

THE LATE MR. M. P. RYAN.

A WORTHY IRISHMAN GONE.

Montreal Sustains a Great Loss in the Death of One of its Oldest and Most Respected Citizens.

We could not pay a more glowing nor a more deserved tribute to the memory of the Mr. M. P. Ryan, than in the language of Monday's Gazette. This good Catholic, true Irishman and loyal Canadian is worthy of a place in the memory of Montreal for generations to come.

"To many of the readers of the Gazette of every race and creed represented in the Dominion it will be a cause of real sorrow to learn that Mr. M. P. Ryan is no more. His health for some time has been failing, and though a rest from the duties of his office a few months ago enabled him to recuperate his powers, the respite was only temporary. He was able to attend to his duties up to the beginning of last week. Yesterday he passed away. Mr. Ryan's death has robbed our official, business and social circles of a figure that has been familiar to Montrealers during the last forty years and more. And we are only doing justice to the deceased when we say that no presence was more welcome than Mr. Ryan's to those whose opinion is a test of character and reputation. Strictly honorable in his dealings, genial and courteous in his disposition and manner, he could not help making friends, while those who enjoyed the privilege of his intimacy both loved and respected him. Fidelity and sincerity were conspicuous traits in a nature that abounded in social virtues and no one who trusted Mr. Ryan had reason to regret his confidence. His generosity was only bounded by his means. Many a one who is prosperous to-day was indebted to him for the timely aid that gave the first impulse to his popularity. To his fellow-countrymen of his own race he was always a true helper and counsellor, but we have reason to know, his benefits were not reserved for them alone. When by word or act he could be of service in the hour of need, considerations of religion or nationality never withheld his hand or his voice. In his public capacity, whether he represented his fellow citizens in the national legislature or served the state in one of its most important departments, he was ever most conscientious in the discharge of his duty and the results of his faithful attention to the country's interests could not fail to be recognized. At the same time his demeanor was gentle and conciliatory to all with whom his functions brought him into contact. In the whole Dominion, perhaps, there was no high official at once so efficient and so popular.

Mr. Ryan was proud to be an Irishman, proud to be a native of that typical Irish county whose men and women, as a poet has sung, are so hard to match. He was born at Pallas, Donohi d, Tipperary, but so much of his life was spent in his adopted country that he was rather an Irish-Canadian than a son of the old soil. It is more than fifty years since his family left the shores of Ireland to seek a home on this side of the Atlantic. The neighboring county of Chambly was the home of his boyhood. He had already, before leaving his native land, acquired the rudiments of education at the village school of Pallas—an education which he had the healthy ambition to turn to good account. Not relishing the somewhat dull routine of rural life, he made his way to Montreal and began the long career of unceasing and varied activity which has given him a place among our leading men. He was still in early manhood when he married Miss Margaret Brennan, eldest daughter of Mr. Patrick Brennan, one of the successful pioneers of Western Montreal—a lady of intellectual and social gifts, which rendered her a congenial partner to one of Mr. Ryan's character and temperament. After passing through the usual stages of initiation, under the direction of older heads, Mr. Ryan, in 1849, undertook the management of the once well known Franklin House, which he conducted for nearly ten years. Subsequently he entered the ranks of commerce as a provision merchant, in which business he soon became prominent among those who took an interest in our mercantile development. He was several times elected president of the Corn Exchange and became a leading member of the Board of Trade. In these capacities he

won the respect and confidence of his brother merchants for his judgment and foresight in all that concerned the industrial growth and the commercial expansion of the city. In 1855, he reached an important stage in his public career when a number of friends—including some of the most influential business men of the city—asked him to be a candidate for the representation of St. Anne's ward in the City council. He accepted the invitation, but was opposed by Mr. William Rodden, at that time one of the principal manufacturers of Montreal. Mr. Ryan was, however, elected by a considerable majority. About this time the arrival in Canada of the late Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee gave the Irish people of Montreal a champion whom they gladly accepted. Such a man was sure to reach a position of influence, and in a comparatively short time he was offered a seat in the Cabinet. Mr. McGee took a conspicuous share in the debates on Confederation—the most eloquent speeches and the most hopeful forecasts for that critical period being his. The election for Montreal West for the first Dominion Parliament was, nevertheless, contested with unusual bitterness, Mr. McGee's outspokenness on the subject of certain lawless organizations having aroused the enmity of a section of his constituents. He won the battle, but in the following April his seat was rendered vacant by a deed which the Irish people of Canada have not yet ceased to deplore. Mr. Ryan had at that time no desire to enter Parliament, the large business of which he had charge demanding all his attention.



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The question at issue was, however, one which appealed to his patriotism, and he could not decline to hearken to the solicitations of his fellow-Irishmen, supported, as they were, by the generous good-will of many Protestants of other origins. Though opposition had been planned at first, he was ultimately elected by acclamation and no section of the population had reason to regret the choice. The confidence his constituents was again manifested in 1872, when he was once more returned unopposed. In 1874 the late Mr. Devlin appeared against him in the Liberal interest, but a majority of 383 attested Mr. Ryan's unabated influence. After a brief interval, during which (the seat having been declared vacant) Mr. Devlin represented the division, Mr. Ryan was returned as the standard-bearer of the National Policy, and retained the seat until 1882. Of his service in Parliament we need only say that it gave general satisfaction. Mr. Ryan was ever at his post, always ready to serve the interests of his constituents, while as the representative of the Irish population of Canada's largest and important city, he was thoroughly loyal to his trust, without, however, allowing it to interfere with his duties to the city and country at large. On the 24th June, 1882, Mr. Ryan was appointed Collector of Customs for this city. How assiduously and faithfully he discharged the functions of that important position most of our readers are aware. He has also held other offices, such as that of Commissioner of Licenses and Stamp Commissioner and was a director of the Northern Colonization railway. Whatever he undertook, he fulfilled, whether the obligation was public or private. He was trusted and he was worthy of confidence; loved and worthy of affection; esteemed and worthy of respect. He now rests from his labors and all who knew him will be sorry to know that they will know him no more."

We will add our sincere tribute of sympathy toward Mrs. Ryan and all the

bereaved friends of the deceased: and in the language of the Church we say, "May his soul rest in peace."

THE FUNERAL.

An unusually large and a thoroughly representative procession of mourners followed the remains of the late M. P. Ryan, to the grave on Tuesday morning. The procession passed down Dorchester street to the corner of Alexander and thence to St. Patrick's church. The pall-bearers were the Hon. Edward Murphy, Messrs. W. W. Ogilvie, James O'Brien, John J. McGee, of Ottawa, clerk of the Executive Council; Henry Hogan, Richard McShane, Owen McGarvey, and Richard White. The chief mourners were Messrs. Wm. Ryan, of Toronto, brother of the deceased, with his two sons; Hugh Ryan, of Toronto, a cousin; John Ryan, of Brockville, a cousin; Patrick Ryan, of Brockville, also a cousin; P. J. Brennan, of Ottawa, and J. J. Curran, M. P. Although the deceased was latterly a member of St. Anthony's congregation he had never relinquished his pew in St. Patrick's. Hence the requiem took place in that church. The celebrant was the Rev. Father Donnelly, parish priest of St. Anthony's, assisted by the Rev. Fathers James and Luke Callaghan, of St. Patrick's, as deacon and subdeacon. A full choir, under the direction of Prof. J. A. Fowler, rendered a harmonized requiem Mass. The Customs official service was largely represented, as were also St. Patrick's Society, the Corn Exchange, and other organizations with which Mr. Ryan was for years connected. Among those present were noticed: The Hon. Clarke Wallace, Comptroller of Customs; Dr. D. Bergin, M. P. for Stormont, Dr. Reid, M. P. for Grenville, Chas. R. Devlin, M. P. for Ottawa county; the Hon. Geo. Drummond, John Sinclair, E. Kavanagh, J. E. Mullins, Ald. Jeanotte, D. Gorman, C. P. Hebert, the Hon. Louis Tourville, Jno. F. Campbell, C. A. McDonnell, W. P. Howard, the Hon. James McShane, Wm. Reid, Henry Bryson, E. Lemere, T. A. Wake, the Rev. Father Strubbe and the Rev. Father Banckart of St. Ann's Church; Jas. Sheridan, Jno. McCluskey, Jas. H. Douglas, M. Neher, P. F. McCaffrey, D. Kiley, Samuel Cross, H. M. Boyd, Wm. O'Hara, J. Finlayson, J. J. Rowan, W. J. McCaffrey, Prof. A. Fowler, E. McCaffrey, A. Lanthier, A. J. Whitman, S. C. Stevenson, John A. Rafter, W. J. O'Hara, Acting Collector of Customs, P. J. Brennan, D. Brennan, W. C. Munderloh, U.S. Consul-General Knapp, Jesse Joseph, Thos. J. Quinlivan, Wm. Glendinning, Dr. Hingston, J. C. Wilson, B. Tansey, P. Kennedy, E. H. Twohey, W. Keys, Louis Selby, M. Davis, C. Egan, J. D. L. Ambroise, Jno. Hatchette, J. H. Semple, Samuel Davis, J. Dunn, J. J. Curran, T. C. O'Brien, Ald. W. H. Cunningham, P. McCrory, Remi Boyer, Surveyor of Customs; Henry McLaughlin, tide surveyor; Francis Crispo and Ira Gould.

RESOLUTIONS OF CONDOLENCE.

THE CORN EXCHANGE.

A special meeting of the members of the Corn Exchange association was held in the Reading room. Mr. D. A. McPherson, president of the association, was in the chair and briefly stated the object for which the meeting was called. Mr. W. W. Ogilvie then moved, seconded by Mr. R. M. Esdaile, the following resolution:

Resolved, That this association has learned with deep regret of the death of Mr. M. P. Ryan, for many years one of its most active members and its president from 1870 to 1873.

That Mr. Ryan's unflinching urbanity and kindness of disposition won for him the warmest esteem of all with whom he was brought into contact both as a merchant and Collector of Customs for this port, and that the members of this association regard his death as a serious loss to the community.

That the sincere condolence of this association are hereby tendered to Mrs. Ryan and family in the sad bereavement that has befallen them.

THE CUSTOMS OFFICERS.

At a meeting of the officers of the Custom house, called for the purpose of passing resolutions of regret at the loss sustained by themselves and the community at large by the death of Mr. M. P. Ryan, collector of the port, nearly every one of the officers was present in the late collector's office yesterday afternoon at 4 p.m. On motion of Mr. Appraiser Hatchette, seconded by Mr. Acting Chief Clerk A. A. Lantier, Mr. Asst.-Collector O'Hara was named chairman and Mr. S. Cross, secretary. The following resolutions were passed:

Proposed by Mr. Surveyor Boyer, se-

conded by Mr. Dominion Appraiser Ambrose:—

Whereas, it had pleased the Almighty, in His wisdom, to remove from amongst us our late chief, M. P. Ryan, Esq., collector of customs at the port of Montreal, he it resolved—That we, the officers of the Customs service at Montreal, have assembled here to give expression to the heartfelt regret which we feel at the loss we have sustained in common with his family and the community at large and to testify to the affection, esteem and respect in which the deceased was held by us, we desire to record our appreciation of the kindly qualities of heart displayed in every act of his towards the officers of this establishment; his treatment was fatherly in the extreme and at the same time just; he faithfully endeavored as much as in him lay to advance the interests of those who were worthy, without narrow distinctions of any kind. Now, that we shall not have the pleasure of meeting him again in this world, we'll miss the "touch of a vanished hand and the sound of a voice is still;" and we hope that the mercy of God "which surpasseth all understanding," has granted to the soul of our departed friend the reward of eternal bliss and glory.

Proposed by Mr. Chief Clerk Blomely, seconded by Mr. Acting Chief Clerk Lantier:

Resolved, That we tender to Mrs. Ryan the expression of our sincere sympathy in her sad bereavement, and we trust that He who doeth all things well will grant her patience and resignation to bear the parting, with the hope of a reunion in the house of our Eternal Father.

Proposed by Mr. H. A. Lemieux, seconded by Mr. Ed. Tighe:

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to Mrs. Ryan, and also be published in the city papers.

THE C. Y. M. SOCIETY.

At a special meeting of the council of the Catholic Young Men's Society, held last evening in their hall, 92 St. Alexander street, the following resolution of condolence was moved and adopted:—

Whereas, God in His supreme wisdom has called away suddenly, but not unexpectedly, the soul of M. P. Ryan, the much respected uncle of our esteemed member, Joseph Hayes, we, the council of the C. Y. M. S., bowing to the Divine decree, and being reminded of the deceased's past benefactions to our association, offer our warmest expressions of sympathy to his bereaved widow and relatives and our monthly general Communion of next Sunday in behalf of the departed one, and invite all the members to the funeral procession and service;

Resolved, That copies of the foregoing be forwarded to relatives and to the press.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

SIR,—Reading a report of the Methodist gathering at St. John's, N.B., I was rather amused at the incidental remark of one of the ministers saying that if Sir John Thompson had married a Methodist girl, he would still be one of them; I must naturally conclude that the worthy minister looks upon woman in general, and the Methodist girl in particular, as an Almighty Power in their religious concerns. There is no doubt that woman is a great factor in human affairs, and has been so from the beginning, for old Mother Eve so charmed old grandfather Adam that he unfortunately took a bit out of the tempting apple—and so it has been ever since.

But to bring the matter home to Protestantism, there is no doubt that had there not been a woman (Catherine Bona) at the bottom of it, Luther would not have originated the so-called Reformation, and Henry VIII. would not have founded Anglicanism if Anna Boylan had not engrossed his mind; I might mention hundreds of cases where women were the cause of the falling away of clerical and lay Catholics, in other words, the passion of lust is the primary start of those desertions from the Catholic Church to all the Protestantisms i.e., Anglicanism, Methodism, &c., &c., &c., all resumed in and forming the great *ism*—Protestantism.

As to Sir John—conscience and conscience's motives alone prompted him to follow up the light which led him gradually into the bosom of that Church, which has always been and will always be the pillar of truth, the rock against which the gates of hell have never prevailed and will never; Lady Thompson was not a Catholic when Sir John joined the Church.

The fact is Sir John's conversion is such a hit to these worthy ministers that they cannot and will not swallow the pill: it sticks in their throat; I would advise them to allow it to go down quietly: it will carry away their bile.

J. A. J.

The Chiniquy pamphlet can be had after this week at all the city booksellers and at THE TRUE WITNESS office, 761 Craig Street. It should be in the hands of all Catholics, and especially would we like to see a copy of it in the possession of each member of our clergy. The refutation of a man by himself is the strongest argument to prove his errors and insincerity.