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EPISCOPAL APPROBATION.

"If the Buglish-speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province consulted that best interests, they would seen make of the "True Wilmoss" one of the most prospecus am proof at Cathotte papers in this country. I heartily blow those who cancow age this amolton work "†PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal."

notes of the week.

A GREAT PAPER.

One of our business representatives enetered 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 abovewritten. 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 whom-soever 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 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 com-ments as they indicate that at least they take the paper, but evidently do not read it-to their own great

THE SCHOLASTIC YEAR. learn that there is a somewhat live- to warrant a serious entry into all ly 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 ent, points out that the Province of Ontario, applies, with greater force, in the Province of Quebec. The idea is that eight 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 conten-tion 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-

- We sumed proportions sufficiently great the details. It has ever been experience that the breaking up, for one reason or another, of a pupil's term in school, has always been the source of great inconvenience, of time, and detriment to the scholar. However, should the matter become a live issue, some day, in our own province, we will be fully pre-pared to give it the attention that

> CHILD INSURANCE .- One of our American Catholic exchanges gives us this startling piece of informa tion:-

There are more than thirty-five ompanies 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,

"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 grewsome, without any hastening 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 de-

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 hibitory law, similar to that in England, passed. And even were it curse, it might be no harm to prevent all danger of it ever getting a foot-hold 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 peron 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.

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

"But." says "La Presse." "along side of these events so calculated to bring foy to all Christian hearts we should register the sorrowful events. Firstly, Mgr. Corrigan, Archbishop of New York, one of the shining lights of the Church in America, departed this life at an advanced age. Rev. Father Scanlan, the apostle of temperance, also suc-cumbed to sickness, and death broke off a short but meritorious career. The news of the death of Rev. Fa-Patrick's, who had won the esteen and affection of all who knew him caused a great shock and a regret that was universal. The other men bers of the clergy who paid their final tribute to the pitiless mower are Rev. Fathers Bedard, of St. Constant; Dozois, former pastor of Pointe-aux-Trembles; Bawdet, of Three Rivers; and the Abbe J. Palatin, P.S.S. Mgr. Grandin, the inde-tatigable missionary of the North-west, also disappeared from the scene, carrying with him the deepest regrets of a wast population. A great loss to Canada was the death of Mgr. Tanguay, the famed genea-logist of the French-Canadian fam-ilies. Another well vnown figure that has vanished was Rev. P. Mi-chaud, C.S.V., to whom we owe the

cathedral and other religious edifices. But the loss that was most felt and that was the most sorrowful for the Church and for the cause of education in Montreal was that of Rev. Abbe Louis Colin, the venerable Superior of St. Sulpice. deep learning had constituted the adviser not only of ecclesiastical personages, but also of many eminent public men. He was considered to be one of our greatest masters of sacred eloquence. His love of education will be transmitted to posterity in the various monuments that he erected to spread knowledge amongst the youth of our country." While the list is necessarily imperfect, and no pretence was made that it was complete, we feel that our contemporary has done a good deed in recalling, at this closing of the year, the names of so many good men whose lives were given for the Church, for the youth of the country, and for the cause of education and religion combined. So numerous and so rapid are the events that succeed each other in the course of a year that we have almost forgotten the loss sustained ten, eleven, or twelve months ago. Still the good are always remembered; the just are move in the matter and have a pro- kept in perpetual memory, as the Psalmist tells us, and it is England, passed. And even were it "a holy and a wholesome thought true that we have so far escaped this to pray for the dead." As 1902 draws to its end let us pray for the souls of even the few whose names are above recorded.

> MARCONI'S SUCCESS. - "There are obviously many difficulties still to be overcome. The system cannot prove its full value until it is effi-ciently syntonised. 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 en joys 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 Lon-

don's leading organs, comments up-

on 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 the invention, but we have a holy minent Newark Catholic, whose horror of those people who are conname is withheld for the present at water" on ever enterprise that is not in cash, and John F. Shanley 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 u; a rival wireless system of telegraphy and thus occupying its own share of the etherial 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 empyrean is suffi-ciently vast to frustrate any desire for a monopoly of its use. At all events we are proud to know that 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:—

"Mr. Marconi could have done the thing three hundred years ago without danger to his life as a practitioner of wiz ardy.'

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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 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 crime punishable by law to attend a 'Mass House." These are 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'Comor, of the diocese of Newark as a priest, was observed on Sunday last. The celebration opened with Pontifical High Mass in the Pro-Cathedral. Many prelates and priests were present. After the retigious 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 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 recep tion to Bishop O'Connor at Krieger's Auditorium.

The approaching year is the fif-tieth anniversary of the establishment of the diocese of Newark, and the golden jubilee is to be devoted largely to the raising of funds further the work on the cathedral. The Very 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 nembers being the Very Rev. Joseph M. Flynn and the Rev. Charles J. Kelly. This committee will visit wealthy Catholics throughout the This committee will visit 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 anally take its place amongst the rear of the new building, which will living factors in the affairs of this be erected entirely at the expense world. We are no more enthusiastic of ex-Senator James Smith at a than any person else in regard to cost of not less than \$25,000. A prohis own request, has given \$10,000 made a first contribution of \$5,000. The committee expects that the jubi lee contributions to the building fund by the wealthy Catholics 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 throughout the year. It is believed by Vicar-General Sheppard that the jubilee year contributions will 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 assess ments 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.

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 and. The walls are already up almost to the top of the second story,

land. The walls are already up alspires will rest are more than half their height. These towers are named respectively for the Sacred Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Work on the chapel contributed by ex-Senator Smith is under way, and the walls of gray stone are nearly two stories high in both the nave and the sanctuary.

The arches of the main entrance and the two entrances under towers are sprung, and a general idea of the character and elabortateness of the architecture is afforded

by the building as it now stands. The plans were accepted in November, 1897, and the contract was awarded to J. O'Rourke & Sons, builders, before the end of the following January. Ground for the structure was broken in January, 1898, and the cornerstone was laid June 11, 1899.

Although only about four half years have passed since the beginning of real work on the cathedral, unusual progress has been made, and the builders have been highly commended for the rapidity with which they have worked. It is estimated that the actual work of construction is one-third accomplished, and nearly a third of the estimated cost, \$1,000,000, has been already expended. The dimensions of the cathedral are: Length, 365 feet; width, 150 feet, height, 100 feet. The sanctuary and nave will be 260 feet long, 44 feet wide and 100 feet high. The principal tower will be 300 feet high, and the other will rise to an attitude of 250 feet. The women's chapel will be 20 feet long, 23 feet high and 16 feet wide. The seating capacity of the cathedral, exclusive of chapels, will be about twenty-five hundred.

Vicar-General Sheppard says style of the architecture of the cathedral, which, generally speaking, is French Gothic, is individual, there being only two other similar religious edifices in the world. The arches over the three entrances in the front are characteristic features of the design. They are tall, pointed arches, peculiarly vaulted, so they give an impr?ssion of great depth and massiveness in the walls. In the somewhat sharply pointed peaks the space is filled with tracery carved in stone in quatrefoil pat-

The diocese of Newark, which originally embraced the whole State of New Jersey, was organized in 1853, and was placed in charge of Archbishop James Roosevelt Bayley. In 1881 the diocese was divided, that of Trenton being erected out of its territory. At present the diocese contains 1,699 square miles of teritory with a Catholic population exceeding 300,000, divided into 120 parishes, over which 265 priests pre-

The diocese of Trenton embraces the southern fourteen counties of New Jersey, and has a Catholic population of 80,000 and 122 priests.

Bishop O'Connor, who is not yet fifty, he is highly esteemed wields a very large personal influence. In the natural course of events he should live to see the cathedral of his diocese completed. in the popular acceptation of the word.

GOING TO EGYPT.

Mr. Dugald Macdonald, one of our best known citizens and a mathema tician of continental reputation leaves early in January for Egypt, Our readers may remember that about a year ago, our corre ent "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 wonderous secrets they contain. It is in order to complete his studies of this sub-ject, by actual observations, that Mr. Macdonald goes to the land of the Pharoahs.

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