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Witness

Vol. L, No. 48

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1901.

PRICE FIVE CENTS



ended, he gives to the present an in-dividual character which, perfected more and more as the era grows old, will make the men who greet the next centennial birth year more Christ-like.

centennial birth year more Christlike.

Born in 1810, he became toward
the end of his twenty-seventh year a
priest of God. The year following
he was, by Gregor XVI., appointed
Governor of Benevento. This province has been for a long time at
the mercy of brigands who preyed
on the rich and terrified the poor.
The nobles, in turn, robbed the common people, and had driven them to
that degree of desperation which
breeds hatred of power, contempt for
religion. The young priest, Joachim
Pecci, had a strong will, and was
fearless. The bandits were chickly
forced into prison cells, tyrants were
soon led to repentance, and the persecuted brought to bless God whose
minister had freed th?m from their
enemies. The cager, thus begun on
lines of justice and mercy, gathered
fame and force with years, until
Joachim Pecci from the imprisoned
chair of St. Peter ruled an empire of
intellect greater and more democratic than sage or philosopher hadever
seen in his wildest flight of prophetic
vision.

His election to the Papal See took place on February 20, 1878, and he willed to be known as Leo XIII. The grand ceremony of his coronation, on the first Sunday in March, was performed in the Sistine Chapel. The rabble had hooted and stoned the funeral cortege of Pius IX. Rome was crowded with adventurers from the most lawless parts of Italy, and the unholy threats against Leo XIII. chilled loving hearts in the sacred sanctuaries of the Holy City.

priest of holiness, the onlooker would be almost tempted to believe that he had amusing puppets of men and sthings.

The impress he has left already upon his times is definite and indestructible. His life is an attractive lesson, and the rare faculty he has of pouring his whole being like a soothing oil into the wounds of humanity has fixed on Peter's throne the eyes of a hopeful world. Each encyclical letter and private talk touch with gentleness some festering sore on human life. He classifies with far-seeing acuteness the urgent problems of political government, religious faith and private action. Evils are exposed in all their hideousness, and remedies adequate to each are so clearly defined that application to them is an easy matter. No phase of philosophy, no system of governing, no theory of science, no inter-relationship of persons, has escaped the dissecting energy of his keen intellect; and, therefore, every spoken word or document of his carries an important message to mankind. His untiring agitation in favor of peace and an international tribunal resulted in the convention of The Hague. This aborted angel of peace was stillborn; but its existence will all the sooner vindicate for the Roman Pontiff his ancient right to recognition as the only just judge and father of the nations. Nature's law will not permit him to travel far on this latest arch in the bridge of time, but before another is begun Leo hopes and plans that an independent Pope will be the peace-maker of Christendom.

er of Christendom.

He labored with success to convince ruling Powers that no name or form of Government is in conflict with the teachings of the Catholic Church. The statesmen of France heard him say:

"The Catholic Church neither blames nor condemns any form of State constitution. Its sole purpose is to secure the interests of the Christian religion."

A vast majority of the bishops in France were wedded to royalty: yet.

Leo, because the people will it, favored the Republic.

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Democracy, on account of Leo's ex-posure of Socialism in its destruct-ive forms, became cloaks under which were hidden pugan deformities. But Leo XIII. was not deceived, and in his latest encyclical on "Christian Democracy" tears away the filmer.

Leo XIII. was not deceived, and in his latest encyclical on "Christian Democracy" tears away the filmsy veil of deception. Reviewing all he has said in other letters, he warns Catholics against Socialism of all kinds and defines what is meant by "Christian Democracy."

This article has already grown to undue proportion and yet has given only a faint idea of the influence which Leo XIII. has exerted and will exert upon the world. It is necessary to study most carefully his every word in order to comprehend with what fatherly care and how wisely he tries to direct humanity on the reasonable way to its origin and end, God. This much, however, is certain—The work of Leo XIII. will in coming years be better understood, more appreciated, and will bear such fruit among civilized peoples that his name will be held in benediction for ever.

When the friends of Christ, the suf-

benediction for ever.

When the friends of Christ, the suffering sons of toil, are free to honor the champions of their cause, none will receive at their hands a greater meed of praise than Leo XIII.

AN APPEAL FOR CATHOLICS.

Jacksonville, Fla., May 14.—Right Rev. John Moore, Bishop of St. Augustine, and Very Rev. William J. Kenny. Vicar-General, have issued an appeal to the Catholic people of the United States and Canada calling upon them to aid the Catholics of this place.

The appeal recites the destruction of the Church of the Immaculate, Conception, the only one ip the city;

During the non-Catholic mission they came by the hundreds from every part of the city of Chicago—and we know that it is a city of magnificent distances—and many de-clared that they never lost a single service from the very outset. In a few nights the attendance increased from 600 to 1,300 non-Catholics out

service from the very outset. In a few nights the attendance increased from 600 to 1,300 non-Catholics out of an audience of 1,900 people, who filled every inch of the church.

Never does a priest of God feel so much the dignity of the priesthood of Christ, or realize so well what preaching the Gospel means as when addressing a multitude resembling that which St. Peter addressed on the day of Pentecost. The Parthians, Medes, Elamites, Mesopotamians, and Egyptians of our day are just as eager to listen to the voice of men speaking with authority the Word of God. There they were night after night. a living commentary on the divisions of Protestantism, and a striking proof of the tendercy of error toward unbelief — agnostics, sceptics, indifferentists, Dintarians, Universalists, Christian Scientists, Dowieites, Spiritists, Christian Scientists, Dowieites, Spiritists, Christidelphians, Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Lutherans, Episcopalians of every school, etc.—some curious, some defant. some doubting, some sneering, but the vust majority—indeed all of the hundreds that came night afternight—eager and earnest to study and to know the entire Gospel of the Christ which the Catholic Church alone preaches to the world.

Questions by the hundred were deposited in the question box, and sent daily by every mail. It was impossible to answer all publicly within the half-hour allotted for that purpose each evening, although one

me to torment, for I never had any certainty of a response to my prayer, I ever questioned: "Was I sorry enough? Had I made sufficient atonement?" And only the sacrament of penance in your Church has Christ's answer to my queries!

Many again asked: "Why is it that Catholics, as a rule, are loath to talk about their religion? Why is it that so many cannot explain their faith, or give us a satisfactory answer when we question them? Why is it that lectures of this kind are not given with greater frequency? I never entered a Catholic Church before, but would have done so long ago had I been specially invited."

"I have in my time belonged to "I have in my time belonged to many different Protestant churches." many different Protestant churches." wrote another Protestant now under instruction, "but I never found peace and happiness, nor the truth my heart craved for. These lectures and the book you so kindly gave me have, with God's help convinced me that only in your Church is the true Gospel of Christ to be found, and my only desire is to know how to become a good and true Catholic." Here followed the life-story of a man groping for the light for years, ever since he left, as a boy, his home in Copenhagen, Denmark.

"I want to tell you," wrote another, "how deeply your words pagan and infide! sank into my heart. How much I have thought of them you can never know. My earnest desire is to progress out of such a state of heathenism. I have ordered the books you so kindly recommended, and as soon as I receive them shall read them. wrote another Protestant now under

sire is to progress out of such a state of heathenism. I have ordered the books you so kindly recommended, and as soon as I receive them shall read them, trusting that they will penetrate this darkness that I am apparently in, and that good results shall come from that indefinable something (I call it the grace of Jod) which impelled me to visit you," etc.

of God) which impelled me to visit you," etc.

"As a Protestant," wrote a man who was baptized the last day of the Inquiry Class, "I must state that your lectures explained away a good many errors, and gave me for the first time a fair insight into the beauty and truth of the Catholic Church, for which I wish to express my deepest gratitude to Father Riordan and to you Paulist Fathers."

should we not come back after twenty?"
And, again, even good souls feel the glow and enthusiasm which accompanies inevitably successful non-Catholic mission work, and the fleasure of wimning back a soul yields to no other joy of the true Christian heart.

Christian heart.

The Paulist Fathers wish here to record their thanks to the pastors of Chicago, who so kindly announced these lectures from their pulpits, to the Converts' League, which sent their to the Converts' League, which sent around many circulars to their friends, to the people of St. Elizabeth's parish, who so heartily cooperated; and above all to the priests of the parish, who did everything that zealous men could do to bring in souls and teach them the Gospel of Christ.

CATHOLIC SAILORS' CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Catholic Sailors' Club was held this week, and much interest was taken in the

proceedings.
The election of officers for the The election of officers for the coming year resulted as follows: Honorary president, F. B. McNamee; president P. Wright; first vice-president, Felix Casey; treasurer, F. Smith; secretary, W. H. Cox. Lady Hingston was named president of the Ladies' Committee, and Mrs. Thompson secretary. The first concert under the new Board of Management was held on Thursday evening, when the dramatic and choral section of the Young Irishmen's L. and B. Association contributed a most delightful programme of recitations, songs and choruses, which aroused great enthusiasm. There was a good attendance of seamen. enthusiasm. There tendance of seamen.

C.M.B.A. NOTES

Branch No. 2 will hold its annual excursion to Lake St. Peter on Dominion Day. The Str. Berthier has been secured for the trip, and an en-thusiastic committee is now at work to make the affair a success.

An important meeting of Branch No. 9, C.M.B.A., Grand Council of Quebec, will be held on Wednesday evening next in their hall, 1242a Notre Dame street. The business to be transacted is of the utmost importance to every member of the Branch, and a large attendance is expected.

Branch No. 2 held its Branch No. 2 held its regular monthly meeting a few days ago. Sympathetic references were made by several officers and members to the recent loss suffered by the Branch by the death of Mr. John Hoobin. A resolution of condolence was passed and ordered to be sent to the begand family. regular reaved family

AN EMPIRE HOLIDAY.

London, May 16.-King Edward. who was born November 9, 1841 has decided that his birthday shall be celebrated May 24 of each year, thus continuing the holiday hitherto

of Gody which impelled me to visit you," etc.

"As a Protestant," wrote a man who was baptized the last day of the Inquiry Class, "I must state that your lectures explained away a good many errors, and gave me for the first time a fair insight into the beauty and truth of the Catholic Church, for which I wish to express my deepest gratitude to Father Riordan and to you Paulist Fathers."

And thus letter after letter came, showing clearly how many earnest souls live amid the sin and indiffer-