



**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

We desire to thank Mr. O. K. Fraser, of Brookville, the President of the Grand Council of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association of Canada, and through him the Association, for the honor conferred upon the TRUE WITNESS in appointing it an official organ of that great and important Catholic body. On our editorial page we publish the official appointment.

Last week we published a letter from "Juventas" on the subject of a grand hall for our Catholic young men,—a hall that will be sufficiently large to accommodate several hundreds, and give them recreation-rooms, reading-rooms, libraries, lecture-rooms, and all the requirements of such an establishment. We will dwell upon this subject at greater length in another issue.

The action suggested by THE TRUE WITNESS two weeks ago, and taken up by St. Patrick's Society, for the purpose of raising a fund to be given to the Hon. Edward Blake, for the Home Rule cause, gives every sign of being a grand success. Mr. J. J. Curran, Q.C., M.P., as President of the Society, has taken most energetic steps in calling Monday's meeting and in pushing the business on as rapidly and effectively as possible. It is to be hoped that when the list will be closed something handsome will be sent from Montreal—thus keeping our good city as ever in the vanguard of generosity and of practical patriotism.

The night school question has at last been taken up in a serious manner. We would suggest that, as these classes are for the purpose of instructing men who have no leisure during the day, or have not the means at any time, of improving their condition in life by elementary acquirements, it stands to reason that "the three R's" are more important than drawing and such like branches. Let the teachers be thorough and practical men, and let them give lessons in reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping and all the absolutely necessary elements of commercial training. Let the schools be of some practical benefit.

Elsewhere in this issue is a short account of the School Commissioners' meeting and the decisions about night schools. We don't see the name of St. Ann's school upon the list. Why so? It seems to us that St. Ann's parish is exactly the place—if there be any in the city—where a night school is required. It is a most thickly settled portion of the city; it contains an immense percentage of working people; every facility is offered for such a school at Brother Arnold's. Now we want to know if the arrangements are final; if not, the people of St. Ann's should have a night-school as well as the other sections of the city.

Our correspondents, whose letters have not appeared either last week or the week before, will have to excuse us for the unavoidable omissions. The fact is

that were we to publish all the letters, from different sources and upon different subjects, that are upon our desk, they would fill four pages of THE TRUE WITNESS. Especially upon the school question, we have upwards of fifteen communications this week, all of different lengths and of varied importance. We are very thankful for such kind assistance, because these letters furnish us with facts and the views of the citizens; but we will beg of the writers to consider that if their communications do not appear, it is simply for want of space. If we had a daily paper at our disposal it would be very different.

It is evident that hundreds would be pleased to see that test case fall through before the Police Committee. Well, they are to be disappointed. Either the law is not sufficient in order to free respectable citizens of disorderly neighbors, or else the Chief is not able or willing to execute the law. If the law is wanting, it must be changed at next session of the Legislature; if the Chief is wanting well—! As matters progress we will publish each step. The fight has only commenced: but we have the authorities just where we wanted to get them. If a full and minute complaint made by a Justice of the Peace, and substantiated by others on oath, does not weigh in the balance against the word of a public prostitute, who flies to the Chief's office, and flings her defiance—through his remarks, before the committee, in the face of the community, it is time to change both law, officers, and all—lock, stock, and barrel.

Speaking of the Hon. Edward Blake's speech in Boston, the *Chicago Citizen* pays the following tribute to our Canadian statesman. It is well worthy of reproduction:

These remarks have been suggested to the *Citizen* by a recent speech of the Hon. Edward Blake, ex-Canadian statesman, and now M.P. for the county Longford in Ireland, who, addressing a Boston audience, used the following words: "We are not likely to obtain Home Rule in the next session of Parliament. We must make up our minds for a two and even a three years' struggle. The Irish party has before it a fight as arduous, as critical and as difficult as it ever had."

Such are the warning words of a level-headed and highly intelligent statesman, who knows whereof he speaks, and whose observations ought to be read, studied and inwardly digested by all those whose enthusiasm has led them to believe that the greatest legislative measure of a century can be passed in a day.

While we are referring editorially to the School Question, from different stand points, according to our fixed programme, we don't wish to let the representation phase of the matter be forgotten, nor have we any intention of letting the "proper English teaching" issue drop out of sight. We believe in poor John Mitchell's saying: "Agitate; keep on agitating; live agitating; and die agitating—until you have succeeded in gaining a hearing and in carrying your point." The following is a copy of a letter from a teacher in one of our public schools, asking his Principal for leave of absence to attend a funeral. The writer of this letter takes the rank of an English teacher, and prides himself so much upon his knowledge of our language that he would not make his request

in his own mother tongue. We have in our possession several such letters, some better, some equally bad, but none worse. We publish this one to vindicate our course in demanding English teachers to instruct our children in their own language. We may be induced to publish some more of these letters, if not for the edification of the public, at least in order to give our reader a few examples of the work done by men said to teach English.

Montreal,  
To \_\_\_\_\_, Esq.:  
SIR,—My nevus lost one of his child and the funeral take place this afternoon will be any inconvenience to let me go to Day,  
I remaind your  
obd Ser  
(Signed)

The writer of this letter may never see our paper; but the principal who received the letter shall certainly see it, and he cannot fail to recognize the gen.

During the past few month we have been publishing a series of most beautiful, original and clever sketches—real essays—upon Dublin and its principal attractions. The e admirable pieces of literary work, from the pen of Walter Lecky, have attracted considerable attention throughout Canada and the United States. As a best evidence of the manner in which they are appreciated we have but to state that we find them reproduced in the Catholic press from different parts of the continent. One week it is the *Philadelphia Catholic Standard*, that grand organ that so eloquently preaches Catholicity in the good old Quaker city; another week it is the *San Francisco Monitor*, the first Catholic organ, amongst many splendid publications on the Pacific Coast; again a week and we find one in *Facts*, Chatanooga's charming weekly, one of the brightest that, not only Tennessee, but all the Southern States send us. So on, it goes, *The Western Watchman*, fresh with its well-filled columns and clever editorials, from St. Louis, and a host of other important Catholic organs seem to find something exceptionally good in the writings of our correspondent. We know that Walter Lecky appreciates these marks of approval, and so does THE TRUE WITNESS. However, we would like to remind a couple of other organs, equally appreciative of these articles, that they are written special for our paper by a person very intimately connected with us, and we would be exceedingly obliged if, in reproducing them, they would sometimes, just accidentally, let their readers know where they originally appeared. It would place us under a double obligation to these *confreres*; one for the reproduction, and one for the credit given.

"A. H. L." (whosoever he may be) writes occasionally to the *Gazette* from England. On the 9th instant a two column letter from that personage, upon "Affairs in Great Britain," appeared in that morning contemporary. "A. H. L." takes up considerable space, in the way of preface to his illogical communication, with a lengthy comparison between an employer who never granted anything that was asked by an employée, and a

Royal Commission that is a means of not doing anything for the performance of which it was established. This is followed by a very silly attack upon Mr. Frederic Harrison's writings in the *Fortnightly Review*; an attack that Junius would describe as "declamation without argument, and assertion without proof." Then comes an attempt to paint Mr. Morley as between the horns of a dilemma that does not exist. This brings us down to the middle of the second column. Surely it is time, we begin to think, for "A. H. L." to let us know what he is coming at, what he intends to spring upon us. So much preface must be in order to prepare us for some most valuable information: a special European correspondent should have something new to give us poor colonists. He tells us, then, that the Lord Lieutenant was wrong in not accepting the address sent by the Dublin Chamber of Commerce: and in imparting this piece of gratuitous information, he advances the very reasons that led the Lord Lieutenant to act so prudently and wisely. Then comes an account of real and imaginary outrages—the real ones practised by Unionists to discredit the Government, the imaginary ones created by fanaticism in the fertile brain of the *Gazette's* correspondent. The whole letter closes with a few hustings platitudes and political generalities that mean nothing. Now, is it really worth while making so much ado for so very small a result? We would advise our readers to follow these special correspondents of the Anti-Home Rule class, and they will learn how poor, lame and few are the arguments that Unionists possess.

Last March we had the pleasure of writing a lengthy article upon the very illogical and historically false sermon preached by the Rev. Mr. Noble, of Trinity Church, Quebec, on the occasion of St. Patrick's Day. That noble gentleman has been at it again; but this time it is the High Church—not the Catholic Church—that is the object of his wrath. He denounces Ritualistic practices, the Elevation, the "Agnus Dei," the High Church sisterhoods, the want of interest in the Bible Society; and everything and everybody that comes in his way. Our readers will remember the proverbial bull in the China shop. His attack upon the Kilburn Sisters, in which he accuses them of being "conspirators," is anything but noble. Could aught be more ignoble than to fire the arrows of his vindictiveness at these women who are not present to defend themselves, or even, if they were present, would have no right of reply. Elsewhere we quote a real noble Protestant minister; read his tribute to the Catholic Sisters of Mercy, it stands out in glowing contrast to the sensationalist's remarks about the sisterhood in the English Church. We pity a fanatic—his mind is not under his own control; but we despise a bigot, when he seeks notoriety by such means as this according to that maxim, like "*Infelix gentilem employis. Noblesse oblige: Felix,*" we have "*Ignoble Noble.*"