

Our Observer.

The Council did well in appointing Ald. Kinsella, of St. Ann's Ward, to the Chairmanship of the Water Committee, as he is in every respect qualified for the position. His record in public life is a guarantee that he will discharge the duties devolving upon him energetically and without fear or favor. Ald. Kinsella was also named to the Police Committee.

Ald. Daniel Gallery, his confrere, has a good opportunity to display his energy and good sound sense, as he is a member of three important committees, Roads, Markets and Police. Ald. Gallery has performed good service in connection with many of our local, national and athletic organizations in the past, and we will not be surprised if he should make a name for himself in these committees as a practical and earnest worker.

The representatives of St. Ann's Ward now have a voice in the proceedings of five important departments of civic administration, Water, Police, Roads, Markets and Health. They should always be on the alert, and at least see that the nationality they represent should have its fair representation, not alone in these departments, but in every other branch of civic employment.

In order to attain this it will be necessary for Ald. Kinsella and Ald. Gallery to work hard and to be always vigilant.

ENGLISH SPEAKING Catholics have suffered many losses in the administrative offices at the City Hall. At one time the position of Assistant City Clerk was held by an Irish Catholic, but now it is occupied by a French-Canadian. Other instances could also be cited to show that in as far as the principal positions in the departments are concerned, they do not hold the rank to which their numbers in this community entitle them.

This state of things has been tolerated too long and too quietly, and it is felt that an unfair advantage has been taken of the fact by grasping and aggressive members who hold on with bull-dog tenacity to all they have, and with characteristic "lust of empire" are ever on the quiver for extended powers. When a new opening occurs, no matter in what department, it seems to be treated as a matter of course that Mr. Alphonse this or Adolphe that must be nominated, and, if nominated, that he must be elected. This idea of being able to carry things by force should be met by a united and determined effort on the part of the Irish electors of the city, who in the aggregate are powerful enough, numerically and otherwise, to make their influence felt and duly respected by the Council Board of the city or by any Government, municipal or otherwise, in the Province. Concentrated action should be taken by the societies and organizations of the several city parishes and an assurance given to the representatives of Irish Catholic interest that they will have the undivided support of their fellow-countrymen in what in one respect may seem to be an unequal struggle, but which object may at any moment be proved otherwise.

IRISHMEN throughout America and Canada are calling out for a union of the now unfortunately divided forces at home. Let those who seek thus to influence others apply the union principle to the particular community in which they severally live, and they will strengthen their position and improve their station effectually and permanently.

ALL true practical Catholics desire to keep the rules of Lent "to the letter," no matter how strict they may be or appear to be; but misconception, misconstruction and misinterpretation, in one way or another, are frequent, though principally in matters of minor detail. To assist all who are in doubt is a privilege, if not a duty, of the Catholic Press, and, with that conviction, the following rules, regulations and explanations are given, and can be fully relied on as from the best and most authentic sources at our command.

The Law of ABSTINENCE affects only the kind of food, and has no reference to its quantity. On Abstinence days—such as ordinary Fridays—the Faithful are obliged to abstain from flesh meat only. There is no restriction as to the number of meals or the amount of food. The Law of FASTING affects both the kind and the quantity of food. Only one full meal is allowed, and at this full meal flesh meat may be eaten only on certain days.

Lawful excuses from Abstinence are very few, and, generally, no one—unless his case be evident—can safely excuse himself from abstinence before consulting his confessor.

On fasting days, all the faithful who have reached the age of twenty-one and

are not lawfully excused are allowed only one full meal. This meal may be taken at noon or later, and may consist of meat, on certain days only.

In the evening a collation of eight ounces is allowed. If more convenient the collation may be taken at noon and the full meal in the evening.

In the morning, about two ounces of bread and a cup of tea, coffee, thin chocolate or other beverage and a few drops of milk may be taken. By means of this slight morning refectation, many persons, who could not otherwise keep the fast, are enabled, and, consequently, obliged to do so.

Fish, oysters, or any other shell fish, and meat, must not be eaten at the same meal, by any one, during Lent, not even on Sundays.

On days of abstinence during the whole year, it is allowed to make soup and prepare abstinence food with grease obtained from the fat of any kind of meat, but not to eat it as butter upon bread. The juice of the lean part of meat, and consequently dripping, cannot be used without special leave.

It is almost impossible to keep down the Yankee's inclination for originality, no matter in what line. The latest example of this is an employe of the Boston Post Office, who has confessed to having robbed the mails for several years in a manner both unique and original. The addresses on packages supposed to contain valuable articles had a line drawn through it and the clerk's home address substituted. This was in accordance with the Post office rules, and when the parcel was placed in the mails it would be delivered to the correct destination. A large amount of jewelry and scores of books were stolen in this manner.

DEATH OF MISS McAULEY.

Sister of Vicar-General McAuley, of Coaticook.

An Impressive Funeral Service, at which Leading Members of the Clergy Assist.

Among the many events chronicled in the annals of Coaticook will be classed as one of the most impressive of funeral ceremonies ever celebrated here took place on Tuesday morning at 8:30 in the Roman Catholic church, when the late Miss McAuley, and fondest links of earthly love and friendship were severed. Her long and unblemished career was characterized by a zealous, charitable and kind disposition toward suffering humanity. Although an invalid for the past five years she cheerfully accepted the cross assigned her with the patience and endurance of a true Christian until Saturday, the 5th, when the heavenly gates opened to admit her into the realm of happiness and receive the diadem of recompense awaiting her.

She was a sister to Rev. Father McAuley, P.P., V.G., with whom she resided, also Messrs. Peter McAuley, of Coaticook, F. McAuley and Rev. Sister St. Mary Patrick, of the House of Providence, Montreal.

The church, in its grandeur of sculptured whiteness, was draped in deep mourning. In the centre aisle, at the foot of the altar, was placed a catafalque, which was profusely surrounded with lighted tapers, on which the casket rested during the service.

In the sanctuary were Revs. Canons Ouellette and O'Donnell, St. Hyacinthe, Revs. Fathers Gignac, rector of the cathedral, and Lefebvre, director of the college, Sherbrooke, Rev. Father Seguin, P.P. of Lennoxville, Rev. Father Picotte, Barford, and Rev. Father Morache, Clifton, also the brothers of Coaticook commercial college, with all the scholars in attendance. The sisters and pupils occupied a gallery. The whole church was filled with friends and sympathizers.

The Rev. Father Morache, preceded by the brothers and college children in procession, met the remains at the entrance, where they were joined by the choir. Rev. V. G. McAuley officiated, assisted by Revs. Fathers Gignac as deacon, and Lefebvre, sub-deacon. Miss K. McAuley presided at the organ. The solemn Requiem Mass and Libera was rendered by a full choir, under the leadership of Mr. Leon Trudeau. At the Offertory Miss Nellie McAuley, assisted by Mr. Trudeau, pathetically intoned "In Paradisum."

At the conclusion of the Libera, Rev. V. G. McAuley, in a few chosen words overflowing with pathos, said farewell to one who had been almost a mother to him and other members of the family for the last sixty years. He tendered his thanks to the immense congregation present in sympathy, in her behalf, who within the portals of the eternal city will reiterate the refrain.

Mr. A. Moss, master of the ceremony, preceded the casket, respectfully borne to its last resting place by Messrs. James and Michael Mullins, E. H. Paquette, J. Jasmin and Councillors Gendreau and Bachand.

The chief mourners were Messrs. P. and F. McAuley, Sister St. Mary Patrick, Mrs. H. J. Codd, the Misses Katie, Nellie, Lillie and Master Michael McAuley. In the cortege was noticed the Hon. M. F. Hackett, M.P.P., and many other friends from Stanstead and Coaticook. A large number of letters of condolence and regrets at being unable to attend were received, among them was one from Bishop Larocque, of Sherbrooke, and the Ursuline Nuns at Stanstead. We tender the bereaved our sincere condolences.

TO PREVENT CONSUMPTION.

Hard to cure; easy to prevent. Scott's Emulsion nourishes the body, keeps all the organs and tissues healthy, and the consumption germs can not get a foothold.

Praternal Societies.

(Brief Reports of the doings of our Religious, National and Benevolent Societies, Associations and Societies, in order to secure insertion in this column, must be addressed to the editor and delivered to this office on or before Thursday at noon.)

The venerable and highly respected secretary of St. Mary's Irish Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society writes to say that he inadvertently omitted the name of Mr. Andrew Purcell from the list of names supplied to us and published in our last issue. Mr. Purcell, he states, is one of the most zealous, active and generous members of the committee, and none better deserve recognition at the hands of their co-laborers in the good work of the society. Mr. Mu ney also mentions that the name of Mr. John Sheehan was made to read Mr. Hugh Sheehan. We gladly rectify these matters for our worthy friend.

The Temperance Society of St. Peter's church, under the direction of the Fathers of the Order of Oblats, will, on the 18th of next month celebrate the 21st anniversary of its foundation. The society has now a membership of 842 the number of admissions last year being 141.

The society has been wielding a considerable influence in the east section of the city, and it has just been honored by Mgr. Bouché with a letter of endorsement, in which His Grace says:

"None can deny that alcoholism is one of the greatest evils of our times and one of the principal dangers for the future. All vices, no doubt, contribute to belittle and degrade man, but it seems to me that there is none so vile as drunkenness."

BRANCH No. 232 of the C.M.B.A., of which Mr. T. A. Lynch is president, held a very enjoyable social last evening at the Queen's Hall Assembly Rooms. There was a large attendance of members and their friends.

As we go to press we learn that the following circular has been issued to the members by the Y. I. L. & B. Association:

"You are earnestly requested to attend a special meeting to be held in Young Irishmen's L. & B. Association hall Friday evening, 18th February, at 8 o'clock, to take into consideration the report of a committee appointed regarding a proposed new building and Tombola."

Mr. JOSEPH P. CLARKE, ex-President of the S.A.A.A., has just returned from Boston, where he has been spending some time with friends.

ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY, Dramatic Section, are now busily engaged in rehearsing their new play, "The Rebel of '98." Mr. Ed. Varney, the well known elocutionist and actor, will, it is said, coach the boys. The Monument National has been secured by the Society, in order to fittingly stage the play, which is the latest, and it may be said, the best of the productions of the pen of the talented young Irish Canadian writer, Mr. James Martin.

The annual meeting of Mary's C.Y.M. Society was held in their hall, No. 1113 Notre Dame street, on Sunday Feb. 13th. The committee appointed at the last regular meeting to secure a new hall reported having rented a large and commodious building on Notre Dame street, the assembly room of which has a seating capacity of about 250. There are also several other rooms which will be used as pool, billiard, card and library rooms. The Treasurer presented his annual report, which shows the Society to be in a flourishing position. The Rev. P. F. O'Donnell, who was present at the meeting, urged the young men to continue their good work, and expressed his great pleasure at seeing the Society in such a prosperous condition.

The election of officers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with and resulted as follows: Reverend Director, Rev. P. F. O'Donnell, P.P.; president, James Weir; 1st vice-president, E. W. Kearns; 2nd vice-president, John Traynor; rec. sec., John Lowe; treasurer, J. A. Heffer; financial sec., J. E. Purcell; cor. sec., M. J. Murphy; marshal, P. J. Doyle; librarian, P. Emmet Doyle; chairman audit committee, J. J. O'Neill; chairman hall committee, Patrick Doyle; membership committee, J. F. Kearns, P. Scullion and T. J. Robitaille.

BRANCH 26 C. M. B. A. will entertain its friends at a progressive euchre party at its hall, 92 Alexander street, on Monday evening. A special committee have charge of the arrangements, and it is said that no pains will be spared to make the event a grand success.

The Entertainment Committee appointed by the County Board of the A. O. H. will meet tomorrow afternoon to receive reports of the various sub committees in connection with the concert on St. Patrick's night, which will be held at the Windsor Hall, and at which Mr. M. J. F. Quinn, C.M.P., will deliver an address on "The Men of '98."

Mr. JAMES F. FOSBER, Chief Ranger, of St. Patrick's Court, G.O.F., No. 95, leaves this morning for his annual visit to New York.

The delegates appointed by the various Irish societies of Montreal, in connection with the proposal to fittingly celebrate, in this district, the centenary of '98, have been called together for tomorrow afternoon at the Hibernia Hall, Notre Dame street. It is quite important that there should be a large attendance, as important matters in connection with the celebration will come before the meeting.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the A. O. H. held a most successful entertainment on Wednesday evening at St. Patrick's

Hall. The Young Irishmen's L. & B. Association, dramatic section, and a host of well known talented amateurs, took part in the programme, which was of the most interesting character. The Ladies' Auxiliary is a flourishing organization and doing excellent work.

The annual meeting of the St. Ann's Young Men's Society, took place in their hall, No. 157 Ottawa street, on Wednesday evening, the 9th ulto. Rev. E. Strubbe, C.S.S.R., occupied the chair. After the adoption of the various reports the election of officers was proceeded with and resulted as follows: Rev. E. Strubbe, C.S.S.R., spiritual director; Joseph J. Johnson, honorary president; John Whitty, president; Michael Mullarky, 1st vice-president; Wm. Quinn, 2nd vice-president; Thomas O'Connell, treasurer; D. J. Hartford, asst. collecting treasurer; D. J. O'Neill, secretary; T. McArthur, asst. secretary; W. Whitty, librarian; W. Daly, asst. librarian; M. Behan, marshal; John Hughes, asst. marshal. Committee: P. Snea, T. Dillon, J. Martin, P. T. O'Brien, J. Burden, F. Dolan, J. Donovan, Jos. McGuire and J. Shanahan. Prior to adjourning the Rev. chairman introduced the President-elect, Mr. John Whitty, who in a few well chosen remarks thanked the members for the special honor which they so generously conferred on him. He also dwelt on numerous questions affecting the welfare of the society in such a lucid manner as to leave no doubt that the members of St. Ann's Young Men's Society had acted wisely in the selection of their chief officer.

AN APPALLING DISASTER.

Loss of the U. S. Battleship "Maine."

Said to Have Been Caused by the Explosion of a Magazine--253 of the Crew go Down with the Ill-fated Vessel.

HAVANA, February 16.—The shattered and torn bulk of the United States battleship Maine lies at the bottom of Havana harbor, a tomb for at least 253 of her crew.

She was blown up at 9:40 o'clock last night by an explosion well forward under the men's quarters. Her magazine is further back, between her coal bunkers. Some of the watch and a few of the officers and crew who were on shore escaped.

The explosion, which shook the city from one end to the other, created the wildest excitement. All the electric lights were put out by the shock. Fire engines rushed from one direction to another and no one knew for certain from what direction the explosion came. Some started the report that it was the arsenal, others said it was a shell, and it was not until 11 o'clock that the real cause was known.

The Maine, at the time of the explosion, was at anchor about 300 yards from the arsenal and some 200 yards from the floating dock.

The steel upper deck forward has been completely lifted and turned over on her starboard side. None of the big guns in the turrets are visible. She is slightly listed to port and all forward of her masts five cranes for unloading the ship's boats have completely disappeared. The big funnels lie flat upon the twisted iron braces and pieces of steel deck. From the funnels aft the ship seems to be intact. She has settled into the water has covered the top of her superstructure, and the stern searchlight and one rapid firing gun look over the water below them.

It is reported that the disaster was due to the explosion of the boiler of the dynamo machine on board the Maine. The first explosion is also said to have been caused by over six hundred pounds of gun cotton, and the subsequent explosion is alleged to have been caused by shells and cartridges.

All the navy five brigade and the navy officers were immediately ordered on duty. Stretchers for the use of the wounded were sent to the scene by the fire brigade, and the head quarters of the Red Cross Society was called upon to send four stretchers, and men were sent to patrol the scene of the disaster.

The Spanish cruiser Alfonso XII, which was anchored near the Maine, lowered her boats and saved 37 of the crew of the Maine.

Lieut. Commander Wainwright, of the Maine, was half undressed at 9 o'clock and was walking in his cabin, next to that of Captain Sigbee, when the explosion occurred and put out the electric lights. Lieut. Wainwright then lit a match and went to Captain Sigbee's cabin. The Captain, it appears, had been thrown from his bed but was uninjured. They both went on deck and ordered men to flood 2,500 pounds of gun cotton which were on board. The order was carried out; the men never returned, but Havana was saved from a still more terrible explosion. The large number of deaths reported among the crew is said to be due to the fact that most of them were asleep below at the time of the explosion. Most of the officers saved were dining on board the Ward line steamer City of Washington.

The Spanish cruiser Alfonso XII was for some time after the explosion in great peril, and her mooring tackles were slackened away and she was anchored at a greater distance from the burning warship. She then lowered her boats, and took part in the work of rescue. The first of the American sailors to reach the Mackinaw wharf were swimming. Three sailors who escaped fell senseless just as they reached a place of safety.

Some of the wreckage of the Maine fell on board the City of Washington and knocked two holes in her deck. The chaplain of the Maine, the Rev. Mr. J. P. Chadwick, went on board on the Alfonso XII in order to administer to the wounded.

A Spanish naval officer said that Captain Sigbee was the last man to abandon

the sinking ship, and he remained alongside the wreck as long as it was possible to do anything in the way of rescue.

OFFICERS TALK.

On board the Ward line steamer City of Washington, at midnight, one of the officers of the Maine stated that at 8 o'clock last night all the magazines on board the battleship were closed and the keys turned over to Captain Sigbee, her commander. The explosion occurred at 9:45 p.m. The officer then rushed on deck and assisted in lowering a boat and in trying to rescue the men in the water.

Another officer said: "I was sitting with two more officers in the mess room when a heavy explosion occurred. It was so heavy that we understood the ship would be lost, and we went on the upper deck and found she had been badly wrecked by the explosion; that she was on fire and sinking. All efforts were then directed towards lowering the boats and saving lives; but the Maine settled quickly to the bottom of the harbor, only her upper works remaining above water."

CANADIANS LOST.

Among the list of the crew of the Maine, and presumably amongst those drowned, are these names:

GEORGE LAPIERRE, Montreal. BARTLEY FOUNTAIN, Quebec. LEWIS L. BARRY, Halifax. FRED JERNEE, New Brunswick. WILLIAM MATTHEWSON, Canada. J. DOLAN, Newfoundland. W. J. FEWER, Newfoundland. CHARLES LAIRD, Newfoundland.

A GRAPHIC STORY.

KEY WEST, Fla., February 17.—Lieut. John L. Blandin, of Baltimore, one of the Maine's survivors, who is here, gave the correspondent of the Associated Press this evening a succinct account of the disaster, saying that not until now has he been able to recollect the sequence of events in the awful ten minutes following the explosion. Lieut. Blandin says:

"I was on watch and when the men had been piped below, I looked down the main hatches and over the side of the ship. Everything was absolutely normal. I walked aft to the quarter deck, behind the rear turret, as is allowed after 8 o'clock in the evening, and sat down on the port side, where I remained for a few minutes. Then, for some reason I cannot explain to myself now, I moved to the starboard side and sat down there. I was feeling a bit glum, and, in fact, was so quiet that Lieut. J. Hood came up and asked me laughingly if I were asleep. I said 'No, I am on watch.'"

"Scarcely had I spoken when there came a dull, sullen roar. Then came a sharp explosion, some say numerous detonations. I remember only one. It seemed to me that the sound came from the port side forward. Then came a perfect rain of missiles of all kinds from huge pieces of cement to blocks of wood, steel ballings, fragments of gratings and all the debris that would be detachable in an explosion."

"I was struck on the head by a piece of cement and knocked down, but I was not hurt and got to my feet in a moment. Lieut. Hood had run to the poop and I supposed as I followed he was dazed by the shock and about to jump overboard. I hailed him and he answered that he had run to the poop to help lower the boats. When I got there, though scarce a minute had elapsed, I had to wade in water to my knees and almost instantly the quarter deck was awash. On the poop I found Captain Sigbee, as cool as if at a ball, and soon all the officers, except Jenkins and Merritt, joined us. The poop was above water after the Maine settled to the bottom: Captain Sigbee ordered the launch and gig lowered, and the officers and men, who by this time had assembled, got the boats out and rescued a number in the water. Captain Sigbee ordered Lieut. Commander Wainwright forward to see the extent of the damage and if anything could be done to rescue those forward or to extinguish the flames, which followed close upon the explosion and burned fiercely as long as there were any combustibles above water to feed them."

"Abandon Ship."

"Lieut. Commander Wainwright on his return reported the total and awful character of the calamity, and Captain Sigbee gave the last order. 'Abandon ship' to men overwhelmed with grief, indeed, but calm and apparently unexcited."

"I have no theories as to the cause of the explosion. I cannot form any. An examination by divers may tell something to a court of inquiry. I, with others, had heard that Havana harbor was full of torpedoes, but the officers whose duty it was to examine into that reported that they found no signs of any. Personally, I do not believe the Spanish had anything to do with the disaster. Time may tell; I hope so."

"We were in a delicate position on the Maine so far as taking any precau-

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tions were concerned. We were friends in a friendly or alleged friendly port, and could not fire upon or challenge the approach of any boat boarding us unless convinced that her intention was hostile."

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

KEY WEST, Fla., February 17.—The Associated Press correspondent saw Burrer Donovan, of the steamer Olivette, which arrived here last night from Havana. He gave the following account of the disaster:

"The explosion is a mystery to everyone. It occurred forward of the magazine, which is just forward amidships and below the water line. The coal bunkers are outside, but separated by two feet of space. According to custom the magazine was inspected at 8 o'clock in the evening and the temperature found to be 55. The men went to their hammocks in the forward part of the ship soon after 9 o'clock."

"The explosion occurred at 9:40 and hence the awful and overwhelming loss of life. No one can yet give a correct account. About ten men who were in the forward part of the ship were saved, and of these several had their hammocks swung on the lower deck. The explosion split the ship in two and threw these and one marine, who was sleeping on the superstructure, forty feet into the air and in the water."

The magazine contained twenty five tons of coarse powder, there being no dynamite, detonating powder, nor torpedo heads, and nothing in fact that could be exploded by concussion. In the main magazine aft the high explosives were stored, and this magazine did not explode. There are no electric wires connecting with or near the magazine.

It is not believed that the Maine was destroyed by a torpedo.