

OUR CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR.

Now's the Day and Now's the Hour.

On Monday evening next, immediately after the mission service in St. Patrick's Church, a mass meeting of the Irish Catholic citizens of Montreal will be held in St. Patrick's Hall. The object of the meeting is to nominate a candidate for the mayoralty. For months the "True Witness" has filled its columns with appeals to the Irish-Catholic element to prevent, by one grand united movement, the passing away of a right that usage has consecrated and that practice has confirmed. We have begged of our people not to allow our term to be lost, nor to hazard the future municipal influence that we should possess by ignoring the important crisis now upon us. We admit that the general excuse for apathy, or indifference was that we had no candidate, no man willing to undertake the self-sacrificing task of heroically standing in the breach and safeguarding the sacred interests of our people. The occasion is at hand; the man is ready—provided the Irish people of this city give evidence of their unanimous desire to save the cause of justice and fair representation. The occasion comes in the form of Mayor Prefontaine's intention to violate the unwritten compact which has given the mayoralty to a French-Canadian, an English-speaking Protestant, and an Irish-Catholic—each, in turn, and his determination to create a precedent that would pave the way to a monopoly of the chief magistracy, or even a dictatorship in the person of an over-ambitious aspirant. The man is Mr. William McNally, one of Montreal's leading merchants, and possibly one of the most able Irish-Catholic representatives that our city could secure. Mr. McNally is prepared to face the struggle, to fight to the finish, and then—after victory—to give equal justice to all races and all religious sections of our mixed community. Nothing has been a keener sense of duty could ever induce such a man to step out of the regular pathway that he has followed in life, and enter an arena in which he has never had any ambitions. But the fact that if the term is allowed to go by default, a long standing agreement will be violated, and each section of the community instead of having the assurance of a regular turn for the representation of its members in the mayoralty, would discover that in future the securing of such an honor would become a matter of scramble and indiscriminate grab, has its weight with the new and young aspirant, and will go a long way in determining his

course of action. The only condition necessary is the united expression of the Irish people. This is no time for sectional differences, for political bickerings, for factional disputes, for personal antagonisms; it is a crisis in which all—without exception—must stand shoulder to shoulder; and if, for once the Irish-Catholics of Montreal unite, they will have the co-operation of all fair-minded citizens of other sections, and the month of February next will see Mr. William McNally Mayor of the city. There is not a qualification that Mr. McNally lacks. Born and educated in Montreal, he has made it the home and the scene of his many successes in the commercial world to which he belongs. Financially, socially, commercially, intellectually, and in every other manner, he is one pre-eminently fitted to occupy the chair of Chief Magistrate. The Board of Trade has acknowledged his abilities and other sterling qualities, in conferring upon him honors that are often to rare amongst our people. A young man, of splendid record, and with a character that glitters under the searchlight of inquiry, and in its sheen the jewels of integrity, patriotism and fidelity, to every duty, public or private, are conspicuous. An honor to himself and to his own immediate relatives, a credit to the Irish race, a model for Catholics, and an example worthy the imitation of all sections. Mr. McNally will come before the electorate with one of the clearest records of any man in Canada. There is no further any excuse. The honor of our people is at stake; the preservation of our rights, our privileges, our interests hang in the balance; the most momentous crisis in our civic history is upon us; the man to redeem much that has been lost, and to establish the municipal importance of our people, is found. Mr. McNally, replied very briefly when asked about his candidature; but he left it clearly to be understood that he was willing, if the Irish people were willing. It is a glorious thing that there is a man, possessing every qualification necessary, prepared to respond to the call of the moment; it remains for the Irish-Catholics of all classes and divisions—rich and poor, great and small—to rally around the standard borne by Mr. McNally, and thereby secure the perpetuity of our just claim to every third term, as well as demonstrate to the great public one phase of the danger that still menaces.

evident that the speaker purposely omitted to mention the Roman Catholic Church—just as if it were not the only true Church of Christ. Referring to all the denominational churches, he claims that they should have more to say in politics, as they would learn much from the politicians, while the politicians would greatly benefit the members. It is well that he does not include the Catholic Church, for in her case, his argument would not stand five seconds.

The Archbishop of Paris has decided that the Exposition is to be inaugurated by a solemn High Mass, celebrated in the Basilica of the Sacre Coeur, with all ceremonial and the assistance of an orchestra comprising some of the greatest artists in the musical world.

Special cable despatches announce General Canare's retirement, with 633 British casualties, after an attack on an impregnable position at Stormberg with a force of 2,700.

French statistics of the last year show that the number of deaths has increased by 54,054, while the number of births has decreased by 15,174.

At Washington the Apostolic Delegate there has received the text of the decree from the Pope designating the year 1900 as the holy year. The decree permits the celebration of midnight Mass in all Catholic Churches on the night of December 31. This is the first time in the history of the Church that any priest has been permitted to celebrate mass at the midnight beginning of the new year. The decree also grants the privilege of communion at the midnight Mass.

Henri Turcot, a brilliant French journalist, who has been studying the situation in the Philippines says that it would take the United States ten years with 100,000 to pacify that country.

Strenuous efforts are being made to put down bull fighting in France. A society just formed, and called the Union Populaire Contre Courses Taureaux, already numbers 2,000 members, of whom 117 are Deputies.

The congregation of the Hanson Place Baptist Church, in Brooklyn, intend having a roof garden, or open air auditorium, on the new edifice where services can be held in summer months. Heretofore they simply closed up the church in summer time. What effect will this Babylonian-hanging-garden system have? Next summer will tell.

The London County Council has decided to expend \$15,000,000 on the extension of the main drainage system. It has also invited tenders for converting the whole of London's tramway system from horse to the electric conduit traction. With street improvements and other public works the Council is committed to a total outlay of \$100,000,000. This means work for the millions. It is badly needed in London.

The official opening of the Paris Exposition will take place on Saturday, 14th April next.

The date originally set was Easter Sunday, which falls on April 15. From the fact that the official opening is now fixed for the preceding day, it would seem that the grounds and building will be opened to the general public on the great Christian festival next spring.

An episcopal ring, an episcopal cross, a purple robe, a Swiss timepiece that had done service for upward of half a century, and \$2.92 in money—these were the chief assets of the Right Rev. Louis de Goossbriand, Bishop of Burlington, when he died.

According to the Ave Maria the General Communion of the Catholic Young Men's National Union, which took place on December 10th, witnessed 50,000 young men approach the Holy Table. The union is a federation of all the Catholic societies of the Republic. Its aim is to solidify the influence of Catholic young men. When 50,000 speak by the eloquence of such an action as a general communion, it is very likely that their united voice will be heard and will carry weight with it. We should have such an organization in Canada.

A class in cooking has been started at the home of the Gray Nuns, 89 Union Park Street, Boston. Miss Marietta McPherson, a graduate of the Boston Cooking School, will be the instructor.

The "Catholic Columbian" says the firm of Harper & Bros., which has printed more anti-Catholic literature than any other publishers in America is bankrupt. Pierpont Morgan, one of the creditors is trying to put it on its feet.

The "Catholic Journal" of Memphis, publishes some extracts from the financial statement of St. Peter's Orphan Asylum. It says:—"From September 1, 1898 to September 1, 1899, the receipts from all sources amounted to \$5,150.30; total expenditures for the same period being \$3,817.94, leaving a cash balance to the credit of the board of \$1,332.36.

This certainly is a magnificent showing when the fact is taken into consideration that the register shows that 118 orphans were clothed, fed, educated and cared for during the past year.

Augusta, Ga., was the scene of a most disastrous fire a few days ago. The loss is estimated at \$1,000,000.

The Conservative press is jubilant over the result of the recent local elections in Manitoba, and attributes the same to the political policy of the triumphant party; the Liberal press, on the other hand, pretends that the defeat of the Greenway Government is due to the natural desire on the part of the people, for a change, after long years of unchanged Government. It is a subject for the discussion of politicians, and each party will seek to make as much capital, or draw as much consolation as possible out of it. As far as we are concerned we agree with neither one side nor the other. We look upon the result as an example of that retribution which must always come, sooner or later, when a party or an individual perpetrates an act of injustice. There is no escape from it; experience and history alike teach that the ultimate ending of all powers that are guilty of wrong doing, is extinction.

The many friends of Sister Kavanagh, of the Grey Nuns, will regret to learn that she is dangerously ill at the Mother House Guy Street. Sister Kavanagh returned from Toledo a short time ago.

CIVIC AFFAIRS.

THE MAYORALTY.—His Honor Mayor Prefontaine, has been long feeling his way to another term, and has certainly been "placing himself in the hands of his friends," while praying in his heart that "his friends" (meaning a small circle of interested individuals) would use the opportunity of having him in their hands to pitch him into office for two years more. In an interview with "La Presse," Mr. Prefontaine said that he certainly intended to seek election, "because he has good reason to believe that it is the wish of the people." This is very fine, indeed. Any man, who can succeed in getting half a dozen friends together and have them pass a resolution favorable to his candidacy, can say that he is merely obeying the voice of the people. But if all Montreal, irrespective of creed, race or party, were to fall down at Mr. Prefontaine's knees and beg of him to cease more to be mayor of this city for a term of two years, in face of the broad principle which he laid down on the occasion of his election two years ago, he could not consistently accept. Irrespective of Mr. Prefontaine's very natural and laudable impression of his own omnipotence in municipal affairs, and his own indispensability as chief magistrate; still we claim that no individual citizen can possibly be so necessary that the fate of the city depends upon his retention of office. No man is of such terrific importance that the earth would cease to revolve, or a country cease to exist, or a city cease to be governed by laws made in her own council, the moment that such a prominent individual drops from the ranks. What we insist upon is, not so much Mr. Prefontaine and his policy, his achievements, his contradictory principles, and his ungovernable ambition, as the fact that an evil precedent would be created, and the gate would be open for the free admission of all and every aspirant of the future. It is not because Mr. Prefontaine would fail in doing honor to civic dignity, but because the ice would be broken and for all time to come our city would be exposed to the danger of a dictatorship on the part of each new Mayor.

ST. ANN'S MARKET, which is something of a historical monument, and which is an old landmark to farmers in the districts adjoining Montreal, is doomed to destruction. The city fathers in their wisdom have decided that its usefulness has gone, and that it must cease to exist on the 1st of April next. The market is on the site formerly occupied by the Parliament buildings, which were burned to the ground more than sixty years ago. Perhaps Mr. Perry will mark the occasion by publishing a fresh batch of reminiscences.

MUNICIPAL CENSUS.—We are glad to note that the City Council has practically decided to have a census of the city taken next month, and that the compilation will contain what we have long claimed as a right—namely, a separate classification for English-speaking Catholics. Our readers are thoroughly familiar with the important grounds on which we have based this claim. Our societies should take steps without delay to secure for our people a correct and full enumeration in the Montreal census.

SNEERS OF THE "DAILY WITNESS."

It is hard to overcome a bad habit that has long existed. The "Daily Witness" has, it must be candidly acknowledged, been making efforts of late to conquer its evil propensity to insult the Church and its august head. But that it has not yet succeeded in mending its ways in this regard is evident from an editorial which it published on Tuesday afternoon. A telegram from New York, was published in the papers that day stating that His Holiness the Pope had sent a communication to the Papal Delegate in the United States, Archbishop Martinelli, in reference to the special devotions to be practised at the beginning of 1900, which he has declared to be a Holy Year. The reporter who sent the telegram jumped to the mistaken conclusion that by so acting the Holy Father had decided the old controversy as to the end and the beginning of a century in favor of those who contend that the twentieth century will start on January 1st, 1900; and the "Daily Witness" hastened to sneer at the Pope's infallibility in going against the teaching of "science," which tells us that the new century will not begin until January 1st, 1901.

The "Daily Witness" is as ignorant of the instructions of the Sovereign Pontiff as to the special religious services to be held throughout Christendom next year and the year after as it is of the doctrine of Papal Infallibility. Nearly a year ago all the Catholic newspapers of Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom—the whole world in fact—published the programme of special devotions which the Pope had ordered to be held in the closing year of the nineteenth and opening of the twentieth century. The communication received by Archbishop Martinelli has reference to the closing year—1900—of this century, as was distinctly mentioned in the programme to which we have alluded. Of course the "Daily Witness" will not publish this correction of its error. Why does not the "Daily Witness" direct its ridicule against prominent Protestants who declare that the century begins on January 1st, 1900? The president of Wellesley College, Mass., asserted in writing last week that such was the case, and so did the president of Smith College.

Since writing the above the "Daily Witness" published the following letter from His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi:

(To the Editor of the "Witness.") Sir,—In last night's "Witness" I read a New York despatch announcing the appearance of a Papal decree relative to the inauguration of the approaching century. As I have not seen the text of the decree in question, I am not in a position to speak on the subject. However, on the strength of that despatch you publish in last evening's issue an editorial against which I deem it my duty to protest. The writer refers to the Pope in terms calculated to give offence to every Catholic. He alludes to Papal infallibility, indirectly, it is true, and in a manner which shows once more the false notions held by our separated brethren concerning that Catholic dogma. As a matter of fact, the question at issue, "When does the new century begin?" has no connection whatever with the infallibility of the Pope. I remain, yours truly, PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal, Archbishop's Palace, Montreal, Dec. 13, 1899.

CHRISTMAS ORDINATIONS.

At certain periods in the year, and especially on the approach of such grand festivals as Christmas and Easter, the church ordains her ministers. This year the Christmas Ordination ceremonies will be performed by His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi, at the Cathedral. The day fixed for that solemn event is Saturday, 23rd December; and the hours of the celebration are from seven till half past ten in the forenoon. On this occasion 25 priests will be ordained, and about 75 others will receive either deaconship, sub-deaconship, minor orders, or tonsure. All of the young men whose sacerdotal lives will commence with the eve of Christmas, are destined to exercise the functions of their holy ministry throughout the various dioceses of Canada and the United States. The retreat preparatory to the reception of the grand Sacrament of Holy Orders, will commence to-morrow, Sunday, the 17th, December, and close on the night of the 22nd instant. May the choicest graces fall upon the aspirants to the sacerdotal dignity which is our wish and prayer.

ECHOES FROM QUEBEC.

QUEBEC, December 14.—Alderman Reynolds, the present Acting Mayor of this city, received a very gratifying proof, on Saturday evening last, of the esteem in which he is held not only by his Irish Catholic fellow

citizens, but by those of other nationalities and creeds. The popular alderman reached his fiftieth year on that day, and his friends and admirers took advantage of the occasion to let him know how warm a place he holds in their hearts. He was entertained at a banquet at the Victoria Hotel, where he was also presented with an appropriate and a handsome and valuable gold locket. His many friends in Montreal, where he is highly respected and where he is as popular as he is in Quebec, took part in the subscription for the purchase of the gift. A large number of prominent citizens attended, and speeches highly eulogistic of the many, good and lovable qualities of the host were delivered amidst hearty applause; and Alderman Reynolds, who was deeply touched at what he aptly termed "that grand demonstration of friendship," made a suitable reply. Songs and recitations lent variety to what will long be remembered by the Irish Catholics of Quebec as a very notable gathering.

TESTIMONIAL FUND FOR SENIOR SHAMROCKS.

Table listing names and amounts for the testimonial fund, including C. F. Smith, F. J. Hart, William McNally, Rev. J. E. Donnelly, M. McDonnell, M. Quigly, F. Featherstone, T. F. Trihey, J. P. Clarke, P. J. Carroll, C. A. McDonnell, J. E. Manning, W. J. O'Brien, E. Hart, W. P. Lunny, P. Wright, T. McBrearty, D. Tansey, P. Fagan, F. B. McNamee, Rev. J. C. Strubbe, T. P. Owens, H. McLaughlin, W. J. McKenna, W. H. Kearney, R. J. Cooke, J. P. Hammill, John Callaghan, C. M. Hart, Clarence Smith, Mr. Justice C. J. Doherty, Rev. William O'Meara, Hon. Sir William Hingston, James P. Bamford, Mr. Flynn, John McCarry, and E. de Grandpre.

ST. ANN'S SCHOOL.

The boys of St. Ann's School (who are preparing to sing the story of "Aladdin or the Wonderful Lamp." The adventures of the hero of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in his search for riches in the mountain of You-Bet is exceedingly interesting. The pretty little Operette has been prepared by Prof. J. O'Donnell, graduate of the Military School of Music, and late bandmaster in the British Army. It will be sung for the children of the Parish on December 22nd, and repeated on the 29th, for adults.

CAN YOU LIGHT THIS OFFICE?

This is a question often asked of the Luxfer Prism Company. It is a vital question. No one can afford to work all day under artificial light—it is killing. This lighting problem is sometimes a very difficult one to solve. The Luxfer Prism Company's experts make this a specialty and it costs nothing to get their opinion on any situation, and they will be pleased to tell you what can be done. At the Offices of The Guardian Assurance Company, The Dominion Cotton Company and others, the results of Luxfer Lights prove that they are wonderfully effective.—Gazette, January 17th.

LACHINE CONVENT.

For the occasion of the "Jubilee Celebrations" of the Sisters of St. Ann, to be held August next, the Mother General requests each of the former pupils of the Mother House to send her address as soon as possible. Lachine, November 28th, 1899.

VOTE OF CONDOLENCE.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Irish Catholic Benefit Society, held in St. Ann's Hall, corner of Young and Ottawa streets, the following resolutions were unanimously passed: Resolved, That this Society has learned with regret of the death of the wife of our esteemed member Mr. Thomas Carroll, of No. 347 Wellington Street, and desire to express its sympathy with Mr. Carroll and family in their bereavement, and trust they may be comforted in the hope that her spirit is with God in a happier sphere than ours. Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to Mr. Thos. Carroll, and family, and to the "True Witness" for publication in that journal.—R.I.P.

Good music is an important factor in the well-conducted church service. It influences the mind to a remarkable degree and makes it receptive of the highest thoughts and feelings. Men's consciences can often be reached through their emotions when it is impossible to touch them in any other way, and anything which secures that end is a benediction. Thus the organ which is used in a church becomes of vital importance. It should be the best, and this is what Mason & Hamlin organs are. From its foundation in 1854 as a firm, this organization has always stood at the head, and its instruments have been recognized as the standard of the world. The church which uses one of them has taken a long step in the right direction.

News of the Week.

At the thirty-third annual conference of the National Union of Conservative and Constitutional Associations, held at Dewsbury, in November last, Mr. W. R. Plummer, of Newcastle, had the distinctive honor of proposing this resolution: "That the question of a more equitable distribution of Parliamentary representation, especially with regard to the existing over-representation of Ireland, demands the early and serious attention of Her Majesty's Government." He maintained that England should have 499 members, instead of 465; Wales should have 30 members, which was its exact representation; Scotland should have 68, instead of 72; and Ireland should have 73, instead of 103. Ireland and Scotland had 34 members, in excess of their just proportion. Needless to say that the resolution was carried unanimously.

An important decision was that of the United States Supreme Court, dealing with the right of the Government to appropriate money for an institution conducted by Catholic religious. The terms of the judgment give equal rights to Catholics in the eye of the law; the decision read thus:—"Assuming that the hospital is a private eleemosynary corporation, the fact that its members, according to the belief of the complain-

ant are members of a monastic order or Sisterhood of the Roman Catholic Church, and the further fact that the hospital is conducted under the auspices of said church, are wholly immaterial. Whether the individuals who compose the corporation under its charter happen to be all Roman Catholics, or all Methodists, or Presbyterians, or Unitarians, or members of other religious organizations or of no organization at all is not of the slightest consequence with reference to the law of its incorporation. All that can be said of the corporation itself is that it has been incorporated by an act of Congress and for its legal powers and duties that act must be exclusively referred to."

As will be seen in another column Killamney has been purchased for \$300,000 by Lord Ardilaun, a member of the famous Guinness family. All Ireland is rejoiced.

A week ago last Friday, Mr. Michael Davitt sustained severe injuries around the head and body, in falling from an outside car upon which he was riding in Dublin. We are glad to learn, however, that despite his heavy fall, Mr. Davitt is improving.

In the New York Avenue M. E. Church, the other night, there was a peculiar gathering at which Controller B. S. Coler, delivered an address on "What the Church can learn from the great political portion." It is quite