

The Catholic Register.

"Truth is Catholic; proclaim it ever, and God will effect the rest."—BALMEZ.

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CATHOLICS IN THE LOCAL

Men Who Have Won Seats in the Legislative Assembly.

SKETCH OF MR. EVANTUREL.

In the stormy days of the last two parliaments, when the feelings of the Catholics of this Province were held in very slight consideration by some members of the House, and when in particular, the local methods of the French speaking population were held



up to ridicule and exposed to all manner of criticism, one of the most picturesque figures of all those thereby brought into notice was that of Mr. Alfred Evanturel, the member for Prescott. No attack upon Separate schools or upon those who have grown up speaking the French tongue was ever allowed to pass without a prominent part in the discussion being taken by the distinguished looking orator from Eastern Ontario. Mr. Evanturel's impressive countenance, black moustache, single eye glass and soldier like neatness of attire have made him a conspicuous figure concerning whose identity now visitors to the gallery are always curious.

But it is when he rises to speak that the interest heightens. The first few sentences display very clearly not only that he has the French accent in his voice but that the race from which he springs has given us in him an excellent representative of that style of oratory most peculiar to the Latin nations. Gesture is an unavoidable thing in a French speaker. The Englishman has frequently no resort but his pockets for a pair of arms that seem altogether in the way. Under the circumstances it is not in the least surprising that on every occasion when he feels called upon to advocate a measure or defend his religion or race

from aspersions cast upon them, Mr. Evanturel receives the pleasing incense of undivided attention from both sides of the house and from the galleries, always more or less occupied.

His career as an orator began very early. At sixteen he was already a public speaker. Some years of work in the Civil Service may have interrupted for a time his practice of the art, but he is now one of the foremost examples of a style of oratory known only to this country, and which is a compound of the highly imaginative and glowing French style and the exceedingly practical and undemonstrative style of the English and Scotch. The outcome is not unlike the oratory of the Irish School of which Burke and Grattan are the immortal representatives, combining wisdom with artistic eloquence.

The subject of this sketch was born in the city of Quebec about forty-eight years ago. His father made for himself a name of honor and held the office of Minister of Agriculture in the Macdonald Sicotte administration. The grandfather of Mr. Evanturel was a colonel in the army of the "Little Corporal" Napoleon I., whose centenary is being celebrated with so much effusion just now not in France alone but in Britain and North America.

He was educated at Laval University taking there his degrees in arts and law. After about two years spent in the work of his profession as an advocate he was taken into the civil service of the Dominion and for some years acted as Secretary to Sir Hector Langevin.

In 1881 he took up his residence in the county of Prescott and in the following year contested the county for the Local Legislature. He was defeated. Not content, however, he again presented himself in 1886 and was this time successful. In the election of 1890 Mr. Evanturel was returned by acclamation. In 1894 his election was contested but so great was his known strength that he did not pass one day nor address a single meeting in his own constituency. Nevertheless he was elected by a majority of 1283. During that time he was not by any means idle. Scarcely any part of the Province but he was asked to speak. He addressed in all forty-seven meetings in this one campaign.

Personally, Mr. Evanturel is amiable to a fault. His friends or even those who have opposed themselves to him can command any service at his hands. Like many others of our Canadian public men who have come to eminence he was at one time connected with journalism, having been for two years editor of a paper printed in the French language.

Mr. Evanturel's name has been freely mentioned as one of a very small number who are considered eligible for the speakership of the assembly which is about to meet. Should the Government decide to offer this position to Mr. Evanturel there is no doubt that he would prove himself an exceedingly capable occupant of an office which has commanded the services of a number of very able men. In such an event however the house would be deprived of the pleasure of listening to his speeches and the Liberal party would miss the aid of his able support on the floor of the house and in committees.

THE RIGHTS OF LABOR.

The Poor Have Lost Faith in the Law.

DISCOURSE BY REV. DR. ROOKER.

The Rev. Dr. T. A. Rooker, the new Secretary to Mgr. Satolli, preached on Sunday in Baltimore Cathedral, and in the course of his sermon referred to the labor question as follows:

Who can look at the unequal division of wealth without believing that there is something wrong in the economic condition? The Holy Father in his message to this country spoke most kindly of the social problems that press for solution. Much has been done, much has been said, but the active doing has, for the most part, been on one side. Those who handle wealth must not think they have done their part when they have theorized.

Societies have been formed to discuss social reforms. They meet amid easy and luxurious surroundings and listen to essays about the millions of fellow beings suffering privation and want and say if some changes could be made all misery would disappear and we should only have bright smiles and happy looks. It is pleasant to agree with conclusions. We go home and retire to our beds with a feeling of satisfaction, but of what avail if we only talk? Of what avail the remedy if we fail to apply it? This inactivity can be of no use to those who indulge in it or to those of whom we talk.

We feel comforted because our laboring men do not work longer than their physical condition will permit, and their remuneration will give them the price of comforts. To-morrow we take up our affairs and go on until our next meeting, when we read and discuss and come again to the same happy conclusion. If one half our conclusions were put into effect, we could overcome the difficulties that confront us.

No one can sympathize with disorder, and the disorderly lose the sympathy of their best friends. That they have rights no one can deny. That they have the right to use reasonable means to compel respect for their rights is in the very nature of things. They have the right to share in the wealth of their employers; they have the right to combine together and to agree as to the value of their services, they have the right to exclude from their organization those who will not agree to their conditions; they have the right to refuse to work when treated with injustice, but they have no right to cause violence or disorder. They can never have your sympathy when they do not respect the claims of others. Justice demands that they should receive all they are entitled to. Who can look around on the scenes of violence and bloodshed that this country has witnessed and think the movements were controlled by reason or restricted by justice? Who cannot see that they were the results of unreasonable activity?

The workman has the right to share in the wealth of his employer created through his labor, but he has no right to destroy that wealth. He has the right to exclude from his organization,

but not the right to interfere with the liberty of labor. When he takes away from his fellow man his freedom to act he is taking what does not belong to him, his position becomes one of violence and he is injuring his own cause. One man's culpability does not justify another in doing what is wrong.

These are the obstacles that oppose the solution of the social question—too much activity on one side and too much theory on the other. I have no notion of offering a solution of the question. That belongs to those to whom the government has intrusted the welfare of society.

Some motive stronger than selfishness must be brought to bear. The Church alone can force men to do what they ought to do. The same voice that scourged the oppressors of the poor nineteen centuries ago still lives and speaks through the pastors of the Church. It is the Church alone that tells them they are violating the most sacred rights.

The poor have lost faith in the law. They feel that what is crime in a poor man is overlooked in a rich man. Privation will compel them to submit for a time, but they will break out again in worse disturbance. The Church alone tells them they must submit to the authorities, for authority is from God.

The wise, careful guardian cannot be found outside the Church. It is no wonder the Church has spoken in such wise terms. The same voice that spoke so lovingly so long ago offers its message again to day, and if both sides listen we can have hope of solution.

Barrie.

On Thursday evening Jan. 31th, a concert was given in the Music Hall, Barrie, by the music pupils of the Convent of St. Joseph. They were assisted by Miss Marguerite Dunn who is so well known as a star among the professional lady elocutionists of Canada. The concert was a brilliant success, intellectually and financially. The concert drew the largest audience that has been seen for a long time in Barrie, and all went away satisfied that it was the most interesting concert of the season. Miss Mary Moran, even now a brilliant pianist, and Miss Ella Mahony whose rich melodious voice attracted much admiration, both are worthy of special mention.

The children dressed with exquisite taste, exhibiting a grace in their deportment that was evidence of careful training, and a musical talent and culture that could scarcely have been expected. The idea of giving the concert by the pupils was suggested by Duan Egan who had attended a recital at the convent and who thought that the programme should be reproduced in a public hall. The idea was carried out with a success far surpassing expectation. Till the concert, few if any, suspected that there was in our midst so much musical talent and culture. The sisters are to be congratulated on the progress made by their pupils musically and otherwise.

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