sheppard, of St. Michael's, Jersey City, the vicar general of the diocese, is the chairman of the committee on the new cathedral jubilee fund, the other members being the Rev. Charles J. Kelly. This committee will visit wealthy Catholics throughout the diocese, to solicit contributions to the Cathedral Building Fund. Many of the leading Catholics of Newark have already made liberal contributions. Among the noteworthy gifts, so far, is the women's chapel, at the rear of the new building, which will be erected entirely at the expense of ex-Senator James Smith at a cost of not less than \$25,000. A prominent Newark Catholic, whose name is withheld for the present at his own request, has given \$10,000 in cash, and John F. Shanley has made a first contribution of \$5,000. The committee expects that the jubilee contributions to the building fund by the wealthy Catholics of Newark will exceed \$60,000. The canvass of the wealthy Catholics of Jersey City and Hoboken will begin with the new year, and that of Paterson will follow. At the same time parish contributions will be made in all the churches of the diocese throughout the year. It is believed by Vicar-General Sheppard that the jubilee year contributions will be sufficient to inclose the new cathedral and adapt it to the temporary requirements for a larger place of worship in the part of Newark where it is situated. So far the funds for building the cathedral have been wholly raised by assessments upon the clergy, to the extent of 10 per cent. of their salaries, and on the parishes. The amount thus secured and already expended is about \$300,000. The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart is already one of the most conspicuous objects in the park region of Newark. The cathedral grounds lie between Clifton avenue and the park, and include eighty-five building lots, or nearly five acres of land. The walls are already up almost to the top of the second story,

### GOING TO EGYPT.

Mr. Dugald Macdonald, one of our best known citizens and a mathematician of continental reputation, leaves early in January for Egypt. Our readers may remember that about a year ago, our correspondent "Crux" furnished an elaborate article upon the scientific investigations and computations that Mr. Macdonald has been prosecuting regarding the pyramids of Egypt, their measurements and all the wonderful secrets they contain. It is in order to complete his studies of this subject, by actual observations, that Mr. Macdonald goes to the land of the Pharaohs.

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