



CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR CONVENTION.

This week our city has been stirred into abnormal festivity by the grand celebration of the St. Jean Baptiste, next week Montreal will be enlivened in a still more unusual manner by the ceremonies connected with the Christian Endeavor Convention. For fully a year there has been talk of this great event and committees of earnest workers have been busy making preparations for the reception, accommodation and entertainment of the delegates. It is expected that these Christian workers will flock here to the number of twenty, or perhaps twenty-five thousand. The details of their programme have been given in the daily press and everything indicates the thoroughly religious aspect of the convention.

At first sight it might seem that we Catholics are "out in the cold" and that we have nothing to do with the movements of these representatives of so many denominations; but on reflection it appears to us that the meeting of the Christian Endeavor in Montreal has very much to do with us as we have two very good parts to play in the serious drama that will be here enacted. This is the most Catholic city upon the continent, it has been called the Rome of America, and to it comes the largest and most representative Protestant convention of the age. In a few days men and women, in thousands, will fill our streets and they will represent the intellect, the spirit, the refinement and the strength of Protestantism. They come as the representatives of divers sects and varied creeds—all Christian, but each differing from the others in some particular—and they come to make giant efforts in the cause of union, harmony and truth. They seek the union of all denominations, they desire to see harmony reign in the religious world, and they wish to find the truth, that they may proclaim it to the universe. With their divisions and contradictions we have nothing to do; but in their Christian Endeavor we have a two-fold interest.

Our first duty, or part, is to learn; our second is to teach. We must learn lessons in courage, perseverance, zeal, and fidelity to the object of life from the members of that convention. In them we expect to see exemplified, not fanaticism nor bigotry, but honest, well-meaning, untiring devotion to a cause that they hold sacred, and in their example we should learn to be as fervent in the cause that we know to be that of union, harmony and truth all combined. Our second duty, or part, is to teach them by our example what really a Catholic city is, and what the Catholic home has always been. By simply keeping the even tenor of our daily lives hundreds of these visitors will go away impressed with what they had never before understood. The union of all the sects upon the one only question of opposition to Catholicity is not due to general hatred of our Church, nor a vicious desire to crush Rome no

matter whether she be right or wrong; it is due to an absence of real knowledge regarding the Church, the teaching of our clergy and the inner lives of all true and sincere Catholics. It is for us to invite investigation as much as possible.

An eminent Protestant minister may imagine that he knows something about Catholicity and Catholic life; but he really knows less upon the subject than he does about the lives and tenets of the Hindoos or Japanese. How could he? Granting him all the best will in the world, he is unable to judge in the matter. He was rocked in his cradle and was brought up by Protestant parents; he attended Protestant schools and universities; his text books were Protestant; he studied a Protestant theology; he associated with candidates for Protestant orders; finally he took charge of a Protestant congregation. He may have read Catholic works; but he never lived a Catholic life, therefore he cannot possibly have the faintest conception of our religion and of its effects. For these reasons we rejoice that the Christian Endeavor convention comes to Montreal, and we only hope and pray that its members will make it their business to find out all they can about Catholicity and Catholics. For us it is our duty, whenever it may fall to our lot, to meet and greet the delegates in a truly Christian spirit, to extend to them every courtesy that is within our power, and to pray that success may crown their mission, that they may find union, harmony and truth—to find these is to find the Catholic Church, and the doors of that sacred fold are ever and always open to receive all who come in sincerity to drink at the true fountain of grace.

THE LONG VACATION.

The scholastic year has come to an end, the long vacation has commenced. The schools are closed, the class rooms deserted, the books laid aside, the pupils scattered, the teachers gone to seek a well-earned repose; the summer holidays are at hand. If it be necessary that youth should be educated, that long and weary hours should be spent in preparing young minds for the seeds of instruction, that days should be passed in close rooms pouring over pages from which the maxims for future guidance are to be gleaned, equally necessary is it that the mental faculties should enjoy a period of repose wherein to recuperate for the greater exertions of coming years. Not only for the pupils but for the hard-worked teachers are these days of vacation requisite.

The great and fine machinery of the mind wears out by constant efforts, by unceasing pressure, and even as the works of a clock, it requires to be periodically wound up. For the student there is always a great joy in the dawn of vacation: To be released from study for two months is a boon and one that is a necessity. But each vacation brings the pupil nearer to his final exit from school and entry upon the ways of life. As all

things in this world eventually come to an end so do the school-days of each boy or girl. To that great graduating day all look forward and they feel as each fresh term of school commences it is merely to be a step nearer to the long-hoped for emancipation.

Not so, however, with the teachers. They look ahead to no final vacation. As soon as the month of September comes the same old treadmill work recommences. Year in, year out, it is the same story; the only change to break the monotony consists in new faces at the desks and the absence of familiar features that have vanished. To the cause of education has the teacher chained himself, or herself, for life. The long vacation is but a short yearly breathing space between two lengthy heats in the race of life. Along that great desert of years, where the sun flashes intolerable day and the sands burn the weary traveller's feet, where not a breath of pleasure comes to cool the fevered atmosphere of duty and sacrifice, the only oases, the only resting places are those regular holidays that appear upon that pathway. And scarcely has the teacher time to rest beneath the palms of those green spots, when the signal to march comes to him; the caravan of life is ceaselessly moving, one generation goes past and another follows and the guide must be up and doing. In plain English we consider that if the long vacation is a benefit to the pupils, it is an absolute necessity for the teachers. Especially those men and women, whose lives are consecrated to God in a religious life, have not even vacation enough, according to our mind. A great portion of those two short months is spent in retreat and in preparations for the coming session, consequently these teachers have really a short vacation.

For these and countless other reasons we rejoice at the approach of the long vacation, and we desire to wish the pupils of our different schools the best and happiest of times during the coming months and to express the hope that the teachers will enjoy every imaginable benefit from the relaxation of the holidays. But before closing we have a word of advice for the pupils who have not graduated and who return next year to school. Remember that all you have learned during the past ten months can be easily forgotten between this and September, that it is not your prizes of this year that will raise you a grade in next year's classes, it is what you shall retain of the knowledge acquired. So to be wise and to be sure of success in your classes of the coming year you should devote half an hour, or an hour of each day, to a self-examination upon the subjects that you have studied. By so doing, very little effort will be necessary to keep you upon a level with your class and you will reap the benefit and reward of your wisdom when the next commencement day comes around. Having laid down this rule for yourself, turn to the full enjoyment of your holidays, go in for all the recreation, mental and physical, that you can have, and let innocent past-times be as numerous as possible. In this way the pupils will pass, what we wish them, a happy, profitable and most pleasant vacation.

DOMINION DAY.

On Saturday next, the First of July, our Dominion will commence the second year in the second quarter of our first century of national existence. Since the day of Confederation our young country has advanced with giant strides along the highway of progress. There are ups and downs in the life of every individual, so in that of a nation are their triumphs and reverses; but if the former are more numerous and more effective than the latter we can honestly say that success attends the country in its onward march. The state has been often compared to a ship at sea; the ark of our Canadian nationhood, that had been two centuries and a half in building, was fairly launched on the First day of July, 1867, and, with the flag we all love so well, flying from her mast-head, commenced her voyage upon the ocean of time. The seas were not always calm; tempests strong and furious lashed them into temporary excitement; these squalls were succeeded by lengthier periods of fair weather. As often as the good ship sank into the trough of the waves as often did she buoyantly rise upon the crest of the next billow; but ever and always keeping her course and never slacking for a moment her progress towards the port that awaits her. Stronger has the vessel become and her sea-men have grown more experienced and better calculated to guide her safely.

The fact is that nothing perfect exists on earth, neither in individuals nor in nations; but some may possess more human perfections than others, and some may be blessed with successes that fall not to the lot of their neighbors. Looking thus at Canada, during the past twenty-six years, we have every reason to thank heaven for all the advantages we have had and all the good that has been the share of our young country. Commercial crises have been met with; they came like drift-shoals upon the track of our vessel; but the perfect construction of our constitution and the skill of our mariners guided the barque safely over these sand-bars. Political parties have arisen and have passed away; Governments have come and gone; statesmen of eminence and Imperial fame have appeared upon the scene and have made their exits; policies have been promulgated and abandoned; party cries have re-echoed from ocean to ocean and have died away in echo; hopes have been realized and hopes have been shattered; great measures have been consummated and petty measures have been perpetrated; economists and spendthrifts have held in turn the strings of the public purse: a Macdonald—with success smiling upon his career—has bound the land from Atlantic to Pacific with an iron band that makes her the highway of the Empire; a MacKenzie—with adverse circumstances staring him in the face—guided the "ship of state" through the most menacing commercial hurricane that crossed her course; in one Province financial prosperity contrasted with the reverse in another Province; a National Policy raised our party into power in the