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D'Youville Reading Circle

On the evening of Tuesday, May 30, D'Youville Circle held its closing meeting, the programme, both literary and musical, being such as to fully justify the term "spring festival." The convocation hall of the Rideau street Convent had been converted into a bower of greenery, here and there, further enhanced by clusters of spring blossoms.

A clever paper on Canadian Poets, by Miss E. Marshall, was read by Miss Agnes Baskerville, who also read "The Songsters," by Pauline Lohndson. Miss A. O'Connor played Mendelssohn's beautiful little "Spring Song." The vocal numbers were: "The Swallows," sung by Miss Gwendolyn Smart, accompanist, Miss Audrey Jones; Celia Thaxter's "Good-bye, Sweet Day," by Miss May Weir, accompanist, Miss Florence Goodwin. Mrs. A. Fraser and some of her elocution class read selections of Lampman's "The Eve of June," by Mrs. Fraser; "The Frogs," Miss Topley; Thomas, "April on the Hills," Miss M. Meahery.

Chas. G. B. Roberts was represented in "The Maple," by Miss M. E. O'Meara. Miss J. MacCormac read Bliss Carman's "The Magic of the Woods."

The Rev. Lucian Johnston, a practical honorary member of D'Youville Circle, sent two exquisite short poems: "Maryland Skies" and "The Sea Gipsy." The latter poem was suggested to Father Johnston by the reading of Richard Haney's poem of the same title. Miss Anna McCullough was the reader.

The second part of the evening was given to some general remarks by the chairman, who was pleased to review the four years' work of the Circle with that secure feeling which is only determined by success. The summer months were spoken of as demanding nature's studies, in poems, pictures and the beautiful and countless sermons in stones and shells, flowers and trees, making, of all the world the most sublime, most complete library and art gallery and museum.

A few books were mentioned as good interpreters of creation: Saint Francis of Assisi in "The Legends"; Father Faber's, Wordsworth's; and Christine Rossetti's poems; "The Little Rivers," by Van Dyke; "Elizabeth's Garden" and "The Solitary Summer" and Newman's sermon, "The New Spring."

Pamphlets containing the report of the sixth annual meeting of the International Catholic Truth Society, were distributed, a careful reading of the same being recommended. The attention of the members was called to a complimentary paid by the Rev. President, William F. McGinnis, D.D. in his closing address on the occasion of that annual gathering in New York when he said: "I wish to express my admiration of the work done by various affiliated societies, and if I might single out those which have been particularly active along our lines, permit me to commend the D'Youville Alumnae Association of Ottawa, the Councils of the Knights of Columbus and the San Antonio Branch of the International Catholic Truth Society."

The special subject of next year's work was announced as the History of Education. Some of the lectures will be in touch with this subject, the object of which will be to make quite sure that all our so-called gains should not lead us to forget our very real losses. Besides the acceptable authorities on this subject of study, the attention of the Circle will be called to the results of education, as shown in the literatures of ancient, mediaeval and modern times. The method will be largely comparative, with a special endeavor to draw the line of difference between pagan and Christian, and also between instruction and education.

The next meeting will be held on the first Tuesday of October, while the full gathering will be as usual, on Saint Theresa's Day, Oct. 15th.

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SS. NEREUS AND ACHILLEUS

Anniversary Feast Celebrated in the Catacomb of St. Domitilla

Rome, May 19.—In spite of the heavy rain of Sunday last, a considerable crowd of persons went from the city to the Church and Catacomb of St. Domitilla, where the anniversary feast of SS. Nereus and Achilleus was celebrated. Mass at the Catacombs has always a certain impressiveness special to itself, originating in the associations which are awakened by the historical memories of the place. On this present occasion that was emphasised when one of the Homilies of St. Gregory the Great was read after the first Gospel. This Homily was delivered by that Pontiff, in that same church and on that same feast, thirteen hundred years ago! The music, which was quite in keeping with these associations, was the Gregorian chant, rendered by the students of the French Seminary in Rome, under the direction of the illustrious Dom Andre Mocquereau, Prior of the Abbey of Solesmes.

Commentatore Orazio Marucchi delivered a lecture in which he described the historical memories of the place, and commented in a special manner on the inscription which Pope St. Damasus, who reigned from 366 to 384, placed here in honor of SS. Nereus and Achilleus. The church was discovered by De Rossi, and rendered available for service in 1874. It stands on the second floor of a catacomb, somewhat in the manner of St. Agnes Outside the Walls; and the date of its construction was most ingeniously discovered by that illustrious archaeologist. The earliest dated inscription found in the church was of the year 395, the latest dated inscription in the catacomb immediately beneath it was of the year 390; it was natural to conclude that between 390 and 395 the church was constructed here. A fragment of an inscription in marble, written in the well-known characters employed by Pope Damasus, was recognized by De Rossi as part of the metrical inscription drawn up by this Pope and placed at their sepulchre, "on the Appian Way," as the Eusebiens manuscript somewhat inaccurately puts it. This inscription is a copy of the original inscription made by a pilgrim who came to Rome in the seventh century, and who was greatly enamoured of the beauty of language of these inscriptions, which he gathered as examples to be imitated.

The finding of a fragment of the original inscription in this spot made known the nature of the building and its name—that is to say the Saints whose name it bore. The inscription relates that the two martyrs, Nereus and Achilleus, were soldiers, probably Pretorians, and may have taken part in the persecution of Nero. Thus the memory is brought back to the very infancy of Christianity in Rome, when St. Peter and St. Paul were preaching to the people and gathering thousands to the faith of Christ. The discovery of a portion of a marble relief on which was represented in relief a prisoner with his hands tied behind his back, and close by him an executioner striking with a heavy sword at the neck of the prisoner, was an event that shed additional light on the history of this place. It was evident that on this column, which is supposed to have been one of the four pillars which supported the canopy that rose above the altar, a martyrdom was represented, and all doubt was removed when the name Achilleus was read above the group of the prisoner and the executioner. A tiny fragment of one of the other columns of the canopy has the lower part of a second similar group, and it is not very rash to conclude that this represented the martyrdom of Nereus.

In this, as in the other Catacombs of Rome, the great wonder and supreme satisfaction is the mode in which they each relate to him, who has lovingly and thoroughly studied them, their own special story. The longer and more eagerly one contemplates them the more they reveal. One strange or unusual word in an inscription, an unexpected figure in a fresco, a break in the continuity of the mortar around the slabs that close a grave, tell each their own tale, and throw light upon a period not clearly illumined and especially on the manners and customs and modes of thought prevailing at the time these things were made.

C.O.F. NOTES

St. Peter's Court of the Catholic Order of Foresters held their twelfth regular meeting in Douglas Hall, corner Bloor and Bathurst streets, at 8 o'clock on the evening of June 1st. After the regular business of the Court was disposed of, Rev. Father Minehan delivered an eloquent address setting forth the benefits to be derived from the independence of the Catholic press.

A lively discussion then arose as to the ideal method of educating our Catholic children. The speeches were excellent and many good points were made.

On Thursday evening, 15th inst., at 8 o'clock, the next meeting, which promises to be a most interesting one, will be held in the same hall.

Where Weakness is Disease Will Settle.—If one suffers from any organic weakness, inherited or contracted, there disease will settle when it attacks the body. Therefore drive out the pains that beset you, do not let a cold or a cough harass you, and keep the respiratory organs in a good healthy condition. This you can do by using Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. Prevention is the wisest course.

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Orangeism and Catholic Teachers

The loud profession of the Orange politicians who are opposing the school clauses of the Northwest autonomy bills is that Catholics would receive fair play from them under a common school system. The Orange propaganda is the same in Canada and in Ireland; and let the following facts as related by the Dublin Freeman's Journal, tell the tolerance of Orangemen to Catholics and Catholic teachers in national schools. The Freeman says:

Mr. Justice Barton gave judgment in a peculiarly wanton and cruel case of conspiracy. The conspirators were certain Orangemen in the district of Carnall, County Tyrone, who were headed by the local "Master," Mr. William Coote. About the case there was not a single palliating feature. It was a brutal and disgusting exhibition of bigotry against a poor young sewing teacher whose only offence was that she was a "Papist." This young girl, Miss Rose Sweeney, was appointed as a manual instructress to the National School by the manager, the Rev. Mr. Bailey, the Presbyterian clergyman of the parish. This school, let us say, in the first instance, was not even in the practical sense, a denominational school such as we are familiar with, in fact, in most places. Each denomination, in practice, provides its own school, and, while nominally open to all classes, these schools are, in practice, only attended by pupils of the denomination of those who erected the school. But the Carnall school was what is called a "vested" school. It was erected at the expense of all denominations. It was attended by Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and Catholics, and the only flavor of sectarianism about it was that the Rev. Mr. Bailey, the Presbyterian minister, was the manager. Such was the state of affairs when Miss Rose Sweeney was appointed at a salary which was to range according to the number of pupils—the maximum to be £24 a year—to teach the little girls of Carnall how to sew.

For the first few days after the appointment the children attended the school as usual. Even the local Orangemen did not at first see any great danger to liberty of conscience in a Catholic sewing mistress. But at the end of the week the Presbyterian church was daubed with big black crosses, and Mr. William Coote, the defendant in the action yesterday, denounced the Presbyterian minister to his face as guilty of "scandalous" conduct. This Orange bravo, in fact, regarded it as scandalous that a Catholic teacher should be appointed in a school provided by Catholic as well as Protestant money. He called a meeting of the parishioners, he organized a "boycott" of the school, and he indicted before one of the "Lords" the Presbyterian minister, Canon Hare Forester, because he dissuaded the people from joining in the boycott. The object of the conspiracy was, of course, clear. This poor Catholic girl was to be dismissed from her position to please Mr. Coote and the rest of the bigots; she was to be ruined for the gross offence of being a "Papist," and, in default of her dismissal, the school was to be destroyed and the emoluments of the teacher reduced to vanishing point. This blackguard scheme partly succeeded. Very credit is due to the Rev. Mr. Bailey and to the Episcopal clergyman, Canon Hare Forester, who acted as a Christian gentleman should, and declined to be coerced by the Orange drummer, "ruling elder" though he was of the church to which Mr. Bailey belonged. But the children were withdrawn from the school, and the girl has lost her emoluments. It yet remains to be seen whether the machinery of the Chancery Division will result in compensating her upon the same lavish scale as Mr. O'Keefe, of Tallow, whose verdict of £5,000 has been warmly approved of as not excessive by the judges in banco of two of our Irish Courts, headed by that eminent and dignified person, Lord O'Brien of Killeenora.

Mr. Justice Barton felt bound by the facts of the case to give an injunction against the conspirators. But that injunction will not bring back the pupils, whose parents have been intimidated to withdraw them. If we were to say more on this point, we should probably be accused of attempting to prejudice the forthcoming inquiry in Chambers into the question of damages. But while applauding the judgment of the learned judge, we could have wished, too, that he had not made any statement in advance as to what he was about to do. At the close of the case he is reported to have said that he would not be disposed to give more than a quarter's salary in any case, but in-

dicated that no evidence had yet been taken on the question of damages. We think it would have been wiser if the judge had indicated no maximum until evidence was actually taken. As the Chief Justice would say, "We say no more."

Recent Books

Three books from the publishing house of Benziger Bros., New York, are to hand: "Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus," Rev. H. Holman, S.J., \$1.25. "Socialism and Christianity," Rt. Rev. Wm. Stang, D.D., \$1.00. "The Transplanting of Ties," Mary T. Waggaman, 60c.

From Benziger Bros. we always look for pure and healthy literature of cultured phrase, intellectual depth, and education of the highest phase of sound morality. And these three volumes each in each in no ways fall short of our expectations. The first, though devoted specially to pastors, still provides to the lay mind a fund of historical information and ecclesiastical exhortation upon this chief devotion in the Church. As one reads one wonders, and, enthusing, one reaches to spiritual resolution to promote and practise this spirit-blessing devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. And full indeed must be the reader who under the spell of the gifted author does not rise to the intention of fulfilling the aims to promote which the book is written.

In "Socialism and Christianity" the Rt. Rev. Wm. Stang, D.D., with a master hand exposes and traces to its cause that modern phase of "improved economical conditions" known as socialism. He points out the pitfalls with which it bestrews the path of the honest worker, and the traps it erects to destroy the ordinary happiness of human lives, by exchanging with revolutionary vigor the old and well tried systems of Christian charity and fellowship, of the rewards of well earned merit, of the natural fullness of life of human relationships for a system which levels all personal endeavor to a mean of state appropriations, making individuals of none, nonentities of all. In the latter part of the author's work are many exquisite paragraphs descriptive of and inculcating the true happiness and the greatest prosperity to be obtained in human life, the reading of which in themselves alone will well repay the small cost of a volume filled from first to last with immense stores of food for thought.

"The Transplanting of Ties." In these days of glaring novels, and unwholesome "bon mots" with which the enquiring mind of childhood is surrounded as food for recreation, the sweet and well-told story of fair and lovable Tiesie comes with a welcome zest. The vigorous picture of a vivacious little girl, trained in all the naturalness of childhood and modest demeanor of convent upbringing is an unending delight. Yet the story is not without those touches of pathos that bring strictures to the throat of the reader and a sympathetic tear to the eye, and the humorous situations call forth also the ready smile of enjoyment, while mostly the reader enjoys the heroism of the little heroine, and feels that while one naturally expects deeds of "high emprise" from such an one, there would be decided disappointment if such were realized in the usual course of the ordinary story book. Mary T. Waggaman has provided recreation in this volume that should induce parents to willingly pay the small price of the book and debar from their children's minds the highly seasoned stuff which is frequently devoured with pitiable gusto.

Sympathy in Stratford

Stratford, May 29.—The death of Major Henry A. Gray, M. Inst., C. E., engineer in charge of the public works of Canada, at Toronto, on Tuesday, May 23rd, was learned with deep regret by his many staunch friends in Stratford, where the late major was well and favorably known, having formerly resided here. He was at one time a member of the Separate School Board and St. Joseph's church choir. He was also an active member of the Branch No. 13, C.M.B.A., in which branch he became a member of the association. Major Gray was widely known throughout Canada and his sudden and unexpected death will be a severe shock to his many friends everywhere. He was born in Edgbaston, near Birmingham, England, Nov. 21, 1843.

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Plans and specification can be seen and forms of tender obtained at this Department and on application to H. E. Hamilton, Esq., Resident Engineer, Examining Warehouse, Toronto, Ont.

Persons tendering are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed form supplied, and signed with their actual signatures.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a chartered bank, payable to the order of the Honorable the Minister of Public Works, equal to ten per cent. (10 p.c.) of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the party tendering decline to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fail to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned. The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,
FRED. GELINAS,
Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, May 27, 1905.

Newspapers inserting this advertisement without authority from the Department, will not be paid for it.



SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Toronto Island Breakwater Extension," will be received at this office until Tuesday, July 4, 1905, inclusively, for the construction of an extension to the Breakwater on South side of Toronto Island, City of Toronto, in the County of York, Ontario, according to a plan and a specification to be seen at the office of the Resident Engineer, Confederation Life Building, Toronto, at the office of C. Desjardins, Esq., Clerk of Works, Post Office, Montreal, and at the Department of Public Works, Ottawa.

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Department of Public Works,
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Bigamy and the English Bar

The London Catholic Herald states that at Gray's Inn, Earl Russell was called to the Bar. The question as to whether he should be called last term was referred to the Judges, but the latter declined to settle it, saying that it was a matter for the Benchers of the Inn. The difficulty has arisen through the conviction of Earl Russell on a bigamy charge, and, of course, such a conviction, in the ordinary way, has hitherto precluded anyone being called to the Bar.

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