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Abjuration and Death of Mr. John J. Baker, Senior, Grand River Gaspe.

The parish of Grand River, Gaspe, has just been rejoiced by an event that will ever remain as one of the most beautiful in its history. Mr. John Baker, senior, former merchant and one of the most prominent citizens of Gaspe County, has had the happiness to abjure the errors of the Anglican sect, and to be consoled, before his death, by the Sacraments of the Catholic Church.

In the last days of January the venerable old man had an attack of grippe, and this, joined to the infirmities of old age, made him soon understand the grievousness of his state. On the 5th of February, feeling worse, he expressed to his wife and to his son, Mr. Andrew Baker, the desire to see Reverend Father Ouellet, pastor of the parish, declaring openly that he wished to become a Roman Catholic. The next day, which was the closing day of the Forty Hours devotion in Grand River, the pastor called at the residence of Mr. John Baker, not suspecting yet the happiness that awaited him.

"Oh! Monsieur le Cure!" exclaimed the venerable old man on seeing him enter. "It is fifteen days since I wished to see you." The task was doubtless easy for the generous catechumen, for on the evening of the following day he was ready to receive baptism, which was given him without delay, owing to the threatening character of the illness.

"Nothing more touching," relates the privileged witnesses of that scene, "than to see his beautiful white head as it bended, docile and pious, under the effusions of the baptismal water." Then followed the abjuration, the formula of which he signed with all his heart, and he confirmed his adherence by saying several times with an inimitable accent: "I believe all that the Holy Catholic Church teaches and believes." Afterwards he received Extreme Unction, which filled him with joy. The next morning the impressive ceremony of the first Communion took place. The happy neophyte looked as if transfigured, and his fervor touched more than one heart during the happy moments that followed the first thanksgiving.

Before leaving him Rev. Father Ouellet wished to know if the newly converted was really happy. "My happiness," he answered, "is so great that it is beyond expression." He had received an ivory crucifix in remembrance of his baptism, and did not cease to kiss it with transports of devotion. While venerating his beads, he seemed filled withapture, and with a childlike piety joined in reciting prayers with those who surrounded him. Every time the priest repeated a pious aspiration, he would in turn repeat it with touching eagerness, and his continual requests of "pray, pray again!" well revealed that his soul was overflowing with joy and gratitude.

Visits from relatives and old friends of the separated church could not weaken his faith, and served, on the contrary, to prove how spontaneous his great act had been, and that it remained the result of personal and profound conviction. Sunday noon, about three hours after the departure of Reverend Father Ouellet, who was unceasing in his devotedness, the good old man asked to receive Holy Communion. Before the appeal could be communicated, a telegram, his beautiful soul, raised his heavenward flight, while a smile of beatitude rested on his venerable face.

The funeral was very imposing. Rev. F. Ouellet, pastor of the parish, celebrated the Requiem Mass, assisted by Rev. J. St. Laurent, curate of Newport, as deacon, and by

Rev. J. C. Lavoie, curate of Percé, as sub-deacon. Rev. A. Poirier, curate of Cape Cove, acted as master of ceremonies. In the choir was present Rev. J. O. Caron, vicar of the parish, whose devotedness contributed largely in the preparation of these imposing obsequies. A great number of our separated brethren were present, thus rendering homage to a noble fellow-citizen whom we regret with them, and whose memory will ever be in benediction.

His remains were placed in a special vault under the church. There they lie, till the day of the resurrection, on which the truth of the Lord will so royally triumph in all the faithful souls.

BABY'S DOCTOR.

"With a box of Baby's Own Tablets on hand I feel just as safe as if I had a doctor in the house." This is the experience of Mrs. John Young, Auburn, Ont. Mrs. Young adds: "I have used the Tablets for teething and other troubles of childhood and have never known them to fail." Hundreds of other mothers are just as enthusiastic in their praise. Colic, indigestion, diarrhoea, worms, constipation and other little ills are speedily cured by this medicine. It is absolutely safe—always does good—cannot possibly do harm, and you have the guarantee of a government analyst that the Tablets contain no opiate or poisonous soothing stuff. Sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Lines to the Memory of W.K.

The dear, dear friend we loved so well,
Death for his own did claim.
Still deeply cherished in our hearts
Shall his memory ever remain.
Yes, dimmed forever are those eyes,
The voice we loved to hear,
Will never greet us as of yore,
We'll miss that friend so dear.
Snatched from us by the hand of death,
While life was in its bloom,
Oh! can it be, we see that form
Consigned unto the tomb.
Tho' naught on earth can e'er unite
What death alone has riven,
Faith points onward, whispering,
"We'll meet again in Heaven."
L. L.

COUNTY BOARD, A. O. H.

The regular meeting of the County Board of Directors, Ancient Order of Hibernians, was held in their hall on Tuesday evening, the 19th inst., every division of the county being represented. A vast amount of correspondence was received and acted upon, amongst which was a letter from the eminent Irish writer and lecturer, Seumas MacManus, stating that it was his intention on Easter Monday evening, April 1st, to deliver a lecture in this city. The Karm Hall has been secured for the occasion, and a programme arranged that will meet with the approval of the Irish race in this city. He requested the co-operation of the A.O.H. and all other Irish organizations of this city. The Directors were unanimous in their decision to render Mr. MacManus all assistance to make his entertainment a success.

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

On Tuesday last, Rev. Father Cox, S.J., of Loyola College, closed a retreat for the English-speaking Catholics of that parish. The retreat was the most successful held in the north-east for years, and the increase in attendance was very gratifying to the Fathers who have charge of the English-speaking portion of that parish.

Holloway's Corn Cure is the medicine to remove all kinds of corns and warts, and only costs the small sum of twenty-five cents.

Death of Sister Mary of the Immaculate Conception. [Rachel Curran.]

It is our painful duty to record the death of Rev. Sister Mary of the Immaculate Conception, who passed away on the 21st instant, at the Mother House, Water street, Ottawa, at the ripe age of seventy-four. This venerable religious was the sister of Mr. Justice Curran of the Superior Court of this Province, and of the late Brother Noah, who died at Manhattan College a few years ago. She was one of three Grey Sisters, members of the same family. The eldest, Rev. Sister Curran, who died just one year ago at the Convent of the Grey Sisters in Montreal, having spent the greater part of her life in the Northwest of Canada, and Rev. Sister Curran of Ottawa, now secretary-general of the order in that city.

Sister Mary of the Immaculate Conception was born in Montreal on the 26th August, 1833. She was educated at the convent of the Ladies of the Congregation of Notre Dame, and on the 26th April, 1848, entered the order of the Grey Sisters at Montreal. She was immediately sent to the Mission of By-town (now Ottawa city) and was the first nun to make her vows at the Water Street Mother House, on the 2nd October, 1850. One year later she was sent to St. Andrews, Ont., where she founded a new mission. Subsequently she was sent to Buffalo, N.Y., where for several years she was a teacher in the Holy Angels' Academy. In 1863 she was one of the founders of the Convent in Plattsburgh, N.Y., one of the most successful missions of the Order. Three years later she was recalled to Ottawa on the opening of a school on Wellington street, Upper Town. There she remained until the school was replaced by the convent of Our Lady of the Rosary on Primrose Hill. She then became secretary-general of the order, an office she held for many years.

On the 2nd October, 1900, the good Sister celebrated her golden jubilee, 50 years after her profession. Since that date her health has been failing, but it was not until the month of February last that any serious apprehension was entertained by the community. The funeral took place on the 23rd instant. His Grace Archbishop Duhamel sang the requiem Mass and conducted the funeral service. A delegation from the Grey Sisters of Montreal was present at the obsequies. Rev. Mother Ward and Sister Quinn having been sent to Ottawa by the Superior-General.

Sister Mary of the Immaculate Conception will be mourned not only by her brother and sister, but by the Community of which she was such a distinguished member, and by hundreds of ladies now occupying positions in religion as well as in society, who remember the careful training they received at her devoted hands.

MAN OF EVIL OMEN.

It is not generally known, or perhaps it is conveniently forgotten, for it is often as useful to forget as to remember, that M. Clemenceau, the present President of the Council, was implicated in some of the worst scenes of the Commune.

In making his protest in the chapel of the Grand Seminaire at the recent expulsion of the students, Mgr. Delamare said: "M. le sous Prefet, this is the second time in my life as priest and French citizen that I have seen a similar and lamentable spectacle presented before my eyes. The first time was in Paris, thirty-five years ago, when your chief, M. Clemenceau, then Mayor of Montmartre, stood by with gaiety of heart while the mob assassinated two French generals within a few steps of him and neither raised his voice nor a finger to assist the victim. To-day this man of evil omen no longer permits our soldiers to have their throats cut beneath his eyes, but he does worse—he gives to our unfortunate officers commands which dishonor them."

After the Commune, when order was restored, M. Clemenceau was present at one of the trials to give evidence. On that occasion the presiding judge said to him significantly: "M. Clemenceau, your place by right should not be in the witness box."

It is this "man of evil omen" who now holds the reins of power in France and who declares that the Basilio of Montmartre, the Church of the National Vow, built to expiate the crimes committed during the Commune, at which he assisted, shall be the first Church closed under the new regime.

A Successful Lecture.

(The Leader, Morrisburg.)

The Rev. Gerald McShane, S.S., D.D., delivered a most interesting lecture entitled "Memories of the Seven Hills," and of Ireland, in the Music Hall, on Monday evening, as a fitting celebration of St. Patrick's Day. The hall was well filled with a mixed audience, who listened with profit to the eloquence of the gifted lecturer, and Father Salmon and his congregation are to be congratulated for having furnished our citizens with such an intellectual treat. The musical part, under the direction of Miss M. Hickey, was well received.

The lecture was a series of reminiscences carefully and charmingly collected with a view of instructing an audience in an entertaining way. There are few cities in Europe, said the speaker, that possess so many varied attractions as Rome. There is no place where a foreigner feels less a foreigner and more at home, than within the walls of the Eternal City. Even those who are not of the Roman faith experience this singular fascination, this magnetic influence of the ancient seat of the Caesars; and time or separation do not seem to remove their affection for Eternal Rome. Lord Byron aptly expressed these feelings when he wrote:

O Rome, my country, city of the soul,
The orphans of the heart must turn to thee,
Lone mother of dead empires, and control
In their shut breasts their petty misery.

Father McShane certainly contributed by his lecture to spread among his hearers a love and taste for the beauties of the Seven Hills.

Beginning by Mount Vatican, which, without being among the classical seven, was an interesting, historic hill of Rome, the speaker led his audience in spirit through the wonders of the Grand Basilica, greeting it with the poet's words:

O thou of temples old and altars new,
Standest alone with nothing like to thee.

The art treasures of the Vatican, called by a free thinker, "The Divine City," were also strikingly illustrated, the figures of Pius X., Leo XIII., Cardinals Merry del Val and Rampollo, with a short sketch of their careers being religiously listened to. An appropriate digression, briefly describing the French crisis and the Vatican's policy was here inserted with proper illustrations. The Coelian Hills then opened its mine of recollections of Pope Gregory, England's conversion, the Appian Way, the Catacombs, the sensuous Roman customs at the Baths, the life in art of Cecilia, daughter of a rich Roman patrician. The Coliseum offered a connecting link to the lecturer between the Seven Hills and Memories of Ireland. The latter was splendidly brought out by a series of stereoscopic views of the beauty spots of Ireland, made famous by the men in history who shaped the destiny of Erin, O'Connell, Tom Moore, Emmet, Grattan and Father Mathew. Some pleasing anecdotes, brimful of Irish wit, were appreciated in this part of the lecture.

The other Roman Hills were shown, the Palatine, the home of consuls, the emperors, the patricians and vestals. The Capitoline—the seat of the Conscrip Fathers—the Forum, ringing with the silvery voice of Cicero and Mark Antony. The Aventine, with its poetic recollections of Jerome, Dominick and his army of white-robed sacred orators that gave to the world a Thomas Aquinas, a Lucordeire, a Monsabre and a Tom Burke; Alexius, sung by the verses of Cardinal Wiseman; the Knights of Malta with their luxuriant and picturesque gardens. Last came the Quirinal and the Pincian, with pleasant narratives of modern life in the Roman colleges.

A very pleasing feature of the evening's programme was the arrangement of appropriate musical

numbers in connection with the subject matter treated. These were admirably rendered by the young ladies of Morrisburg under the direction of Miss Hickey.

After the memoirs of the Roman Madonnas, and the life in art of Cecilia, the patroness of music, came a beautiful Ave Maria, rendered most creditably by Miss Aggie Laskey.

At the conclusion of the lecture a hearty vote of thanks was tendered the lecturer, moved by Mr. Thos. McDonald, in a happy speech, seconded by Mr. William McGannon.

In acknowledging this, Rev. Fr. McShane expressed his gratitude for the cordial welcome extended to him by such a large gathering. He exhorted his hearers one and all to cultivate a taste for the study of the history of Rome, noting that whilst Pagan Rome, the Rome of the Caesars, was now a mass of doleful ruins, the Rome of Peter and Pius was still extant with all the freshness and vigor of her youth.

The musical part of the programme was as follows:
Piano overture, "Whisperings from Erin," Misses Brown and Hepburn; chorus, "Great and Glorious St. Patrick," choir; song, "The Old Plaid Shawl," (Haynes), Miss M. C. Hickey; encore, "The Dear Little Shamrock."

At this juncture Rev. Dr. Salmon, in his usual happy style, introduced the lecturer.

The second part of the musical programme was as follows:
"Ave Maria" (Mine), Miss Aggie Laskey; "Meeting of the Waters," Miss Ida Pariseau; "Killarney," Miss M. C. Hickey; song, "Ashore," (Trotter) Mr. R. H. Montgomery.

OUTREMOUNT CONVENT.

On Saturday afternoon last the pupils of Outremont Convent held the closing exercises of the calisthenic classes, which showed a very creditable year's work. The exercises comprised: Delsarte movements, fancy marches, ball exercises, barbell drill, freehand, dumb-bells, club swinging and fancy drills—hoops and scarfs. Miss Baker-Edwards's faithful teaching and the excellent work of the pupils received commendation from the Sister Superior, who presented the various badges and medals won. After the presentation of pins and badges to the successful pupils, Miss Baker-Edwards addressed them in part as follows:

"I would like to express the pleasure I have enjoyed in teaching these classes, and my appreciation of the constant willingness, courtesy and adaptation of the pupils; also to thank very cordially the Sisters in charge of each division for their very valuable help in carrying out the instructions for drill. The pupils have made good progress in the exercises and if I have succeeded in giving them an interest in the improvement of their bodies and a desire to carry out what they have learned, I shall not have spent the year in vain. I heartily congratulate those who have been successful and would add just a word to those who have been disappointed in not winning a medal or badge. Remember two things—that you have all gained in the improvement made by the exercises, also that to fail cheerfully and gracefully is one kind of success—a kind which, when learnt, serves us well through our after life.

The Eminent New York Jurist

T. P. O'Connor, in a review of the Thaw case in his London paper, has this on Judge Fitzgerald, under the caption "Judge Jim" Fitzgerald: "And finally it may be that there is some slight cause—some obscure factor—which is the key to the drama, and which one has not yet heard. In the tangled web of human character and incident there is always some unknown and small factor like this which produces the catastrophe; whatever it may be, there they now stand before the world in this awful court—the baby-faced girl, the heavy-browed and undisciplined boy, and there is on the horizon the ghastly spectacle of the electric chair where precious life is squeezed in a second out of the poor shivering creature."

There is one prominent figure in the drama of whom I can speak with long personal acquaintance. It is more than twenty-five years now since I first met the judge who presides over this momentous trial—Judge James—or, as he is known to his friends, "Jim"—Fitzgerald. He is, of course, an Irishman. I believe he comes from the County of Limerick. He was then a slight young man with brilliant dark eyes, a slight frame, and a very eloquent and even burning tongue. He is still a great speaker, but he has the stout figure of the middle-aged whose employment is sedentary. He has a sympathetic and kindly soul, a keen

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Synopsis of Canadian North-West HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS

ANY even numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, excepting 8 and 26, not reserved, may be homesteaded by any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section of 160 acres, more or less.

Entry must be made personally at the local land office for the district in which the land is situated.

The homesteader is required to perform the conditions connected therewith under one of the following plans:

- (1) At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year for three years.
- (2) If the father (or mother, if the father is deceased) of the homesteader resides upon a farm in the vicinity of the land entered for, the requirements as to residence may be satisfied by such person residing with the father or mother.
- (3) If the settler has his permanent residence upon farming land owned by him in the vicinity of his homestead, the requirements as to residence may be satisfied by residence upon said land.

Six months' notice in writing should be given the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa of intention to apply for patent.

W. W. CORY,
Deputy Minister of the Interior.
N.B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.

Pilgrimage To Rome.

If any of our readers or their families are contemplating a trip to Europe, this coming summer, why not encourage and patronize the one connected by McGRANE'S CATHOLIC TOURS, 187, Broadway, New York City.

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