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Catholic Emigrating Association

(By An Occasional Correspondent.)

THE ANNUAL REUNION and Christmas Party, of the children of the Catholic Emigrating Association, was held at St. Vincent's Home, 28-30 Park Avenue, St. Henri, last Wednesday evening, Jan. 6, and was well attended and most successful, there being upwards of 120 children present.



MRS. J. J. CURRAN.

Amongst those present were: Rev. Father Perrier, representing His Grace the Archbishop of Montreal; Rev. Fathers Caron and Holland, C. S. S. R.; St. Ann's; Rev. Bro. Prudent, Mr. Justice Curran and Mrs. Curran, Mr. G. Bogue Smart, Dominion inspector of British immigrant children and receiving homes; Mr. Jno. P. Hoolahan, Dominion Government agent, Montreal; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Curran, Mr. Jos. St. Jean, Mr. Cecil Arden, hon. agent Catholic Emigrating Association; Miss Agnes Brennan, matron of the Home, and Miss Elizabeth Brennan.

The proceedings were opened by the presentation of an address of thanks, in French, from the children to the Rev. Father Perrier, for his kindness in coming amongst them. The address assured Father Perrier, and through him, His Grace the Archbishop, of the appreciation of the boys and girls, and the officials of the Association, of the interest the Archbishop took in their work, and welfare, and assured him that His Grace had not more loving or loyal children than those of the Old Country attached to the Catholic Emigrating Association. They begged the Rev. Father's acceptance of the accompanying bouquet.

The address was read by the little adopted English daughter of Mr. Jos. St. Jean, whose pleasing manner and thorough French accent, testified to the care and trouble exercised by her adopted parents in her education. The bouquet was presented by another little English girl, the adopted daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Laforest, of this city.

The Rev. Father Perrier thanked the children and the officials of the Association, for the kind expressions contained in the address, and for the very beautiful bouquet they had offered him. He said the Archbishop had charged him, personally, to express His Grace's regret, at being unable to be present at their reunion, but a standing engagement for that day, a visit to the prisoners in the goal, a busy branch of His Grace's large family, prevented him doing so. His Grace, the Rev. gentleman said, took the deepest interest in all that concerned the English children, whose progress and welfare he watched with the keenest pleasure, and had asked him to convey to them all his sincerest wishes for the New Year.

Father Perrier expressed his own sincere pleasure at being able to come amongst them. This work was one that he had up to then seen little on nothing of, but the present gathering had stirred up his interest, to such an extent that he could not fail to follow their progress in the future. He urged the children to remain true to their faith, and to do the duties which fell to their lot, in the future, in the same spirit which he felt sure, from their bright and happy faces, had animated them in the past. In conclusion he could only repeat the wishes of His Grace, with which he sincerely coupled his own, for a very Happy New Year.

Mr. Jno. P. Hoolahan, Dominion Government agent, Montreal, proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to Father Perrier for his sympathetic

words and kindness in coming amongst them, which was seconded by Mr. G. Bogue Smart, Dominion inspector of British immigrant children and receiving homes.

Mr. Smart expressed his pleasure at being able to come to Montreal, for the reunion, and congratulated the Association, upon the establishment of such an excellent Home. He was especially delighted to meet His Grace's representative, and to learn of the interest the Archbishop takes in the work of the Association. It must be borne in mind that the work of the Catholic Emigrating Association is not to be regarded in any sense as a business venture, but as purely philanthropic or religious in character. During the last year he had personally visited four hundred British immigrant children, in the different provinces and found them doing well, well suited and giving general satisfaction. Not more than five per cent. need to be apologized for. During the past fiscal year, approximately 14,000 applications had been received at the various Homes, for these children, but the supply had only reached 1,900. There were splendid opportunities for industrious boys and girls. Many of the immigrants of former years are now occupying positions of responsibility, and trust throughout the Dominion, as professional men, merchants, farmers and nurses. It was part of his official duty to visit and inspect the Receiving Homes, annually, and he had been pleased to find that at each the best interests of the children were being safeguarded.

It is a matter of congratulation to the Association, that their interests in Canada have been placed in the hands of such efficient officers as Miss Brennan and Mr. Cecil Arden, whom he had always found to have the best interests of the children at heart.

A very enjoyable evening was spent by the children, who were joined by many of the old boys and girls, who though now out of the association's jurisdiction, still cling round the old Home. During the evening a number of lady patronesses of the Home, assisted in entertaining the children, amongst whom may be mentioned Mrs. J. J. Curran, wife of Mr. Justice Curran, who played several selections upon the piano.

Letters regretting their inability to be present, were received from the Rev. P. Rioux, C. S. S. R., Sir William Hingston, Dr. Schmidt, and others.

ORGANIZATION AND AIMS.—The Catholic Emigrating Association whose present headquarters in Canada, are St. Vincent's Home, 28-30 Park Avenue, St. Henri, was formed by the amalgamation of most of the leading Catholic Rescue Societies in England. It has offices in London and Liverpool. The president is the Rev. Emanuel Bams, Administrator, Crusade of Rescue, Harrow Road, London, and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Arthur Chilton Thomas, barrister-at-law, who is also manager of the "Catholic Times" newspaper, 105 Shaw street, Liverpool. Both these gentlemen visited Canada, in 1902, spending several weeks in the country, studying the question of child immigration.

The Association represents within its organization the rescue work of the archdiocese of Westminster, the dioceses of Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury and Birmingham, it also incorporates the oldest existing Catholic Emigrating Society in Great Britain. The Liverpool Catholic Children's Protection Society, whose work in Canada has been for so many years carried on by the present superintendent of the Home, Miss Agnes Brennan.

During the last ten years, when the present Home was established, the Society has settled in this country, upwards of 8,000 children, many of whom have become merged into the general population, in various walks of life. It counts amongst its former proteges, members of the priesthood, of the Christian Brothers, and also several Sisters of the different orders, besides the many ranks of the commercial world.

It would, no doubt, be of interest to readers of the "True Witness" to give a few particulars of this work, whose operations are so quietly conducted, that only those immediately concerned, are aware of its existence in our midst.

The children with which it deals may be included under two heads:—Orphan and Neglected. The former are received into the homes in Eng-

land, in much the same way as those of the same class are in our Canadian orphanages. The latter are for the most part handed over to the care of the homes by the legal authorities, the parents being judged unfit to give them the care and training which is their due. Others by the influence of the clergy, are removed from surroundings deleterious to their welfare, and placed in circumstances, conducive, both to the saving of their faith, and to giving them a better opportunity in life, than they could otherwise get. In no case has a child been committed, nor is there the slightest taint of criminality to be found amongst them personally.

There is a very popular opinion



MR. CECIL ARDEN.

prevalent, that they are for the most part illegitimate, but out of the number immigrated during the last ten years, it is only possible to recall five who are so.

Many attempts have been made to prove the children to be the victims of all manner of disease, but the methods adopted by the Association renders such a charge futile. When an application is received from any school for the emigration of a child, it must be accompanied by a certificate of health, signed by a responsible medical man. The child being accepted on such certificate, is subsequently re-examined by the medical officer of the Association before embarking at Liverpool. After their embarkation, and before the ship leaves the port, they are once more examined, and if any signs of disease are apparent, are rejected and immediately removed from the vessel. During the voyage they are under the medical care of the ship's doctor, and on arrival at Quebec are subjected once more to examination by a medical officer appointed by the Dominion Government. Should a child on its arrival at the Home, show any signs of physical defect the medical officer of the Home is at once summoned, and if necessary the child is returned at once to England. The Association not wishing such child to remain in Canada. While on this subject it is interesting to call to mind the fact that out of upwards of 3,000 children, it is only possible to recall seven, whose deaths have occurred whilst under the jurisdiction of the Association, two of these being accidentally drowned.

Upon an application being received for a child an official application form, setting forth the obligations and responsibilities of those taking the children towards them, together with extracts from the Acts of Parliament relative thereto, and a blank form of agreement are furnished, and on its reception duly filled in by the Home, full enquiries are made before a child is allowed to be taken away. An agreement according to terms arranged is also signed. No fees whatever are charged for the application.

The jurisdiction of the Association over the child extends until the child attains the age of 18 years, the agent having the authority vested in him of a guardian or tutor, with full power to exercise that authority until that age is attained. This protects the interests of the child in case of ill treatment or neglect by the employer, and at the same time and a testimony to its work, we may of returning a child who may be unsatisfactory, a course the Association insists upon being followed.

A personal visit to the Home of the child is made by an officer of the Association, once every twelve months, at which visit the child is always seen apart from the employer, thus ensuring the child's proper care and progress.

Every effort is made by the Association to conduct its work thoroughly, satisfactorily and properly in every way, the officers having always before them the two chief intentions of those rescuing the children, viz.—The saving of their faith, and the giving to them a better opportunity in life than would be pos-

sible amongst their surroundings in the old country.

In conclusion, and as an evidence of the popularity of the Association, and a testimony to its work, we may state that during the last nine months, over 530 applications have been received for the children for the supply of which only 215 have been available.

MR. CECIL ARDEN, the hon. agent of the Catholic Emigrating Association, came out to this country in the interests of the English Catholic children, two years ago. Mr. Arden comes of an old Lincolnshire family, and is the second son of the present head of the family, Mr. William Edward Arden, of Rotherham, Yorks. He is a nephew of Sir Edward Braddon, formerly agent-general for Tasmania, in London, now of Launceston, Tasmania, and of Miss Braddon, the popular and talented authoress, also of the late Chief Justice Smith, of Agra, India. Mr. Cecil Arden is the first member of his family to join the Catholic Church.

Mr. Arden received his introduction to charitable work amongst children, in the Church of England, from which body he became a convert, about five years ago. Soon after his conversion, Mr. Arden was the recipient of the personal congratulations of His Eminence, the late Cardinal Vaughan, who until his death last year, was the head of the Association. Mr. Arden now represents in Canada.

The late Cardinal took a deep and practical part in the work of rescuing children, and followed with the keenest interest the progress of those whose fortunes were subsequently cast in this country. As late as April last, a few weeks before his death, His Eminence Cardinal Vaughan made enquiries from Mr. Arden as to the welfare of his children in Canada, upon whom he bestowed for the last time, his Apostolic blessing.



MISS AGNES BRENNAN.

The name of Miss Agnes Brennan, the present superintendent of the Home, has been a household word in Montreal for many years, her best known residence having been the old Home, 11 St. Thomas street. She is the daughter of the late Mr. Patrick Brennan, of Montreal, who was a nephew of the late Bishop Phelan. Miss Brennan is a niece of our much respected citizen, Mr. Justice Curran, and a sister of the genial Sister Superior of the Water street Hospital, Ottawa.

Very early in life Miss Brennan devoted herself to the poor and needy, and at one time very greatly assisted the Fathers of St. Ann's parish in their arduous work amongst the poor of that populous district.

For the last ten years Miss Brennan has devoted the whole of her time, talent and interest, to the care of the English immigrant children. In the face of much opposition and disappointment, she has persevered in her endeavors to better the condition of the children committed to her care, both spiritually and materially, with what result the happy gathering of Wednesday evening last, amply testifies, as also do the weekly receptions held at the Home every Sunday afternoon. Miss Brennan, throughout her work has been very ably and devotedly assisted by her sister, Miss Elizabeth Brennan, who shares with her the gratification, which their labors have justified.

PLAIN CHANT.

Rev. Edward W. Berthold, of St. Aloysius' Church, Chicago, and Father Lohman, recently ordained, have gone to Rensburg, Germany, where they will take up the study of the Gregorian chant.

THE WEEK'S ANNIVERSARIES.

(By An Occasional Contributor.)

On account of the Christmas and New Year's holidays I have neglected the anniversaries of each week. Finding that they were of exceeding great interest to many of the readers, I have determined to again take them up. But it would be a pity to allow the first week of the year to go past unnoticed, while we are yet so little advanced in 1904. Consequently, I will begin with the anniversaries of that week, leaving the first two days of 1904 to care of themselves.

The third of January is memorable as the anniversary of the birth of Cicero, which important event took place, in the year 107 before Christ. Needless to remind the readers that Cicero was the greatest orator ever produced by the Roman people, and his majestic orations are still classical studies, and will remain so for all time to come. With Demosthenes he divided the honors of oratory as far as antiquity is concerned. In 653, on the 3rd January, the useful discovery of glass was made. On the same date, in 1602, the famous battle of Kinsale was fought. That was one of the most fearful hand to hand struggles that took place between the troops of the English Government and the Irish led by Hugh O'Neill. There had been a peace concluded, but war followed the refusal of Queen Elizabeth to accord freedom of worship to the Irish. In 1844, on the 3rd January, the Repeal Club, city of Cork, Ireland, was founded. And on the 3rd January, 1851, Archbishop Sibour, of Paris, was assassinated in that city. There were all events sufficiently startling for the commencement of a year.

On the 4th January, 536, silk manufacture was introduced into Europe, which, in itself, marked an era in the commercial history of the world. On the same date, in 1302, the magnetic needle was invented—whence followed the mariner's compass, one of the most important discoveries of world. On the 4th January, 1577, Bishop William Walsh, one of Ireland's greatest Catholic prelates, died; and on the same date, in 1655, James Usher, Protestant Archbishop of Armagh, died. In 1858, on the 4th January, the great tragedienne, Rachel, closed her career in death. In 1861, the 4th January, was a great National Fast Day in the United States.

The fifth of January has some interesting anniversaries. In the first place, on that date, in 1066, King Edward, the Confessor, died. In 1402, on the 5th January, Joan of Arc was born. It may be remarked that considerable progress is being made in Rome in the process of the beatification of that extraordinary personage. A saint, a heroine, a national martyr, her life was one of the most extraordinary recorded in history. In 1589, on the 5th January, died, Catherine de Medici, one of the

most famous queens that ever graced a throne, and a distinguished member of the most important house of the Middle Ages. On the 5th January, 1781, Richmond, Va., was taken and devastated by the British. Finally on the 5th January, Mother Seton, foundress of the Sisters of Charity, died. She was one of the most eminent women of the close of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries.

The sixth of January, itself a great Catholic feast, the Epiphany, was equally the anniversary of some important events. On the 6th January, 1366, King Richard II., of England, died. And in 1652, on the 6th January, the Feast of the Magi. All the priests in Ireland were ordered to quit the country within twenty days, an order being issued in the form of a proclamation signed by Oliver Cromwell. The hard-hearted, old fanatic, had selected the very day on which kings travelled to visit the King of Peace to proclaim war upon the priesthood of that same Christ's Church. In 1842, the 6th January, was made memorable by the massacre and retreat of the British forces from Cabul in India.

The 7th January was the anniversary of Pitt's famous "Conciliation" speech with America, pronounced in the English Parliament in 1775. On the 7th January, 1782, the Bank of North America was opened. In 1876, on the 7th January, Henry Grattan's statue was erected in College Green, Dublin. And on the 7th January, 1878: Pope Pius IX., of immortal memory, departed this life.

On the 8th January, 1642, the famous astronomer Galileo died. A the most important religious controversies of modern times; but long since have the baseless accusations against Catholicity been exploded. In 1735, one the 8th January, was born the renowned Archbishop John Carroll. The same date commemorates the defeat of the British at New Orleans, by Jackson, in 1815. And it was on the 8th January, 1826, that Bishop England, at the invitation of Congress addressed that legislative body.

The ninth of January recalls the death of Marco Polo, the famous traveller, which took place in 1324. In 1593—four hundred and one years ago—Trinity College, Dublin, was opened, on the 9th January. In 1861, on the 9th January, the State of Mississippi seceded. Finally, in the list of important anniversaries, we find that on the 9th January, 1873, Napoleon III. died in England, and we may mention that there is even now rumor of the approaching death of ex-Empress Eugenie, his brilliant and unhappy wife.

ARCHBISHOP ON ELOPEMENTS.

"Nothing that I could say would place me in an attitude of stronger opposition to runaway marriages than I am placed by the attitude of the Catholic Church," said Archbishop Glennon of St. Louis, the other day. "Its rules are such that Catholic persons cannot run away and get married except by running out of the church.

"The rules of the church require publication of the bans three Sundays before the wedding in the church of the parish in which the engaged persons reside, and if they reside in separate parishes the bans are proclaimed in the churches of both parishes. There can be no runaway marriages where this rule is observed.

"Then if a Catholic couple run away to get married no priest will marry them without first communicating with the priest of their parish acquainting him with the facts and getting his consent.

"And if they are married by a minister or magistrate, they excommunicate themselves from the church.

"These strict rules are enforced because the Catholic Church regards

marriage as a sacrament and is indissoluble except by death. Regarding it so, it can not but enforce such rules as will tend to safeguard it in every way and promote the happiness of a relation from which there is no sanctioned release except by death.

God, conscience, reason, parents and sentiment enter into the marriage compact, rightly regarded. In the modern marriage, God, conscience, reason and parents are eliminated and sentiment only is consulted. Sentiment is evanescent. To-day it is here. To-morrow it may vanish. God, conscience, reason and parents having been left out, there is nothing left when sentiment goes and the divorce court is sought to terminate relations which have become distasteful."—New World.

NOBLE AIMS.

A noble purpose never leaves a man languid and inert. Its inspiration continues; it quickens the desires and strengthens the powers for new efforts.

A noble character produces no impression on a vulgar mind.