

TESTIS IN COELO FIDELIS

# The True Witness

AND  
CATHOLIC THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

VOL. XLIII., NO. 6.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1893.

PRICE 5 CENTS.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

FATHER ESTALAN, A Jesuit missionary, and a veritable hero and martyr, was the subject of a dispute and finally a disagreement, between the infidel authoress Harriet Martineau, and Mr. Willis, the managing editor of Charles Dickens' "Household Words." The life and death of Father Estalan had been carefully read by the authoress and although an avowed freethinker of the dreariest school of her dreary period she was inspired by the account of that heroic life and death, and embodied it in one of her sketches, which she, as confidently as possible, forwarded to Mr. Willis. In a short time she received a message from him "Spenlow" had no objection, but "Jorkins" thought the story smacked too much of Popery. In conclusion he asked Miss Martineau to write another. This is the reply which this worthy woman sent: "Not if I lived for 100 years would I write again for a publication in which a tale of human heroism is refused on the score of the faith of him who performed it."

THE PREMIER has returned after a long sojourn in Paris. Sir John Thompson has gained new laurels during the few months of his absence from Canada. It is true that he did not go on a political mission, but the fact of having been chosen to act as a judge in the most important international arbitration that has perhaps taken place this century, is in itself an honor to this Dominion and reflects upon the people of Canada. The reception given to him in Ottawa had no political significance; it was a tribute to a man who has risen through energy and ability to the highest place within the gift of the people, and whose great talents have been recognized by the principle nations of the world. But there are mean souls that cannot rise above the murky atmosphere of political partizanship—they have been trying to make capital out of the Premier's unostentatious return. He comes back in a very different manner from that in which Count Mercier returned some time ago from his protracted stay in Paris: he also returns somewhat in a manner that contrasts with that in which the fallen idol of Sir John's political opponents returned from Chicago.

THE cholera scourge still rages at Naples, Rome has been touched by it. So far, despite the couple of little alarms that we have had, this side of the Atlantic seems to be safe. However, we cannot feel perfectly secure until the dread phantom has taken its departure in the direction whence it came. Perhaps there is no enemy that could possibly cause greater consternation in a country than this terrible plague. It is so merciless, and so rapid in its work. In another column we publish a short article on protection from cholera. The information therein given may prove useful to all who read it. There is no quack's trickery about the common sense state-

ment of the eminent gentleman who prescribes the easiest and most pleasant of all remedies—hot food. Even were we never to be visited by the epidemic, it is no burden to know of a sure preventative; in fact, it should apply in our frequent cases of Canadian cholera.

IRELAND'S DAY at the World's Fair promises to be a grand success. Already are great preparations being made and it is expected that fully three hundred thousand sons of the "Ancient Race" will meet on that day, in and around the Irish Village, to celebrate the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America, or in other words the discovery of a second Ireland. We hope sincerely that the demonstration will be but the prelude to that greater one which will take place when the flag of Erin floats over a native legislature, in Dublin. The prospects are daily becoming brighter; may they so continue until the "sunburst" of liberty flashes upon the national horizon.

THE Daily Witness is a very naughty organ; it has been giving bad advice to the House of Lords. In its issue of last Saturday it suggests that the Lords should not reject the Home Rule Bill (very kind of the Witness), but it adds that they have an opportunity of so cutting the measure up and disfiguring it, that if sent back to its parents in the Commons they would not recognize their off-spring. It is very mean of the Witness to come out at this late hour, when hopes are highest, and give such a cute plan to the Lords spiritual and temporal. If they reject the Bill the Witness will rejoice and shout like a good Unionist; if they don't reject it the Witness will say that they read its Saturday issue and took its advice; and if they cut the Bill to pieces the Witness will claim that it has been the cause of such a course. In fine, our contemporary is very cute but very vain. We have no doubt of it, that were the Witness to have control of the British governmental machinery for twenty-four hours it would do in that space of time what all the statesmen of Great Britain have not done in centuries: it would smash the whole constitution to pieces or perish in the attempt. A special number, bound in Unionist colors, of last Saturday's Witness should be sent to the clerk of the House of Lords with a request that it be read before the Home Rule Bill is taken up.

IT WAS our intention to comment somewhat fully upon an article that we published last week from the Catholic Universe on the subject of our schools. But as a correspondent has touched upon the question very pointedly we will reserve our own remarks for later on. However, we wish to call attention to a small but most useful and even necessary volume that has just issued from the press of Prof. P. O'Shea, of New York, and which is entitled an essay on "Management of Christian Schools." If we may surmise, by the initials at the

end of the preface, we think it must be the work of Brother Noah, of the De La Salle Institute, New York. The work deserves most careful perusal and should be studied from cover to cover by every one interested in the management of schools. We cannot possibly enter into an analysis of the book in this issue, but later on we will again call attention to it and point out the admirable plan of the little *chef d'oeuvre*, while indicating the principal features in the contents. Meanwhile we heartily advise all educators to secure a copy of the work.

THERE is scarcely any one in Montreal who has not noticed, with admiration, the vast improvements that are being made in St. Mary's College, on Bleury street. The Jesuit Fathers are sparing no cost to make of their already most popular institution, one of the finest educational establishments in Canada. Somehow or other a rumor has gone abroad to the effect that the immense work that is being doing will prevent the opening of the classes at the usual time. Notwithstanding this unfounded report, St. Mary's College will be ready for the reception of pupils on the sixth of September. Accommodation for over six hundred students is at the disposal of the Fathers, and by November it is expected that the last touches will have been given to the house. Consequently—all other rumors to the contrary notwithstanding—St. Mary's College will be open on the 6th of September and the regular class work will immediately commence. There is another point to which we wish to draw attention in a most special manner. Last June we had some correspondence on the subject of "English in our Colleges," and it appears that the impression exists that we have no English classical courses in our Catholic institutions. We pointed out, amongst others, that of St. Laurent. We now wish to accentuate the fact that the Jesuit Fathers, of St. Mary's College, Bleury street, have had, for five years past, an English classical course. This year there are two complete and entirely distinct courses—as much so as if there were two distinct colleges—one in French, the other in English. Of course both languages are taught in each of these; but they are not mixed courses. There is a complete staff of English and a complete staff of French teachers. So that the pupil has the option of following his classical course in either language. Rev. Father O. B. Devlin, S. J., who has been appointed Prefect of Studies and Discipline, will oversee the both, with the assistance of the professors in each. Therefore on Wednesday, 6th September, the college will be ready for the coming term.

WE received a letter from Mr. Ira P. Wood, West Troy, New York, in which he complained that last June an illustrated monthly of this Dominion offered a free ticket to the World's Fair to the first person who would build eighty

words out of the letters forming the word "Montreal." Mr. Wood claims to have constructed eighty-five words, and that he received notice that the first prize was his; but that his name should be enrolled before July the 8th on the subscription list, and \$2.50 should be paid therefor. The sum was sent, but no ticket has been forthcoming. On August 18th he received the July number of the magazine, showing the name was on the list and the conditions on his part had been fulfilled. We are not able to answer his question as to whether the offer is a fraud or not. We hope for the credit of our journalism that there is some mistake. Probably an oversight; or again the ticket may be reserved for September—the most pleasant month of the year. If not, then we think that the public should be protected against such methods. We hope Mr. Wood will get his honestly won ticket before the World's Fair closes; both for his own benefit and for the good name of our magazines.

WE clip the following from the Sacred Heart Review, of Boston,—it appears in its issue of the 26th August:

"We have seen what we never thought to see: a newspaper referring to its controversy with another newspaper, and acknowledging, frankly, fairly and squarely, and without being called upon to do so, that it was wrong and the other paper right. We are happy to be able to say that this remarkable, this unprecedented display of candor and sense was made by one of our Catholic exchanges, the Montreal True Witness. There is hope for the profession yet."

We are thankful for such a kind appreciation of our paper. The act was only one of justice on our part, and we deserve no more credit for it than for the performance of any duty. While we hold our opinions honestly and express them fearlessly, still we lay no claim to infallibility. We know that, even with the best intention in the world, we are liable to err. And whenever we find that we have been mistaken we are always prepared to remedy that mistake. It does not suit a Catholic organ, professing to defend the Truth, to be too tenacious of its own ideas—above all when it finds that they are not exactly in harmony with what it knows to be correct. It is true we were not asked to refer to the controversy in question; but the moment we discovered our partial error of judgment, we deemed it our duty to rectify, as soon as possible, any mistaken impressions that might have been caused. We hope to see the day that our Catholic organs will, one and all, study up carefully every question they treat, and study not only for the purpose of answering and silencing an opponent, but also with a view to securing accurate and exact knowledge in order to impart it to others. There is more disgrace in persisting in a contention when obviously wrong than in acknowledging the fallibility of your judgment, for you prove by the latter course that you have studied your subject conscientiously, even when the discussion is over.