

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED AT No. 761, Craig Street, Montreal, Canada. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00 City, \$1.50 Country, and \$2.00 by mail. Single Copies 5c.

TO ADVERTISERS. A limited number of advertisements of approved character will be inserted in "The True Witness" at 15c per line, first insertion, and 10c per line each subsequent insertion.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 1892

CHURCH DECORATIONS.

"A churchman and a member of the Y.M.C.A.," thinks that "Christ's Gospel does not want gorgeous churches, surplices, altars, crosses, banners, &c."

BLAKE'S RECEPTION.

We learn, by cable, that the Hon. Edward Blake has landed in Ireland, that he was received in a most enthusiastic manner by the Irish people and especially by the Catholic clergy.

THE GREAT CONTEST.

The battle has commenced! Unlike the elections in Canada, the Imperial political battle extends over several days, even a couple of weeks.

THE SOMMER PARK.

There is considerable agitation, in prominent circles, about the now famous rendez-vous of pleasure seekers, the Sommer Park. The greater portion of our good citizens are opposed to the opening of that place upon Sundays and especially Sunday evenings.

ELECTION RESULTS.

It appears that even should Mr. Gladstone be returned with a powerful majority at his back—which is as certain to happen as anything in the future can be relied upon—it does not follow

that Lord Salisbury will resign. He may, like Lord Beaconsfield (then Mr. Disraeli), go on with the administration of affairs until Parliament is called, and then present a Tory programme in the Queen's speech.

BALFOUR'S REASONING.

When a man has a bad case he generally abuses his opponent; but he deserves some credit when he attempts to argue his cause, and to show some reasons, no matter how illogical, in support of the stand he has taken.

"Every year's experience has fully justified uncompromising opposition to the abortive home rule measure of 1886. The separatist subsequently ambitious modification of the measure makes the proposals more unjust and dangerous."

As to the first part of this peculiar paragraph we need only point to the Dominion of Canada for a positive refutation of the statements. The representation of any constituency in our Local Legislature and at the same time in the Federal House by no means militates against the interests of Canada; on the contrary our system has proved a grand success.

THE CHURCH AND SINNERS.

Under the Chapter "Familiar Talk on the Catholic Religion," Cardinal Gibbons has the following:

"The Church, walking in the footsteps of her Divine Spouse, never repudiates sinners, nor cuts them off from her fold, no matter how grievous or notorious may be their moral delinquencies, not because she convicts at their sin, but because she wishes to reclaim them."

A writer, signing himself Solomon Robitschek, in Brooklyn's new anti-Catholic monthly, referring to these words of the Cardinal, says:

"How kind the church is! And how holy such a fold must be! Is it a sheepfold, or a menagerie, or is it simply a pigpen? Sinners with grievous and notorious delinquencies surely cannot be the lambs of Christ. But they are all sheep for your net. But why should I be compelled to sit in company with grievous and notorious sinners? Why should it be a mortal sin for me not to go to Mass in sweet company with them? Do you know what the Apostle Paul says, 1 Cor. 5: 9-11? 'I wrote unto you in an epistle not to keep company with fornicators.'"

This gentleman has certainly very little of Solomon's great gift or he would not make such a public exhibition of his ignorance of Christian principles. The first two syllables in his second name would probably give a better index to his character. The last one completes it. The would-be polemical writer asks, "Whom shall I follow? The Apostle Paul, or you, his successor (?). I prefer to let you have all the 'grievous and notorious sinners' and try to find better company."

least we be judged? What kind of Christianity does this self-elected saint, this self-appointed just man profess? Every accusation of this kind that he brings against the Church he brings it against Christ Himself, for it was Christ who commanded His church to receive the sinner and who gave power to His apostles and their successors to forgive sins.

There is a great deal of the hypocrite and not a little of the sophist in this man's composition; there is certainly no Christianity in his principle nor charity in his language. The Church of Rome is very lucky to be free from characters of that class; and we doubt very much if Protestantism has any great welcome for them.

"THE TRUE CATHOLIC."

On the first June there appeared in Brooklyn, N. Y., a sheet called "The True Catholic." It also is called an Independent Journal. It purports to be edited by one V. Tito, who rejoices in the prefix of ex-Priest of Rome. From its prologue to its last vulgar and wicked line, this abominable little tarantula bears the two-fold stamp of the Italian infidel and the venomous renegade; only an Italian Capodiavolo could pour forth such blasphemies, and only a pervert from his fate could hate with such unbridled vengeance. The sub-editor is one Joseph A. Judge, who is announced as "a converted Irish Romanist," who, "can fill engagements to lecture on various topics of interest."

In any case, no matter who he is, he at least has neither logic nor facts, sense nor reason in his writings; but they are rank with vile abuse of the Catholic Church and the Blessed Virgin.

"The True Catholic" opens out by an announcement that it "salutes the brethren in Christ of every shade of belief." Then, as if Catholicity were not a belief, it singles out that one exception in its general salutation and says: "we want to open the eyes of Protestants to the character of Romanism." It is too bad that Protestants have been so long blind; why did not the Tito-Judge crowd rise up sooner to enlighten the millions of Protestants who have been yearning for such floods of knowledge? "We want," they say, "to shed light upon the dark path of Papists." So both Catholics and Protestants have been groping in the dark awaiting this new column of fire to guide them through the desert of their ignorance. Thank goodness, neither Catholic nor Protestant can ever again plead ignorance, for behold! an Italian infidel and an Irish-Catholic renegade—the two worst characters that ever cursed the earth with their presence—have arisen to "cast light" upon the highway. They tell us: "We want to preach the truth to all who will hear, especially those who trust in the sacramental salvation of Popery." This would seem a very insane undertaking were it not that they follow it up by saying: "Help us, friends, to scatter the light among such people by subscribing for this paper, and by getting your friends to subscribe, and if any Christian desire to aid our mission by sending us an occasional donation we will thankfully receive it."

There is no doubt of it at all; the speculation, however, is not likely to prosper. It is pretty certain of a speedy ending, not that Catholics will read it and bother their heads about it, but because no respectable Protestant will have any confidence in men who, after leaving their faith for an unworthy purpose, turn around and attempt to make money out of their Protestant neighbors by abusing the Church of Rome and publishing the foulest of falsehoods. The great mass of our separated brethren want none of these suddenly inspired and filthy tongued renegades, whose apologetic zeal always takes the hue of the coin that they seek.

The paper from first to last is abusively vulgar, degrading; it appeals to the lower instincts, and it holds up to ridicule all that is most sacred in the eyes of Catholics, and that Protestants honor, even if they do not believe, simply out of Christian respect for their fellow men. Priests in jail; nuns escaped; demons in the church; bone shows; Rome's grasp; Romish honor to the Virgin, and such-like are the titles of the articles; each one an abominable string of blasphemies,

unwarranted assertions, blackguard hints, scoffs, sneers, and sacrilegious phrases. Like the foul vapor that comes up from the swamps, it will soon be dispelled; it may silt across the sun's face, but cannot approach even within millions of miles the luminary itself. Truth—like the sun—heals not the miasms and mists of darkness. Like the toad-stool springing up in a night from the rankness and rotteness of the soil that gave it birth, ere the day is done it has disappeared and its poison is harmless ever more. We simply refer to this publication in order to give our Catholic readers an idea of the depths into which men can fall when they have lost grace, and to warn our Protestant friends against such impositions.

DIME NOVELS.

To-day there is taking place, on the grounds in front of St. Patrick's Church, a Strawberry Festival. It has been organized by Rev. Father McCallen and the Ladies of Charity, a benevolent association of the parish. The immediate object of this splendid festival is to procure funds for the Catholic Free Library. Parents are obliged to clothe and feed their children; but, at the same time they have a greater duty to perform,—that of nourishing the young minds and training the young hearts. There is no means so calculated to thus educate the young as that of good books. Goethe, the great German, once wrote: "one should, at least, every day try to see a fine picture, hear a good song, or read a good book." In order to secure for the young people the privilege and advantage of "a good book," we require good, Catholic, public, Free Libraries. Young people will read, just as surely as they will eat. If they cannot get pure, elevating, nourishing literature, they will get the "dime novel," and the light periodical trash that floats like scum upon the surface of our present literature. We could not better point out the fearful dangers to which the youth of the country are exposed, through means of bad literature, and consequently the benefit of the antidote—a good Free Library,—than by quoting from Judge Dupue's charge to the grand jury, delivered at Newark, N. J., last week. The learned judge said:

"I desire to make a few observations with regard to a case that was tried here during the last term—a case in which a boy of the age of sixteen was convicted of murder in the first degree for killing a man whom he had attempted to rob. The case has attracted a great deal of public attention from the character of the literature in which the boy was educated—'dime novels.' I never saw any of the books that were read by the boy, but I am not aware of any law that would warrant the indictment of any of the publishers of the books that I have seen, but at the next term, if I can find any of these books that come within the scope of the law, I shall ask the grand jury to indict. I find from information that upward of twenty persons in this city are engaged in the sale of dime novels, and that it is sold to boys and girls—schoolboys and schoolgirls. 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