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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1896

THE WISEST COURSE.

In referring to the selection of an Irish Catholic of the right stamp and calibre to represent Montreal Irishmen at the coming convention, we indirectly indicated the qualities and character that such a delegate ought to possess. Our readers will, we are sure, excuse a few words further on the same subject. Altogether apart from personal considerations, what the future of Ireland is to be may depend very largely upon the wisdom, sincerity and earnestness manifested at the approaching convention. How much Ireland has suffered in the past from rivalries and divided purposes when her situation called for entire unity of aim and the sinking of personal ambitions for the general good, we need not consult the pages of history to know. Our memories alone will supply as much evidence of that kind as it is pleasant to contemplate. The first essential, therefore, for a renewal of the patriotic movement on a safe footing and with a programme likely to yield good results is unanimity and so fervent a sympathy with the common cause that personal quarrels and clique feuds will be swept aside in the great current of national striving and loyal hope. To be loyal to Ireland, a man must be prepared to sacrifice more or less of his own preferences, and it is just because some men whose abilities gave them influence refused to sacrifice anything for a united party that the scandal of a divided party has for years past shocked the proprieties of the Irish people the world over. We know, of course, that such stumbling-blocks to happy and successful co-operation must come in the very nature of things. Disintegration is the natural tendency of political parties once the strong binding force of the born leader's will is withdrawn. Such a leader does not attempt to stifle men's consciences or to interfere with their personal likes or dislikes. His triumph it is that he gently constrains all such individual differences, as in some grand multiplicity of machinery, so as to produce the desired result. But it is because the successful leader has the aid of lieutenants of like mind, men who have first, like him, achieved self-conquest, and thus have learned how to control others, that he can work effectively on the mass of his followers. And underneath the lieutenants are chiefs of groups, from two to twenty-five and upwards, who are the spokesmen, chosen often unconsciously, for those who have faith in them.

Such is the organization of a parliamentary party, and it has been evident for some years that the Irish constitutional party needs to be disciplined under a leader fearless, honest and capable of retaining the allegiance of all its groups. But if there are difficulties in the ordering of a parliamentary party in such a way as to prevent outbreaks of revolt and insubordination, how much more arduous is the task of reducing to conformity of wise counsel and action such a body as this convention selected from the whole Irish nationality at home and abroad.

But, from all we read in the contemporary press of the United States devoted to Irish interests, we have every reason to hope that the delegates from the neighboring Republic will realize the

extreme delicacy of the function, with the discharge of which a constitutional leader and his fellow workers are entrusted. However they may feel about the wretched misgovernment of the past, they will recognize the marked change of opinion among English Liberals, and to a less extent, indirectly, among English Conservatives, which has been brought to pass by their valiant persistence of the Parliamentary Party during the last quarter of a century. That change is so remarkable that, had any Irish Nationalist ventured to predict it at the time when Dr. Isaac Butt assumed the leadership of the party, he would have been looked upon as a perfervid enthusiast.

Now the great danger to be guarded against in a convention in which extra-Imperial Irishmen are invited to express their views is that rash and violent speeches may tend to undo what has been accomplished with so much toil and patience and forbearance. As we have seen, there is a clique (and happily it is no more) which would take advantage of the recent Irish vote to turn the minds of English non-Conformists against their Irish allies. Now any utterance that would tend to justify such seceders as the Rev. Price Hughes would be most unwise. Nor would it be either wise or fair to forget what the Gladstonian Liberals have done for Ireland's cause, because, owing to conditions which they could not control, their efforts had failed to reach the final goal of success. The Home Rule movement has too many warm friends in England, Wales and Scotland to be injured by the factious cry of a man whose religious prejudices have got the better of him. The federal movement is practically on the same lines. The fact that the Scotch and the Welsh are asking for the same rights as the Irish is a guarantee that they will not desert the cause which they espoused ten years ago. We might almost say that, if there were no Nationalist organization in Ireland, the tendency of things, owing to the increasing pressure of work on the British Parliament is towards a division of labor. And local government, on the Canadian plan, is the only remedy for the congestion due to the present system. It would be unwise, therefore, to listen to any arguments intended to breed dissatisfaction with constitutional agitation. One result we hope the Convention will produce—the healing of the wounds that Ireland has received in the house of her friends. Conciliation established there, and a comprehensive policy agreed upon that will furnish opportunity to every true friend of Ireland for helping the common cause according to his abilities and means, a fresh stage in the movement will have been reached from which the united party can set out anew towards a destination that may be said to be within measurable distance.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Last week, in an article reproduced from the Owl, a quotation was given from his lordship Mr. Justice Street, a prominent Protestant Judge, of Ontario, in which he severely commented upon Godless schools as places from which young people were turned out upon the world without apparently having learned the difference between right and wrong. The charge was grave, but not made without reflection, and should command serious consideration. Beyond doubt, there is a great increase in juvenile crime. Many are the causes that are leading to this state of affairs; the Godless school is at the bottom of the evil, but it has many powerful accessories. The cheap sensational novel does its share in the work of destruction, but the sensational newspaper is most to be dreaded. To-day crime no longer hides its head, and we all know that notoriety is just as much craved for by those who are on the highway to depravity as eminence is sought for by nobler minds. The criminal is to-day prominently pictured in the daily press, no matter how heinous his or her crimes may have been, the full details either in their horror or their puerility are set forth, and in the home of every family the poison is to be found on the table and this literature has become a daily necessity. The newspaper that does not publish such matters is voted by a large section of the rising generation as slow and without enterprise, and thus the work of moral destruction goes on. Publishers will always be found ready to supply the sensation loving reader with the stimulating stuff his heart and mind crave for. When we look around and study the results of the great improvements in the printing press and in the various departments of the publishing house, whether the good derived therefrom compensates for the evil done is a very debatable question. In the meantime, all these considerations ought to awaken a deep interest in the school-house, in the catechism class, in the pulpit and in the columns of the Catholic press. The latter has no doubt many difficulties to contend with, but the signs of the times are in favor of a hopeful future for Catholic journalism. In the recent campaign

against Catholic education, the very violence and virulence of the anti-Catholic press has made many appeal to the heretofore despised Catholic journal to buckle on its armor and do battle for the good cause. Many who have thus appealed are persons who have never contributed a dollar to maintain a Catholic organ and who have always been ready to point to the many shortcomings of papers they had thus flagrantly failed to support. Persecution is hard to bear, but it is a medicine Providence allows to be administered to awaken people to a sense of the duty they have neglected and advantages they have spurned and the Christian activity in which they have been wanting.

THE MERCHANTS BANK.

The time was when the banking institutions of this country were free from the conditions which competition imposed upon other branches of trade and commerce, but within recent years it seems to be quite evident that banking institutions have to make a keener struggle in the great arena of finance, in order to secure that return for the capital invested which will enable them to satisfy the anxious shareholder. The Merchants Bank, as may be seen from its annual report, did a large volume of business, and succeeded through the wisdom and experience of its able general manager, Mr. Hague, to pay the usual dividend, but the effort to attain that result was made only after a great deal of anxiety and labor. Mr. Hague delivered an able and masterly address, full of detail, and marked by a sentiment of candor which must carry conviction as well as place him in the front rank of financiers in this country. There was a wealth of material in the deliverance, upon which all business men may well ponder. None the less effective was his clever attempt to raise the corner of the curtain which conceals the future. The report may be read with profit by all those who are interested in the institution.

CATHOLIC LITERATURE.

As the prominent reviews and magazines are daily deteriorating, devoting large portions of their space to the pictures and doings of actresses and others of more or less questionable prominence, the love story taking the place of the instructive article, Catholic publications are gradually coming to the front with vigorous matter which will cause them to find their way into the hands of the thoughtful. Catholics cannot hope to compete with the daily journalism of the hour, but as there are few papers that are not hide-bound partisans, writing not from conviction, but in the interest of politicians, the formation of public opinion on all questions of interest will gradually become the work of the periodical. The time was when the largest number sought not only their information but their opinion from the columns of the daily press. That is no longer the case. The news is as eagerly sought after as ever, perhaps more so, but the editor no longer wields the influence on men's minds as formerly exercised. Amongst the best Catholic publications at present are the Catholic World, O'Donahoe's Magazine, the Sacred Heart Review, N. Y., the Catholic Reading Circle. Many others might be mentioned in which the useful and agreeable are deftly mingled, and in all of which a true Catholic spirit is to be found.

VILLE MARIE BANK.

We presented our readers with the annual statement of the Ville Marie Bank last week. It was considered quite satisfactory. Mr. William Weir, the veteran financier who presides over the destinies of the Bank, made some very well timed references to the burning financial issues in the neighboring Republic. Mr. Weir also referred to the state of trade generally, and made particular allusion to the great benefits derived from the large hay crop in this Province. The president did not appear inclined to estimate the future in trade matters in consequence of the pending general elections in this country and the Presidential campaign in the United States.

In this issue we present our readers with a picture of the Administration Building and Assembly Hall of the Catholic Summer School of America, which is under the special direction of the Rev. Dr. Conaty. All information regarding the Summer School may be secured by making application to the office of the TRUE WITNESS.

His Holiness has appointed Father de Augustinis, a Jesuit theologian, to enquire into the validity of Anglican Orders.

The Order of La Trappe will soon receive a distinguished man of the world of art into its membership, it being reported that M. Tissot, the celebrated French water colorist, contemplates retiring to one of its monasteries.

A NEGLECTED BRANCH OF EDUCATION

When Saint Basil the Great lectured to his youthful disciples on the study of the Greek pagan writers, showing them, by examples drawn from poets and orators, how the works of such gifted men might be read with profit and even edification, he did not foresee the use that after ages were to make of his judicious counsel. In the middle of the 4th century, when Saint Basil flourished, Christendom had outlived the persecutions that had tested the faith of its professors and had added most glorious pages to the history of the Church. The spiteful restrictions by which it had been attempted to make Christian pupils derive advantages from pagan writings had long been annulled. Some zealous educators had tried to Christianize the master-pieces of pagan genius, but the experiment was not successful. Indeed, it was practically impossible in the early ages of the faith for Christian parents to secure for their children a thoroughly Christian training under Christian teachers. Basil himself had studied under the able pagan writer, Libanius, whose writings were so much admired by Julian the apostate. His learning, therefore, as well as the strictness of his life and gravity of his manners, assured whatever judgment he should pronounce of more than ordinary attention. His little treatise must for centuries have exerted an influence on the mind of the Eastern Church, and doubtless contributed in no slight degree to the preservation from destruction of the treasures of old Greek thought and learning. In the Western Church the cultivation of heathen literature, after the conversion of Constantine, was maintained in the Christian schools, and so fond were some of the Fathers of this branch of learning that more than one of them began to regard it as a temptation and determined to abandon it. But so strong is the force of habit that Saint Jerome in his Preface to Paulinus, when he is complaining of the multitude of persons who undertake to interpret the Holy Scriptures without any previous training for the task, slips unconsciously into a quotation from the *Ars Poetica* of Horace. Nevertheless, it was the Fathers of the Western Church who first organized a system of education adapted to the spiritual needs of Christians. Before the beginning of the sixth century the writings of the theologians, moralists, historians and poets of the Christian faith were numerous enough to take the place of the old classical authors. In the course of time, heathen teachers disappeared altogether and Christians supplied their places. In every diocese there were institutions for the instruction of the young, both in the doctrines of their faith and in the knowledge required for the work of life. The Benedictine monasteries were homes of culture in every sense. They were at once, in the words of a modern writer, "fortresses against crime, refuges for the oppressed, centres of instruction for the people, the free home of the sciences, archives of literature, schools for the young, universities for the learned, chanceries for kings, seminaries for priests, schools of agriculture, of manufacture, of music, architecture and painting." The pious and accomplished sisters of Saint Clare made provision for female education. The age of Charlemagne is generally looked upon as a season of refreshing in educational development. The great Emperor gathered around him some of the most erudite scholars of his time, Ireland, then distinguished for its learning, contributing to the number. From this time forward it is possible to follow the evolution of educational theory down to the modern period. There were seven branches of knowledge, or, as they are still academically termed, liberal arts—grammar, dialectic, rhetoric, music, arithmetic, geometry and astronomy. Of these the three first formed the trivium; the four last, the quadrivium. The advance made in the arts, sciences and letters during the middle ages is only beginning to be fairly judged by those who had been taught that wisdom was born with the Renaissance. The scholastic writers, with Saint Thomas Aquinas at their head, the triumphs of architecture, the beautiful manuscripts and illuminations, painting on glass, and the poems of troubadours, trouvadours and minnesingers, the Latin hymns of Adam de Saint Victor, and other masters of sacred song—these are only some of the triumphs of a period that many were wont to decry as barren. Not without reason did Cardinal Newman say that "those who talk against the Church owe it to the Church that they can talk at all."

JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY.

Cardinal Gibbons, in his introduction to the life of John Boyle O'Reilly, in his own beautiful language, says: "The best monument to a great and good man are the works with which his hand and his head have enriched the world. More fitting than by towering shaft of granite or of marble will the name of John Boyle O'Reilly be immortalized by the collection of his writings." A splendid volume of the works of the poet, litterateur and patriot was published in 1890, and thus the best monument was erected. But the admiration of his fellow-citizens did not rest there. On Saturday afternoon a monument in marble was unveiled and will for all time adorn the city that witnessed the last efforts of his genius. John Boyle O'Reilly lives in the hearts of the people, his fame is increasing as years roll by. In the words of the great Cardinal, "The country of his adoption lives with the land of his birth, in testifying to the uprightness of his life, the usefulness of his career and his example, the gentleness of his character, the nobleness of his soul. The bitterest prejudices of race and creed seem to have been utterly conquered by the masterful goodness of his heart and the winning sweetness of his tongue and to have turned into all the greater admiration of the man."

JACQUES CARTIER BANK.

The annual statement of the Jacques Cartier Bank was presented to the shareholders at the annual meeting, held last week. The report of the directors while being frank and outspoken in regard to the disappointment experienced during the year, in consequence of the small profits realized, was, nevertheless, reassuring, on account of the well directed resolve to concentrate the operations of the institution, and curtail the banking business in the branches, as well as to give a closer supervision to new accounts. A half-yearly dividend of three per cent. was declared.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

DURING the year 1895 there were 10,500 murders in the United States.

THE corner stone of the new Catholic Protectors for boys in Philadelphia was laid on Sunday.

THERE will be a monster meeting held in St. James Hall, London, Eng., this evening, in connection with the release of Irish political prisoners. Mr. John Dillon, M.P., will preside.

MR. J. T. RODGERS, superintendent of the Bombay Tramway Co., died recently, and before passing away was at his earnest request received into the Catholic Church by Father Horne, S.J.

THE London Times says: The Swiss Government is considering a law to compel all persons whose earnings do not exceed \$600 per year to insure themselves against accident and sickness.

A PARLIAMENTARY correspondent says: "We are not likely to see any more of the Irish Education Bill, the Government having, in consequence of the attitude of the Irish Catholic Bishops, abandoned all hope of making further progress with the measure."

WE have received a very neat pamphlet, containing an able and scholarly address, delivered sometime ago, under the auspices of the St. Vincent de Paul Council, of Worcester, Mass., by the Rev. Dr. Conaty, the President of the Catholic Summer School of America.

THE new parliament buildings at Budapest, costing nearly a million and a half sterling, were opened with great ceremony last week. The people of the Hungarian capital were treated to a splendid historical pageant, and the crown was conveyed from the cathedral to the Houses of Parliament, and thence to the royal palace at Buda.

In a letter to a Runcorn minister on the subject of the Turkish Government, Mr. Gladstone writes: "My opinion of the Turkish Government is now exhibited to the world is that it is the greatest scourge to mankind and the greatest scandal and disgrace to religion, including the religion of Mahomet, to be found on the face of the earth."

THE United States Alien Commissioners find that 67 per cent. of the Italian emigrants arriving in New York are illiterate, and an Act of Congress will be passed at once requiring all persons to be able to read and write. This Act will be put in force by the American Consuls at the port of embarkation so that the inconvenience of returning the emigrants to their own country will be avoided.

A SOMEWHAT novel method of advertising is:

A firm of Chicago, to signalize the first anniversary of its entrance into the commercial world, offered \$1,000 in gold, to be divided among the three charitable institutions of the city that by public vote should be declared the most popular. One hundred and seventy-two charities appeared as competitors. Of these the Little Sisters of the Poor received 10,494 votes, the Fresh Air fund 9,491, and the Home for the Friendless 3,197. The money was divided among the three winners in the proportions of \$500, \$300 and \$200.

ST. ANN'S PARISH.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO BE HELD ON JULY 11.

The fourteenth annual pilgrimage of St. Ann's Parish to Ste. Anne de Beaupré will be held on the 11th July. It will be under the special supervision of the Redemptorist Fathers, and will leave the Jacques Cartier pier at 3.30 p.m. The Fathers have issued a very neat and comprehensive little programme showing the order of the exercises, as well as giving the names of the different villages which dot the banks of the St. Lawrence between this city and Quebec. The St. Ann's pilgrimage has always been marked by great success. All necessary particulars regarding tickets and staterooms may be secured on making application to the St. Ann's presbytery, 32 Basin street.

MOUNT ST. LOUIS COLLEGE.

MASTER J. J. SHEA WINS FIRST PLACE IN THE MUSICAL COMPETITION.

On Friday, June 19th the final musical competition took place at Mount St. Louis College. We are glad to learn that our young violinist, Master J. J. Shea, only 12 years of age, was proclaimed champion. Master Shea is the son of John S. Shea, tinner, C. & D. S. Bank, and a nephew of Rev. Father McManamin, P. P., of Simcoe, Ont., and of Rev. Father Shea, St. Mary's, Montreal. We congratulate our young violinist.

The following gentlemen were appointed to take up the collection in St. Patrick's Church for the three next Sundays, viz., Messrs. John McCrorry, John Days, William Kelly and J. Bolster.

The total volume of gold and silver now in use in the United States is eight times as much as it was in 1873.