# The Tru Witness

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1907

### Episcopal Approbation.

If the English Speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province consulted their best interests, they woul soo ma e of themost prosperous and powerencourage this excellent work.

> + PAUL. Archbishop of Mc& eal.

CHRISTMAS. The social custom of extending bes es for all blessings and joys at this holy tide is too serious to be Wherever two lightly passed over. or three are gathered together in the name of Christ there He is in their How much more inspiring is His presence when on the anniversary of His birth we gather at His manger to praise and thank Him, and welcome Him to earth. So much of even temporal joy starts from the crib of Bethlehem that of all the year it is best suited to renew good wishes to one another. We therefore most cordially express our best wishes for a joyful Christmas our readers far and near. May it be joyful with both heavenly and earthly joys. If sorrow marks with the cross any home which we may be addressing, may the Babe of Bethlehem give courage and consolation, for came with balm for our wounds No mere passing word can this wish The divine pledge through which it is given and from which it rives its force and value is the author of love, the finisher of faith, and the bond of peace. There is also the increasing contest tween the children of the and those outside. It behooves to draw more closely together. behooves to offer our faith, hope and our love to the new-born Christ, for many will pass . Him by in silent forgetfulness or open con-tempt. It is more fashionable and popular to despise our Lord and throw away His gifts as debasing and unsuited to the needs of the Yet the Incarsoul and of society. nation is God's mighty plan for the sanctification of the soul and the betterment of the race. It was the loving condescension of the Most cond Person of the adorable Trinity to human nature and at the same time the clasping of that human soul and body in the embrace of the Son What elevation, what Man needs the gifts of God. union! He needed some one who would make the debt due to God's offended majesty: he needed a gift that he might offer it to God, and man needed to Atonement for sin and worship of God and love of God: these were the wants which man's desolate heart felt more and more as the centuries rolled on. So when the plenitude of time was come the mongst us. He came as the low-est came; the government of the world was upon His shoulders and the discipline of all was in His life. His merits and example. Men saw Him upon His wisp of straw and bent their knee to Him; for the Him upon His wisp of strew and bent their knee to Him, for the fulness of the Godhend was in Him. Worship became easy, and so also did love at God. As the shepherds watched the Babe climing to His Mother there was the bouch of helpless infinitely givens watched to the Child who had come from the high heaven with the lesson of suffering. Love became less hard, for who

adoration worship and love God who and darkness are round about Him: the earth saw and His justice: and all peoples saw His hopes which springing from the invis-ible height of God's mercy flow down viour sanctify us and unite us more closely to Him; and may they be our support and comfort in time and our

FREE RELIGION. Our Holy Father's encyclical on Modernism continues to rouse atten-

bidding higher criticism in questions

of the Bible it has received not the

praise which it deserves but of learning and love of God's Word philosophy attempting to explain ticism and many others long dead, should have protected it. Intellectual and decide what is not within its now in new form devastating the pride, ingrained prejudice and hereti- jurisdiction. But it was a philosocal independence contribute much phy maintained by a large number to the misunderstanding of this in common with other Papal acts. As regarded as leaders outside the Papacy is the centre of the Church. There were also a few lian or Evolutionist philosochemic of the Church, so is it the turning point within the fold. The evil was Kant borrowed from Hume, around which the battle is always spreading. However, the watchman Hegel was but a disciple of Kant, fiercest. No matter what the policy of the TRUE WITNESS one of the Soveneign Pontiff may be the Holiness exposed the danger and world finds in it nothing but folly: quired the bishops to be vigilant, to it is reactionary in its results and a watch the teaching through Seminatry. I heartily bless those who threat to free thought and progres- ries, colleges, and the press. A large is a form of Materialism. The twosive civilization. If the Holy Fa- number were therefore called upon to ther sends a message to his bishops he is interfering with nationalism; if is seldom an encyclical attacks an he insists upon religion in education intellectual theory. Propositions he is trespassing upon the rights of the State; or if he complains of his condemned. The book in which they own unsatisfactory incarceration he appeared is withdrawn or suppressed is soon made to feel its greater inconvenience. But the last encyclical, go in and out, some with a warning because it treats of philosophy and others outside going from bad because it is a well deserved condem- worse-until a halt was called nation of all Protestants who have least so far as the obedient children allowed the Bible to be torn to of the Church were concerned. The pieces, calls for more unkindly criti- voice of the Papacy broke the cism. For three centuries the Bible dars. And through the world and nothing but the Bible was held up as the source of the Christian re- action, no freedom of thought, no ligion and the standard of Christian truth. Rome was condemned because it admitted any other font of doctrine, ridiculed because it chained the back: these are the ebullitions Bible, and hated and dispised cause it claimed the right of judging the Bible. Now what do we see? Protestantism is weak, the only trength it ever had was that given it by national power and pride. Its supernatural truth from the plunder than in the very stronghold it had built for itself. The Protestant rethe Bible, especially from Rome. An enemy has come in by the side doorcritic and philosopher—taken it out of the hands of their divines, denied its divine authorship, stripped it. of its supernatural revelation, trampled it under foot as false and dispicable. The very Rome which had ever been the guardian of Scriptures in earlier ages has comforth in these latter days the cham pion against all foes of the Bible. The encyclical on Modernism is a call to attention all along the line. Evo lution as a theory had been applying the Incarplan for the land the land the work of the origin of man undertook to the Moost of the Seable Trinity the same lation. Instead of Christinetts and the Seable Trinity the same lation. Instead of Christinetts and the Christinetts are confused until the same lation. Instead of Christinetts are confused until the same lation. Instead of Christinetts are confused until the dispensation of grace or the authority of the Church. I com the dispensation of grace or the authority of the Church. I com the dispensation of grace or the authority of the Church. I com the datermoon of the 25th in St. Mary This season in Italy is not so essentially a family festival as is the family festivaly its study first to one thing and then and the Ohurch of God. It was a singular the second and the Ohurch of God. It was a singular than the continuation of the supermatural and death to revert the supermatural and death to rever the supermatural and death to revert the s Re needed some one that who would pay of our Blessed Lord, it is a growth, the centuries rolled on. So when an authority established for the purties plentide of time was come the word was made flesh and dwelt by interior evolution. It is the outty interior evolution. It is the outcome of subjective, scientific thought which in its criticisms and explanation of events must be applied to all affect without fear or fevor. It regards history as a science which records phenomena. All phenomena, therefore, must be examined scientifically, and if they do not stand this test, which is the test of reason, they must be rejected as legendary or superstitious. Reason, it must be noted, is the judge. Applying this standard to our Blessed Lord, it sweeps away His Divinity and consubstantial Sonship. His supermatural birth is not admitted, his

transcendant miracles are explained denying the giver they undervalue the gift, and in attempting to give they undervalue the gift, and in attempting to give they undervalue the gift, and in attempting to give they are thought its full autonomy they have man was looked up to by a few weakened it and robbed it of its man worship and love God who before us wrapped in swadding to Him qualities of which He was sometimed to Him qualities of which He was sometimed to Him qualities of which He was sometimed to the gift, and in attempting to give they undervalue the gift, and in attempting to give they undervalue the gift, and in attempting to give they undervalue the gift, and in attempting to give they undervalue the gift, and in attempting to give they undervalue the gift, and in attempting to give they undervalue the gift, and in attempting to give they undervalue the gift, and in attempting to give they undervalue the gift, and in attempting to give the gift, and in attempting to give the gift, and in attempting to give weakened it and robbed it of its man which was looked up to by a few weakened it and robbed it of its properties. to Him qualities of which He was never Himself conscious and which He mever claimed for Himself, that moved: the heavens declared He was a man like other men, that He lived and died a violent deathall this, but no more is admitted Thus is the Corner-Stone rejected by these evolutionary builders and an imaginary stone substituted. The enthusiastic followers believed in their own mind, and preached to others that Christ was God. There was no reality in their speech. They believed Him to be God: that was sufficient and they could do no more. From all this we see the evil, with which Modernism threatened the Church. It was the denial of the reality of the supernatural, the annihilation of dogma, an effort at the establishment. tion from various quarters. Striking valent systems of philosophy, it re-ceives criticism from English evoestablishment of a free religion in which all could believe as they wished. All difference between Catholic and Protestant was done away lutionists and German scientists. Forwith: dogma was but a formula of the expression, not a truth to be beondemnation from which its depth lieved under penalty. It was false anism and Manicheanism and Scep phy maintained by a large number losophy stands alone, disconnected of men who had been and who are from any other. This is especially on the Tower was not asleep. His more brilliant than his master yet hear the voice of Christ's Vicar. It enunciated by witness are sometimes This time men had been allowed to howl was raised. Tyranny, room for science, ignorance—the Church which was expected to lead or let these new scientists lead fell offended pride heard and read here and there. God bless our Holy Fa-ther for exposing the errors lurking in the armory of scientific retionalism and for saving the deposit of

of these free religionists. THE SYNTHESIS OF HERESIES This is the description given by the Holy Father of Modernism. he said in his last consistory, "one heresy, but the synthesis and poison of all heresies, and which tends to shake the very foundations of the faith and to annihilate Christianity." of this epigrammatic statement be comes more evident the more study the Encyclical and observe th tactics of the exponents of Modern ism. It is really a case of all the heresies lining up to give battle and take the Church by stealth or storm Heresies have for the most part centred either around Christ Himself or

the desire for autonomy of thought not only undermines the truth and reality of the lessons taught by the magistracy of the Church, it to will not serve"; it says: "Your au thority is null and void; my thou and including in that my will, is the only power which can dictate me." Thought can think all Thought can think all thing for itself, thought alone can do all things and thought alone can govstretches beyond that horizon v sky and earth seem to meet. must it enter into what religion superstition has called the super tural as well as the nearer field of the natural. It was time to em phasize the truth, to rouse watchmen and call attention that old errors had risen to life—Pelagiflock. Scarcely any system of phithe true when examining Kantian, Hege more dangerous. Hume's doubts ar

to be seen in Kant, and Hegel carried their doubt to denial. Evolution Hegel and Evolution-are closely connected; for Hegel is but a spiritualized materialist, and his whole system is a panoramic attempt at the evolution of God, the universe,

man-In all as well as in Modernish atheism, unreality, continuous change, autonomy of thought, nial or doubt of religion and in

This is the synthesis theological and philosophical here-

PENDING SHANGES IN ST.

No official announcement

come from His Grace anent pending changes at St. Patrick's, we say absolutely nothing in the mat ter. Everyone may rest assured, however, that at the opportune time the Archbishop will in the prope manner make known what definite action will be taken upon the ques tion at issue. The daily newspa pers, whose conflicting reports wer entirely unauthorized, are not our inspiration, and as His Grace regulates his own affairs, not the newspapers it is the part of wisdom, not mention courtesy, to wait until he Our people should know by now that the Archbishop, when diocesan or parish affairs requir adjusting, issues his mandate in an official manner, from the pulpit, not

### Christmas in Rome.

taking the daily press into his

Occasionally the sun on Christmas morning in Rome rises in golden splendor in a sky of the tenderest azure—a Roman blue. But this is only on occasions. As a rule, the heavens are of as greyish a hue as you would find anywhere in the British Isles and, moreover, weeping conveyer.

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rate by an unenterprising foreigner to go a long way, and the school boy term "stickjaw" is one whice can be applied to it with singula

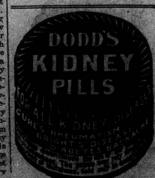
appropriateness.

Plum pudding is an unknown quantity in an Italian menage, but its place is somewhat satisfactorily supplied by a hard and decidedly undigestible preparation composed prinplace is somewhat satisfactorily supplied by a hard and decidedly undigestible preparation composed principally of flour and unstoned raisins, these latter "thick as leaves in Vallembrosa." The following is a fairly typical menu of a Roman dimer on Christmas Day: Soup, in which float small hat-shaped pieces of home-made macaroni filled with mine-ed meat, first makes its appearance, and is replaced by the boiled meat of which it has been made, surrounded by vegetables. This in its turn is usually followed either by a dish of "frito misto," or brains, artichokes, liver, etc., friend to that golden hue which seems only attainable in an Italian frying pam, or else a large Bologna sausage flavored with garlic. These are a specialty of the season, and, decorated with garlils, their ends tied up with gaily-colored ribbons, are to be seen adorning every grocer's shop. After the "frito" course either a turkey stuffed with chestmuts, or a fat capon surrounded by fried sippets of bread and pounded anchovies, usurps public attention, and the repast is brought to a conclusion by the favorite Italian sweet, "pamma montata," composed of whipped and delicately-fla-

lian sweet, "panna montata," com-posed of whipped and delicately-fla-vored cream piled high in a glass dish over chestnuts which have been previously boiled and rubbed through most sensitive aspects as the "festa" most sensitive aspects as the approaches, the confectioners being especially fascinating with their array of dainty cakes and bonbons in artistically tinted satin bags or gaily ornamented boxes. And the requirements of the English colony are extensively catered for Christians requirements of the English colony are extensively catered for Christmas and New Year cards, at about double the price at which these souvenirs can be procured in England, are obtainable at several shops. Gleaming holly berries are on sale in the "Piazza di Spagna," and the proprietress of the English tea rooms in the same locality supplies most excellent plum puddings. rooms in the same rocality supplies most excellent plum puddings and mince pies for the benefit of her compatriots in a foreign land.

Time was when, nine days before the festival of Christmas, "Pifferi" or shepherds from the purple Abruzzi

mountains, made their appearance in the streets of Rome, evoking strange sounds from bagpipes and chanting quaintly worded carols. These, however, with many other ancient customs, have entirely disappeared from modern Rome. She has improved as regards sanitation, progress and civilization in general, but a good deal of her picturesqueness and a little of her charm, have passed with the flecting years. The religious extended in the first progress of the "Manger" which takes place on the afternoon of the 25th in St. Mary Major's, is an imposing spectacle. It the streets of Rome, evoking strange



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PARI.

Last Sunday riel's presented being the anniver tion of the T. A The beautiful edi repletion with the various temperar their friends. The elbert preached a quent sermon, in quent sermon, in vivid picture of t vivid picture of the drunkenness upon domestic r. Then followed so the Blessed Sacra by Rev. Father I deacon and sub-clamber of the stion, at which a the sister society bringing to a fithe grandest even St. Gabrief.

A Clear, Healt of the skin and pure blood caused tion of the liver correcting this un restoring the orga-condition, Parmel-will at the same blood, and the 't tions will disappe

any trace. ST. PATRICE

The large doll were taken as to drawn for Tuesda name being "Mar seven who guessed follows: The Miss Egan, Tessie Bres Margaret Culliman ran, Mr. Frank L. The doll was on sense of Rev. Dr. Frank Lukeman a Killoran were tie ing, Rev. Jas. P. ly winning.

ELECTION O