

NOTES OF LOCAL INTEREST.

St. Anthony's Catholic Young Men's Society held their semi-annual meeting on Sunday last, in their hall, No. 329 St. Antoine Street, for the purpose of electing the executive for the ensuing year. A large number of members was present and much interest was manifested in the casting of ballots. The following officers were elected:—

Pres., Mr. W. L. Perego, jr.; vice-pres., Mr. C. J. Foley; fin. sec., Mr. T. M. Cullen; rec. sec., Mr. W. J. Pincus; librarian, Mr. D. J. Murphy; marshal, Mr. J. Kinahan; committee, Messrs. C. Brady, J. J. Hoo-bin, and J. C. Kearney.

On Sunday evening, 19th instant, Rev. Father McPhail, C.S.S.R., will commence a retreat in the Redemptorist Chapel, Hochelaga.

St. Joseph's Union of the municipality of St. Henry, celebrated its annual feast day on last Sunday. A grand procession was held which was attended by many other associations of St. Joseph belonging to the several city parishes. The various societies in full regalia formed at 8.30 a.m., in front of the St. Henry Town Hall, and proceeded by bands and banners they marched by the way of Notre Dame, St. Augustine, St. Emily, Rose de Lini, Notre Dame, Vinet, and Desile streets, Atwater avenue, St. James, Laurier, St. Antoine, St. Ferdinand, St. James, St. Margaret and Notre Dame streets, to the parish church of St. Henry where solemn High Mass was chanted, with full musical accompaniment. The route of the procession was decorated throughout with pictures of St. Joseph, flags, streamers and religious emblems.

The choir of St. James Cathedral held its second annual concert Thursday evening, the 19th inst., in the Windsor Hall, under the special patronage of His Grace Mgr. Bruchesi. The spacious hall was crowded with the elite of French society and the entertainment was a most unqualified success. Among those present were Mgr. Gravel, Mgr. Enard, Mgr. Morand, Mgr. Delelle, the Consul-General of France, and many other clergy from the cathedral and other city churches.

Seldom has such a musical treat been given in Montreal, and the rendering of the different items on the programme was magnificent. The following pieces were executed:— "Gallia" by Gounod; a concert for four pianos by Black; "Mary Magdalen" by Massenet and "The Seven Words of Christ" by Th. Dubois. Miss H. Villeneuve was very good in "Gallia"; and the concerto executed by the Misses A. Gervais, L. Lavigne, R. Proquette and M. Poitevin, received great applause. The rendering of the duo "Mary Magdalen" by Miss Desardins and Mr. Z. Morin was much appreciated and the soloists Messrs. Ed. Label, N. P. Boucher and J. Scherer scored a great success in the oratorio "The Seven Words of Christ."

The French Catholic Union held an interesting meeting in the hall underneath the Jesuits' Church, Bleury street, on Sunday afternoon. The speaker was occupied by Mr. A. E. Deschamps, advocate. There were present Rev. Father Ruhlman, S.J., Mr. S. J. A. Sneyvor, Mr. J. C. Auger, Mr. A. Martin, Mr. J. A. P. Beaudry, Dr. G. L. After the reading of the minutes, the chairman presented the business of the day, M. de Marchi, whom he styled as "one of the most distinguished literary men."

The subject of the lecture was "Literature in its relations with the social institutions." The conditions and tendencies of society, said Mr. de Marchi, had always preoccupied the minds of thinkers, and had produced the different schools of literature. But the latter should not blindly follow the course of that society.

The Irish parishioners of St. Jean Baptiste Parish will honor the feast of Ireland's patron saint on the 20th inst. Under the direction of the Rev. Father Casey, they will hold a grand entertainment on Monday evening, in the hall of the college on Rachel St., and a grand array of talent has been secured for the occasion. The proceeds will be devoted to the building fund, in aid of the rebuilding of St. Jean Baptiste Church which was destroyed by fire last winter, and judging from the excellence of last year's concert in the Monument National, a great treat is in store for those who will attend the entertainment on Monday evening. They will at the same time be materially aiding a good work.

The new chapel at the De La Salle Novitiate of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, Maisonneuve, was blessed by His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi, on last Monday morning. The ceremony was most imposing. Among those present besides His Grace, were Rev. Father Colin, S.S., Superior of the Seminary; Rev. Father

is to be held in the parish hall, corner Craig and Panet Streets, on Easter Monday evening. A splendid programme has been prepared and some of Montreal's best amateur and professional talent have been secured for the occasion. Among these may be mentioned the well known entertainers Madame Durand and Little Tootsie.

JOHN ALLAN'S NEW MOVE

One of the enterprising merchants of Montreal, is Mr. John Allan, on Craig Street. For years he has been slowly but surely making progress. Starting out with one store on Craig Street, some years ago, he has gradually extended his establishment. Now, he has decided to make the master stroke of his wonderfully successful career by leasing the corner

store at present occupied by Mr. Lyons, the druggist. Allan's establishment is one of the most complete of its kind in this city. That he has great confidence in the "True Witness" as a medium by which to secure the trade of Irish Catholics, may be seen from the large advertisement which appears elsewhere in this issue.

ENTERTAINMENT AT MOUNT ST. LOUIS.

The members of the English Literary Society, of Mt. St. Louis College, Sherbrooke street, celebrated the festival anniversary of Ireland's patron saint on Wednesday evening by the production in a most artistic manner of Shakespeare's famous historical drama, "Julius Caesar." Notwithstanding the severe snowstorm that furiously raged out-of-doors, the hall of the Institute was crowded with the parents and friends of the pupils who had braved wind and weather, to witness the dramatic production of the members of the English Literary Society, whose histrionic abilities are well and widely known.

Mgr. Gravel presided, and among those seated beside him were Rev. Father Therrien, Chaplain of the Institute, Rev. Bro. Symphonien, Director, Rev. Bro. Jeron, Sub-Director, Rev. Bros. Pradeur and Tobias of St. Ann's School, Rev. Bros. Halward and James of St. Patrick's School, Rev. Father Donnelly, P.P., of St. Anthony's; Rev. Father Gossy, of St. Jean Baptiste; Rev. Father Heffernan, of Montreal College; Rev. Father McDermott, of St. Patrick's Church, Mr. Justice Curran, and Mr. Kincaid.

The stage was most beautifully decorated with green flags and other emblems. A harp surrounded by numerous natural flowers and plants came in for a good deal of admiration. The overture "Salute to Erin," "Reveries of Ireland," and the finale, "Ireland's Future," were most fittingly rendered by the Mt.



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St. Louis Symphony, which sustained its reputation of being one of the finest bands in Canada. The tableaux of Robert Emmet were magnificent. There were four in all, viz., His vision of Ireland past and present; his arrest; his speech before the judges; and his grave. The scenery, costumes, settings and calcium effects were perfect, and the tableaux were greatly appreciated. Mr. W. Warren was the central figure. In the production of "Julius Caesar," the college authorities, their able instructor, Mr. E. Varney, jr., and those that took part, can all justly feel proud, for having scored a most complete success, and it is to be hoped that they can be prevailed upon to reproduce this drama at an early date. Special mention must be made of C. Conrad, who as "Julius Caesar," was every inch a king. Mr. Ed. Cum-

ings was excellent as Mark Antony. His Antony's oration was a masterpiece of elocution. William Kearney gave entire satisfaction as Octavius Caesar. Messrs. Jos. Connolly and Mr. Cardell as Brutus and Cassius were also very good especially in the quarrel scene. Mr. Thos. Hewitt, as Cicerone one of the conspirators, was much applauded by the audience. Mr. Wm. McKenna as Cicerone, J. Stevens as Ligarius, J. O'Reilly as Metellus, Robt. Quigley as Cinna, a poet, A. O'Neill as Marcellus a Tribune and Jos. O'Brien, as a servant to Brutus, one and all, interpreted their parts in a clever manner.

V. CAR-GENERAL RACICOT HONORED.

At the lecture given by Prof. de Labroche at the Laval University, on Wednesday evening His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi informed the audience that it was his pleasing duty to

thank the Archbishop for having secured these honors for him, and also thanked the audience for the manner in which they greeted the announcement.

Henceforth the Canon will be known as Monsignor Racicot, and on official occasions will wear the purple like a bishop.

Monsignor Zoticque Racicot, was born at Sault au Recollet, on Oct. 13, 1845. His father was the late F. N. Racicot, notary, and he is the



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uncle of Archbishop Langevin, of St. Boniface, and the brother of Ernest Racicot, advocate, of Sweetburg, ex-M.P.P. for Missisquoi.

PAPAL RIGHTS AND THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

Under the heading, "Salisbury's Intimation," the "Daily Witness" has published a lengthy despatch purporting to come from Rome, but by what correspondent, written, or to what journal sent, it does not indicate. The main feature of this telegraphic communication may be stated in the words of the opening paragraph:—

"The vexed question of the Vatican's possible representation at the Car's Peace Conference seems to be brought to a decisive close by Lord Salisbury's intimation to the Russian Government that Great Britain will not participate in case of Italy's exclusion."

Its principal object, however, is expressed in the next few lines:—

"Those who are not thoroughly conversant with the diplomatic history of the Italian Kingdom and its abnormal relations with the Holy See can scarcely appreciate why admittance of a papal delegate to any conference of European powers would necessitate the protest and withdrawal of Italy and constitute a peril and embarrassment to her status quo."

At various epochs in the long history of nineteen centuries, that mission had to be carried out in a variety of manners; but never, since the day of the Last Supper, down to the issuing of the last manifesto of peace by Leo XIII., has the Church been unfaithful to that mission.

se, not to say the history of the Church and of Christianity, therefore, render this statement absurd. The Pope of Rome—be he Leo XIII., or any other individual—at all times has had his special mission of peace. He received that mission from the One who founded the Church, who gave to Peter the "Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and who promised to perpetually remain with His establishment and with His Vicar upon earth.

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The correspondent then openly displays the "cloven foot," he attempts to wipe out with one stroke of his pen, all the claims that the Sovereign Pontiff has to the recognition of the world, in consequence of his pacific policy, and he strives to place the question of the Temporal Power in a false light before his readers. Leaving aside a number of comparisons which he institutes between the Vatican today, and that of Cavour and others in the past, we find the pith of his argument in these lines:—

"In the present case it is a favorite argument that the Pope, as the head of a Christian body, has an eminently pacific mission, which constitutes a signal qualification for any peace congress. This specious view turns a blind eye to a modifying fact far more to the purpose at this moment. As pretender to a dominion occupied by another power, which he is aiming to overthrow by any force available, destructive or otherwise, his present self-possessed mission is necessary a militant one alert for reconquest of lost territory.

"It is the deep concern of those who have in charge the interests of Italian unity to guard against any possible resurrection of the claims of this superseded rule."

Now, here is a text for a small pamphlet on the perpetual and undying "Roman Question." In the first place it is sought to construct a militant policy out of an eminently pacific one. The distortion is too plain to escape detection, even in the eyes of the most anticatholic. He would have it understood that Leo XIII's benign and fatherly efforts to preserve peace in the world and to bring about an amicable understanding between all conflicting interests, must be considered as a well-acted piece of hypocrisy, and that the real undercurrent of all his endeavors has been to secure a reconquest of lost territory. Again, he has the hardihood to pretend that the Pope's policy is one which the Vicar of Christ would carry to a successful issue by any means "destructive or otherwise" that might serve his purposes. Moreover, he terms the peaceful mission of the Pope a "self-imposed" one. Had he stopped there we could only see in his writing the prejudice of a bigot and the blindness of a partisan; but he upsets his own pretensions to honesty of purpose when he styles the papal rights "claims of this superseded rule." He admits that the peaceful possession of the Church's territory is a "superseded rule"; but does not indicate in what manner and by what means that rule was wrung from those to whom it belonged by every law of possession, ownership and prescription. He admits the "claims"; but advocates their suppression—no matter in what manner.

We have no intention of taking up all the questions suggested by these stinging, unjust, and totally illogical and, in great part, false assertions. One expression, however, we cannot allow to pass untouched. This correspondent, whoever he may be, states that the Pope has a "self-imposed" mission of peace. Common

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