

The True Witness and Catholic Chronicle

Printed and Published by the True Witness P. & P. Co., Limited, 178 St. James Street Montreal, Canada.

P. O. BOX 1138.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

Table with subscription rates: CITY OF MONTREAL, Delivered, \$1.50; OTHER PARTS OF CANADA, 1.00; UNITED STATES, 1.00; NEWFOUNDLAND, 1.00; GREAT BRITAIN, IRELAND and FRANCE, 1.50; BELGIUM, ITALY, GERMANY and AUSTRALIA, 2.00

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TERMS, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

EPISCOPAL APPROBATION.

If the English Speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province consulted their best interests, they would soon make of the TRUE WITNESS one of the most prosperous and powerful Catholic papers in the country.

PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

SATURDAY.....MAY 19, 1900.

SALISBURY AND IRELAND.

As is natural to expect, Lord Salisbury's remarks at the recent annual meeting of the Primrose League in Albert Hall, have created considerable comment.

Before entering into the consideration of the British Premier's declaration, we may incidentally remark that his words are but a repetition with some difference of terms of declarations made by fully half a dozen Prime Ministers before his time.

There remains the bright consolation that in spite of the Premier's hostility, the Home Rule movement under a re-united Irish party will continue on, without interruption, until such time as the grand object is attained.

Turning now to the logic, or rather absence of logic, in the whole speech—as far as England is concerned—we cannot bring ourselves to consider it as a serious effort.

In the first place there is no parallel whatsoever between the case of the Transvaal and that of Ireland.

far as Great Britain is concerned, and under a Republica form of government practically independent of any other power; the latter is at the very door of England, within a twelve hours' sail; is inhabited by a race distinct from the Saxon, but one which has for centuries contributed—either through compulsion or from good will—to the building up of the British Empire, and, while Great Britain's most insignificant colonies have enjoyed local legislation, or Home Rule, Ireland—the most important section of that Empire outside of England, has been coerced and crushed by laws at variance with the country's interests, and has been kept in a state of virtual servitude by a power which owes her most of its ubiquity and strength. Consequently, it is illogical and politically dishonest—if not entirely false—for Lord Salisbury to give as a reason for his opposition to Home Rule, the suddenly discovered genius of the Boers for gathering arms and amassing ammunition.

There is, however, another phase to his address, which certainly tends to place the Premier in a still less enviable light before the world. He takes the trouble to praise the bravery and feats of arms of the Irish soldiers in South Africa; he eulogizes, in eloquent terms, the sterling qualities of these sons of the Emerald Isle; in the same breath he informs those brave warriors that as a reward for their heroic efforts in the field, the Shamrock may be worn by Irish soldiers in future, but that the land of their birth and of their affections need expect no consideration at the hands of his government, and that their relatives, their friends, their fellow-countrymen in general may look forward to a perpetuation of the state of servile dependence to which the Act of the Union had reduced them.

CATHOLICITY IN THIS CENTURY.

The Rev. Dom. Baltus, a monk in the Belgian monastery of Maredsons, has published a highly interesting work on the constitution, doctrine, rites and morals of contemporaneous Protestantism. The conclusion to be drawn from the work—based on figures taken from official sources—is to the effect that the nineteenth century, instead of being, as thousands proclaim, an age of falling off for Catholicity, has been one of enormous progress on the part of the Church. Let us take a few statistics from the volume:

In England and Scotland, at the beginning of the century, there were only 120,000; to-day there are over two millions under the spiritual direction of three archbishops, eighteen bishops, and 2,755 priests.

In 1800 the fifth of the population of Holland was Catholic; the two-fifths are Catholics to-day.

During the century the number of Catholics augmented in the following manner:—

In Germany, from 6 millions to 13 millions; in Switzerland, from 542,000 to 1,170,000; in Scandinavia, from 2,000 to 8,000; in the Balkan Peninsula, from 470,000 to 640,000; in Turkey in Asia, from 300,000 to 658,000; in Persia, from 3,000 to 40,000; in North Africa, from 15,000 to 500,000. In Russia 10 mil-

lions of Latin Catholics replace as many adherents of the Russian Church. In all Africa, central, oriental, occidental, and southern, there was not one Catholic in 1800; to-day they number two millions; in Asia and the extreme East the number of Catholics has gone up from 1 to 6 millions. In the Spanish, Dutch, and English colonies, there were no Catholics in 1800; to-day they number one million and a half. In the United States and Canada, the increase has been on a larger scale.

These figures above quoted refer only to the most Protestant nations. In other European countries the Catholic Church has kept abreast of the general progress of the age.

LAY BISHOPS.

We find it difficult to understand how the Methodist Church can be ruled by bishops, or of what use a so-called bishop, under such a system, can possibly be. Yet they not only have episcopal dignities, but they even propose to make bishops of laymen. The American press is responsible for the following:—

"Chicago, Ill., Saturday. — At today's session of the Methodist Episcopal General Conference Dr. George Elliott, of Philadelphia, met defeat in an attempt to secure still further recognition for laymen. He worked in a resolution to make laymen and local ministers eligible as bishops, a privilege at present confined to travelling preachers or elders. A motion to table Dr. Elliott's resolution was passed amid applause, which showed the general opinion that ministers alone should be made bishops."

If there were over anything to prove the falseness of a religious organization, it is surely this absurd contradiction. In fact, from a Catholic standpoint, there seems to be no ground for argument; the whole thing is so ridiculous that one feels only like turning it all into a series of humorous remarks. Just imagine a layman becoming a bishop, and dictating the law of God to several scores of ministers! How solid and logical the Catholic Church appears in contrast.

REV. FATHER STRUBBE VINDICATED.

At a recent meeting of the Catholic School Commissioners, the Rev. Father Strubbe put forth the claims of St. Ann's School, for the sum of \$15,000 to be devoted to repairs, long needed, as was evident from a report prepared by the Principal of the school. After a lively discussion it was agreed to advance the sum of \$8,000. During the course of the debate, Mr. P. Demers, one of the Commissioners, spoke with considerable warmth. He was reported as having stated that the Director of St. Ann's School had pocketed the monies, that should have been devoted to the institution. Rev. Father Strubbe was unwilling to lie under such a charge, and, immediately addressed a letter to Mr. Commissioner Demers, demanding a retraction, or calling upon him to justify his remarks. In reply to the communication of the Rev. Father, Mr. Demers wrote "expressing his regret at what had appeared in the 'Journal' and in 'La Patrie.'" The statement he repudiated in toto. Thus the pastor of St. Ann's has been fully vindicated. The "Journal" remarks, however, that it is strange that Mr. Demers waited until he was driven to the wall, before repudiating the statement of his reporter. The question our contemporary states is one of veracity, between Mr. Demers and its reporter. At all events what was a most unjustifiable accusation has been demolished, and the repudiation of the charge leaves nothing to be desired on the part of Rev. Father Strubbe and his parishioners.

We have noticed an appeal to the Catholics of the Province of Quebec, signed "Le Manitoba," on behalf of the Catholic citizens of Winnipeg. The double load of school taxes, which they are obliged to carry, in order to maintain their own schools and secure for their children the certainty of Catholic instruction, has awakened the sympathies of those who appeal for the organization of a system whereby funds may be raised to lighten the burden that so heavily weighs upon Winnipeg Catholics. Decidedly we wish every success possible to those who undertake such a worthy work.

During the great parade of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Boston, on the ninth of this month, in which fifty military companies participated, the Hibernian Knights of this city were awarded first prize. From the start to the finish in a line of march, extending over four miles, the local company was continually giving exhibitions of fancy drill, which elicited rounds of ap-

plause from the thousands who thronged the sidewalks. The Montreal boys were not only a credit to Canada, but an honor to their race. After the parade they were complimented highly by the National officers, directors and visiting delegates on their thorough efficiency and military appearance. On Friday evening they were presented with the much coveted flag, which they brought to Montreal on Sunday morning. Captain Keane is very proud of his men, and the men idolize the Captain. Bravo Irish Canadians.

The Pittsburg "Dispatch" says: Allegheny school authorities have discovered the cigarette habit prevalent among pupils of tender years, and propose to enforce the law prohibiting sale to persons under sixteen years of age.

We would like to remind our subscribers in arrears of the rhyme about the little drops of water, little grains of sand, etc. Your dollar, and your dollar, and your dollar would make the life of our treasurer a little more pleasant.

FIRST COMMUNION DAY.

AT ST. PATRICK'S. — The attendance at the First Communion Day at St. Patrick's Church on Sunday last, surpassed that of any previous year during the past decade. Rev. Martin Callaghan, acting pastor, in the absence of Rev. Father Quimlivan, celebrated Mass, and 190 boys and girls approached the Holy Table for the first time. During the Mass the young pupils of St. Patrick's School, under the direction of the Nuns of the Congregation de Notre Dame, occupied the choir gallery, and rendered a number of hymns in a finished manner. In the evening, His Grace, Archbishop Bruchési, attended, and confirmed the children, and also 40 converts, who had recently abjured different forms of Protestantism. Before administering confirmation, His Grace delivered a most touching instruction on the importance of the sacrament.

After the ceremony, Father Martin Callaghan, who had preached to the children during the three days of preparatory retreat for their First Communion, delivered a short instruction, exhorting the young communicants to always remember with pride the happy events of the day. Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament followed, at which the pupils of all the Christian Brothers' schools, French and English, assisted and with orchestral accompaniment sang hymns in a manner that was most inspiring. Rev. Father Halliwell had the direction of the preparatory classes for the First Communion.

At both services there was a large attendance of non-Catholics, no doubt due to the recent mission.

AT ST. ANN'S CHURCH.—The children of St. Ann's parish made their First Communion on Thursday morning. Rev. Father Lemieux, Provincial of the Redemptorist Order, officiated. The altar and sanctuary were beautifully decorated. There were 97 boys and 84 girls who made their First Communion. The church was crowded to the doors with the parents and friends of the young communicants and the pupils of the parish schools.

In the afternoon, a distribution of prizes to the successful competitors in the catechism competition took place. The two first prizes for girls—handsome gold medals—were awarded to Misses Mary Shanahan and Elizabeth Welsh, while the gold medal for boys was won by Master Edward McCrory. The questions submitted to the competitors were most difficult.

In the evening, Rev. Father Strubbe preached an eloquent sermon, during the course of which he dwelt upon the duties of gratitude which the children owed to their Redeemer; and the duties of parents in the endeavor to keep alive in the hearts of their children the lessons associated with their First Communion.

AROUND TOWN.

Mr. T. F. Sullivan, a prominent member of St. Ann's Young Men's Society, and a young Irish Canadian who enjoys the confidence of a large circle of friends in this city, was united in marriage to Miss Sarah McGuire last week, at St. Anthony's Church. The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. E. Donnelly, P.P.

Division No. 6, held a very good meeting on Thursday evening. President J. B. Lane in the chair. Two new candidates were initiated. Mr. P. O'Neill, jr., the indefatigable recording secretary, tendered his resignation, and Bro. Michael Johnson was elected in his place. Brother O'Neill's many friends will be sorry to learn that he has been seriously ill for the past month, and ordered by his physicians to St. Agathe to recuperate.

The opening of the new hall of Division No. 1, A.C.H., on Tuesday evening, was a grand success, and created a great impression in favor of the pioneers.

President McMorrogh presided, and in a few appropriate remarks, opened the proceedings. He paid a glowing tribute to the Hibernian Knights on the success of their visit to Boston.

Division No. 5, held another rousing meeting on Wednesday evening, and initiated two candidates. The delegates from this Division will, at next meeting of the County Board,

bring before that body the advisability of holding a field day of Irish National games, under the auspices of the United Divisions on the Shamrock Lacrosse grounds.

Division No. 8, held their first meeting in their new quarters, on Wednesday evening, a large attendance of members being present. President Lavalle presided.

Branch No. 2, C.M.B.A., held their regular meeting in St. Ann's Hall on Tuesday evening. President Gallery presiding. The regular routine was transacted, and one member initiated.

The many friends of Bro. J. J. Tivnan, of Division No. 9, will be glad to learn he has left the hospital, and is now at the residence of his uncle, ex-Alderman Connaughton.

Sunday last the parish of Ste. Cunegonde was en fête and celebrated a double event, the first was the annual church parade of the French-Canadian regiment, the 65th Battalion, the second, the solemnity of the feast of Blessed John Baptiste de la Salle, founder of the Christian Brothers. The members of the battalion met at the Drill Hall, Craig street, and headed by their fine band, paraded through the principal streets, under command of Colonel Labelle. Mass was celebrated by Rev. Canon Martin, chaplain of the battalion. The choir was augmented by a special class of singers from the Brothers' School, their youthful voices blending harmoniously in the rendition of the beautiful Mass composed by Brother Albert of the Angels, and sung for the first time in Montreal. The soloists were: Soprano, Oscar Daigneault and Azarie Bourbonnais; altos, Louis Lafond, Alfred Bougie and Samuel Rivet; tenor, Alf. Gervais; basses, Leon Carboneau and Chief of Police Tremblay. At the Offertory, Messrs. Alf. Gervais and O. Daigneault rendered the "Justus," by Lambillotte. The Brothers and others are to be congratulated on the success of the celebration of the feast of their new founder, and Ste. Cunegonde parishioners will long remember the grand solemnity of Sunday last.

RECENT DEATHS.

MRS. JOHN LUNNY.—Since our last issue several members of the older generation of Irish Catholics have passed away. Shortly after going to press last week the death of Mrs. John Lunny was announced. Mrs. Lunny was widely known in the circles of Catholics in the eastern portion of this city, and was for many years a regular attendant at St. Patrick's Church. Deceased was the mother of three sons—John, Richard J. and William P.—well known in commercial and social circles, and one daughter, Mrs. Frank Cotter, also well known in connection with many works of charity in St. Patrick's parish. Mrs. Lunny was a devoted mother and a most fervent member of the Church. After a useful and well spent life, in the full possession of her faculties, with the consolation of the Church to support her, and with her children surrounding her, she peacefully passed away.

The funeral took place to St. Patrick's Church, on Tuesday morning, where a solemn Requiem Mass was chanted.—R.I.P.

MRS. JAMES DOHENY.—Another death which caused a great surprise was that of Mrs. James Doheny, of Point St. Charles. Deceased passed away after a few days' illness. She was well known in St. Ann's parish, where she had worshipped for more than two decades. Mrs. Doheny had made many friends during her long residence in Montreal, and many were the expressions of profound regret heard on the announcement of her death. The funeral took place to St. Ann's Church, on Thursday morning, where a most imposing Requiem Service was held.—R.I.P.

MR. T. F. MOORE.—Just as we go to press we read in "La Patrie" the startling announcement of the death of Mr. T. F. Moore, the well known coal merchant, and one of the most active and energetic Irish Catholic workers in public affairs of this city. "La Patrie" states that deceased had visited its offices the evening of the day prior to his death. Mr. Moore was a man of more than average ability, and was rapidly building up a large business in his particular line. He was associated with many Irish national, religious and social organizations, and was highly esteemed in the circles of all classes and nationalities. To Mrs. Moore and family the "True Witness" offers its deep sympathy in the great loss they have sustained.—R. I. P.

"A CENTURY OF CATHOLICISM."

Rev. Dr. Shahan, professor of Ecclesiastical History and Irish Literature in the Catholic University of Washington, is coming to deliver a lecture on June 11, in the Windsor Hall. His theme will be "A Century of Catholicism." Dr. Shahan comes to Montreal at the earnest wish of the United Irish National societies of this city, as expressed on the occasion of the convention called to make arrangements for St. Patrick's Day. He is one of the foremost pulpits and platform orators of the United States. The proceeds of the lecture are intended for the Catholic High School. Dr. Shahan should have a crowded house to greet him on his second appearance in Montreal.

DEATH OF A SULPICIAN.

Rev. J. Ste. Brassieur, of the Sulpician Order, died on Thursday, in the Seminary, on Notre Dame street, where he had been confined since January last. He was a native of Vendreuil, and 51 years of age, and been a priest since 1877. He was one of the vicars of Notre Dame.

SOUTH AFRICAN STRUGGLE.

To break the monotony of the reports from the seat of war, we have this week the story of the taking of Kroonstad. The most reliable account of that move on the board of Boer history-making tells us—under date of the seventh—that—

"Kroonstad taken, and without opposition!" The news came almost like a thunderclap. Some of the military experts had been saying that Kroonstad would be taken without stiff fighting, but the public were very sceptical. Not only from a study of the map, but also from other sources it was known that numerous kopjes in the neighborhood of Kroonstad afforded the Boers the best opportunity for offering strong opposition.

On the other hand, these military critics pointed out that the country behind Kroonstad was so open that a protracted resistance at that point involved serious risk of the Boer retreat being cut off by British cavalry, which could be sent around a large force.

Although few details have reached London beyond the fact that Kroonstad was occupied soon after noon, and the British flag hoisted, it is evident that the Boers were even as long as two days ago, when the Free State capital was reported to have been moved to Heilbron, that the Boer commanders were fully alive to the danger to their supposed stronghold.

Nevertheless the public never imagined that the taking of Kroonstad would prove such a simple matter.

Lord Roberts' despatch arrived at London had begun the night's amusement—after the first acts in the theatres, when people had crowded into the lobbies and into clubs, where people were enjoying after-dinner smokes.

In view of the capture of this second capital of the Free State, showing that the Boers are fully acquainted with the odds against them in the huge British force, many military men think the first really strenuous opposition to Roberts' progress will be prepared in the neighborhood of Johannesburg.

THE END OF THE WAR. — Here is a London prediction which places the close of the war on an early date in June; it adds:—

"The Boers seem to be on the eve of playing their last card. According to many keen observers in England it will be played, not in South Africa, but in the United States through the Boer delegates who have arrived in New York. But the bulk of British opinion does not dream for a moment that Mr. Fisher and his companions will have any success, and serious thought is chiefly devoted to forecasting the date when the war in the Transvaal will be ended.

"Most estimates concur in agreeing that hostilities will have ceased by June, when President Kruger learns that the last country appealed to—the United States—will give him no assistance, and that he has no alternative, in the face of the overwhelming force swooping into his territory, but to sue for peace. What Great Britain's answer to that request will be was plainly defined by Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, at Birmingham, when he declared that the Boer republics must become a Crown colony, whose initial stage of organization will be controlled by a military administration."

THE DANGER OF CHEWING GUM.

The custom of gum-chewing, which is quite common in this country, as the legions of slot-machines for selling chewing-gum testify, seems to have but recently gained ground in England, says "The Literary Digest," judging from comments in English journals. The following note from "The Hospital" is especially interesting as controverting the principal claim of the advocates of gum on this side of the water, namely, that its use aids digestion by stimulating the flow of saliva. Says the journal just named:

"Attention has been called to the dangers attending the sale of 'chewing-gum' by an inquest which has been recently held in Lincoln on a child aged between seven and eight years old, who died after eating this substance, which it not unreasonably imagined was a sweetmeat. We would point out, however, that, besides such risks as this, the habit of masticating this filthy compound of oxidized india-rubber is undoubtedly a cause of much dyspepsia. The constant titillation of the salivary organs kept up by chewing this stuff not only causes a steady drain of saliva, which is most wasteful, but, which is more serious still, in consequence of the frequently repeated stimulation to which these organs are thus exposed, they fail to respond to the normal excitation which ought to rouse them to action when food is taken. A constant dribble of salivary secretion is substituted for the healthy flow which should occur only at meal-times. The glands less so respond to any stimulant less potent than the peppermint, aniseed, or other constituents found in chewing-gum; and the more insipid starchy compounds, pass into the stomach unchanged. This is disturbing digestion at its very commencement, and it is extremely probable that the indigestion of starchy substances, which is so commonly met with at the present day, is largely due to the waste of saliva caused by smoking and by the constant chewing of gummy substances, which we see everywhere on all around. The chewing of gum is thus not only a nasty habit, but is also provocative of ill-health. Unfortunately, when 'chewing-gum' is sold in the form of a sweetmeat, it causes still more serious consequences, being apt to be swallowed by children."