



**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

THE more C. Chiniqy, D.D., writes the more evident it becomes that he has forgotten everything that he ever knew concerning the Roman Catholic Church—that is to say if he ever knew anything regarding its doctrines and practices. He is anxious for a little notoriety at present; but if he wishes to keep up the semblance of an ordinary education his only plan will be to keep silent.

WE have been informed (but we don't believe it) that the Montreal Street Railway Company has been, of late, in collusion with the undertakers of the city. It must have been the unhealthy and actually dangerous condition (from a sanitary point) of certain cars that have been allowed upon the tracks during the past couple of weeks that gave rise to the rumour. Of course the bad state of the streets may be to blame; but that excuse does not remove the fact that it is very dangerous to sit with one's feet in a pool of slush and breathe an atmosphere reeking with foul vapors.

WE were not aware that the C.M.B.A. was a "secret society," in fact the Gazette gave us that most interesting piece of information, in an indirect manner, the other day. Under the heading "Secret Societies" it gave several reports of meetings, the first amongst them that of Branch 26 of the C.M.B.A. This may be a convenience in the line of making up the paper, but it might prove very misleading, especially with people who are not informed to the contrary, and who are not aware that the C.M.B.A. is a Catholic Benefit society and nothing else.

WE publish, in this issue, a petition in favor of the Catholic minority of Manitoba and the Canadian North West. The document speaks for itself, and we must say that it should have the hearty approval, not only of all Roman Catholics, but also of the numerous fair-minded non-Catholics of the Dominion. A question of right should never be looked at through the lens of bigotry. And surely if ever there was a question of fair play, of honest equality, of legitimate right, it is the one that has called forth the petition that we give our readers. In another issue we shall take occasion to deal more extensively with this matter.

A CIRCULAR has been sent out from the Mayor and citizens of Montreal, inviting those to whom copies were addressed to attend the solemn requiem service that took place yesterday, in the Church of Notre Dame, for the repose of the soul of the late Premier. Our friend the Daily Witness seems to have taken exception to the whole proceedings and has been bold, and indiscreet enough, to characterize it as "a singularly audacious and dangerous attempt at ecclesiastical aggression on that religious liberty and comity under which Canadians have so long lived at peace with each other."

Some ghost of the disagreeable past must still haunt the Witness sanctum. It is a pity that so much high-sounding English should be lost upon a petty attempt to awaken narrow prejudices. But the malady has been so long and so deep-seated in the Witness, that we cannot expect to see it perfectly cured in a few months. But with time, a little more education in Catholic doctrines and practices, and a few more rays of that light which is happily spreading over the world to-day, the Witness will come to understand that Catholicity does not wish to condemn it to the alternative of eternal happiness or eternal misery, it offers it a chance even in the next world, and that Catholicity does not seek to impose upon it the obligation of pleasing Christ by honoring His Mother. The Church only invites non Catholics, but does not try to force them into salvation.

THE Sacred Heart Review had an editorial note in a recent issue and we feel that it deserves reproduction in every Catholic paper in the world. It speaks of the impious habit of some pious people who make it a practice to steal the turns of others at confession. After condemning the mean trick in strong terms the article runs thus:

"Having examined his conscience and aroused himself to a sorrow for his sins, little as well as great, he approaches the tribunal of penance, to acknowledge them and ask forgiveness. The basement is crowded, and men and women are there who have been waiting a long and tiresome while, on their knees, for their turn. They have their various affairs to attend to; business, household duties, perhaps the care of the sick to whom they should hasten. Into this patient and orderly group comes our friend. He takes a seat near the front, and as soon as he hears the sound of the little slide he is on his feet and at the box, and coolly slips in ahead of a dozen or even a hundred persons who have every one of them a right to go in before him. This is a mean, unjust and contemptible thing to do. It is cowardly, too, because the person who does it knows that people do not like to make a row in such a place and so he reckons upon getting off without any trouble. More than all, it is stealing; simple, plain stealing. He has a right to his turn, in its proper order, and when he goes in before that time he robs every person who was there before him. We have often heard persons wondering whether such a man ever thinks to say to the priest, 'I have just stolen the turn of all the people out there who were here before me.' We have spoken here of men. In fact girls and women are guilty of this injustice as well as men and boys."

THE London Universe calls attention to the very amusing opinions of various newspapers as to what Leo XIII. is about to do in order to reconcile England to the Church of God. One gentleman—of lively imagination—thinks that the belief in Papal supremacy and in transubstantiation will be dispensed with in the case of all future converts to the Catholic faith. Probably each sect is under the impression that Rome would gladly forego any of her dogmas that its adherents did not relish, for the pleasure

of having them in the bosom of the Church. Some people have very queer ideas regarding Catholic doctrines.

THE position of President of the French Republic is evidently anything but an enviable one. When not forced to resign, the President is assassinated; when not assassinated he finds the prospects so discouraging and the surroundings so conflicting, that his better course is a voluntary resignation. The Press of England and France seems to be almost unanimous in condemning ex President Casimir-Perier's action; if any one of these editors were to be twenty-four hours in that man's place, how would he act? Some people are very brave and steadfast—as long as they are out of danger's range.

WELL done, Mr. Harvey! The Rev. C. H. Harvey, of the Congo Baptist mission, writes from Matadi:—

"When the railway is completed it will be a real disgrace if the Church of Christ neglects any longer to enter the scores of doors in Central Africa which the Lord has within the last ten years placed wide open. No one denomination is able to cope with such a vast field, or rather undertake work in so many vast fields. I should like to hear of a number of good strong missionary societies waking up to the opportunity and preparing to seize it. Meantime the Jesuits are all alive to it and are making their way in every direction. Pray that this poor Africa may not be lost through our sleepiness."

So all denominations are invited to take part in the conversion of the Congo natives, but the Roman Catholic Church has no business there. Probably, Mr. Harvey looks upon the Jesuits as he does upon Mahomedans—a religious element to be "undermined, checkmated and civilized" by the Christian sects. Poor man! He should go and help Mr. H. Grattan Guinness in the editorship of "Regions Beyond." Probably, our friend, the Ottawa Free Press, may find—if it strains its imagination—that the TRUE WITNESS is in collusion with Mr. Harvey against the introduction of Jesuits into Africa.

A MR. HENRY GASTON claims to be a civil engineer, a steam engine driver, and a theologian; he also pretends to have unlimited knowledge regarding all subjects of Catholic teaching. It is not hard to believe that he is a civil "engineer," and not an uncivil one—for in this country engine drivers are wrongly styled engineers; but it would be very difficult for him to make any person believe that he is a theologian, either dogmatic or moral. In fact he is too dogmatic on questions he never studied, and not sufficiently moral on others that he evidently studied too much. In his unlimited knowledge he tells us that "Priests have been given the right, by Christ, to perform matrimony." Of course they have the right and the power as well, from Christ, to unite man and woman in the bonds of matrimony. While Mr. Gaston was striving to dis-

cover some new argument against sacerdotal celibacy he has stumbled upon the truth concerning the powers bestowed by our Lord upon his anointed; but, in his unlimited knowledge, he misunderstands everything.

A GOOD MANY people turred over what is called "a new leaf" at the beginning of this year. We trust that some of them did not forget to carry forward the small amounts due to the TRUE WITNESS. In fact the paying up of these little sums would prevent all danger of their being forgotten and would obviate the necessity of blotting the clean sheet of 1895 with such tiny but unornamental specs.

WE have been asked to state whether it is true or not that the now famous and popular writer, Walter Lecky, confided his first efforts to this paper. It is true: in the columns of the TRUE WITNESS, in 1892, Walter Lecky began to publish his admirable sketches, which he since compiled in that most interesting and instructive volume, "Green Graves." We may even state that it was with great reluctance that Walter Lecky ventured out upon the ocean of literature, and consequently we were the more anxious to force him to publish his productions. In his humility he could not see their merit; but the public soon found it out.

THE Daily Witness recently, in one of its European notes, informed its readers that "the mission just closed at Hyde Park Hall, London, has been singularly blessed; quite a revival has broken out. (Strange kind of epidemic!) One lady said, 'even in one house have been converted.' Lady Hope, Mrs. Amanda Smith, Mr. Charles Cook and others have been preaching; whilst gamblers, sceptics, Roman Catholics, etc., have been savingly converted." We suppose the Roman Catholics are distinguished from the gamblers, sceptics, etc., by capital letters, because they are considered the biggest scoundrels and hardest cases of all. So they do merit some distinction after such conversions.

THERE is a very pretty story told of Sir John Thompson by the Catholic Record. It appears that when Sir John was to make his first great speech in the House of Commons, his opponent was the eloquent Edward Blake. Sir John felt naturally nervous as to the issue. His first thought was to secure the prayers of his eldest child, who was a weekly communicant, but it was too late to send a message to Halifax. He resigned himself to prayer and waiting. His speech was a masterpiece and a triumphal reply to his great opponent. Shortly afterwards he received a letter from his daughter, saying that having accidentally learned of the important speech he was to make, she had received Holy Communion and prayed for his success. That speech was the beginning of the career that ended in death at Windsor Castle. He always attributed his success to prayer.