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The True Witness AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE



Vol. LII, No. 1

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1902.

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EPISCOPAL APPROBATION. "If the English-speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province consulted their best interests, they would soon make of the 'True Witness' one of the most prosperous and powerful Catholic papers in this country. I heartily bless those who encourage this excellent work." — PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE OLD STORY.—The English secular newspapers lose no opportunity of cracking a joke at the expense of the Irish—sometimes good humoredly, to a certain extent, but nearly always with the aim of casting ridicule on the Irishman and his religion. One of these papers recently re-hashed a number of very old jokes and anecdotes under the heading of "New Hibernianisms." All of them have the customary sting. It is worthy of note that the daily press of Montreal takes care to reproduce these anti-Irish jokes.

MIXED MARRIAGES.—It would be interesting and instructive to know the sort of life led from childhood up to the taking of the step that eventuated in the unblest union of the Catholic man or woman who contracts a mixed marriage; to find out whether their parents fulfilled the duties of their state; and to ascertain if the school to which they sent their children was a Catholic one. The knowledge thus gained would throw a new light upon the question of mixed marriages. We do not believe that such deplorable unions are on the increase in Canada. In Germany, however, the number of them is growing larger each year. In 1901 there were in Berlin alone over a thousand "marriages" of Catholic and Protestants contracted before Protestant ministers, the groom being a Protestant in 460 cases, and the bride being a Protestant in 594. The Catholic clergymen of the German Capital are doing their utmost to prevent the occurrence of such unions.

CARDINAL LOGUE AND KING.—Irishmen have been accused of being hard-hearted and unsympathetic, because they displayed no ostentatious sorrow at the sickness of the present King. Those who make such a charge know little of the Irish character. The Irish are warm-hearted and generous, even to a fault. They prayed for the King; for they practice the counsel of Our Lord. At the recent meeting of the Irish bishops Cardinal Logue interpreted the sentiments of all the other prelates who were present, made this statement:—"I know I am expressing the opinion of all who are here when I say that we have the greatest sympathy with the King, apart altogether from all political considerations; and that we should offer a very earnest prayer that it may please God to restore him to health and to the leadership of the state which he promises to govern so wisely." These words are all the more generous when the past history and the present grievances of Ireland are borne in mind, and especially when it is remembered that the King's accession oath contains clauses which insult the vast majority of the people of Ireland.

OUR ARCHBISHOP.—Elsewhere we publish a letter which His Grace Archbishop Bruchesi addressed to the clergy of the diocese, and which was read in all the churches on Sunday last. In it His Grace announces that he will leave Montreal for Rome to-morrow evening. He goes to the Eternal City to offer the Holy Father the congratulations of the whole diocese on his having entered the twenty-fifth year of his pontificate, and to present His Holiness with the collection recently made in all the parishes as a jubilee gift. We sincerely hope that our Archbishop will have a pleasant

journey, and that he will return in safety to preside over our diocese with all the ability and zeal which have characterized his administrations of its affairs since his elevation to the occupancy of the See.

THE SECULAR LIAR.—The busy, gossiping, prying, and unscrupulous secular journal is never at a loss for a sensational item when ordinary news is scarce; and it is strange that in such cases eminent Catholic personages are as a rule, from the Pope downward made the subject of an imaginary piece of intelligence. Last Sunday's editions of American dailies published the following dated from Chicago, under large type heads:—

"During the early hours yesterday, when the fierce storm that prevailed was almost at its height, the body of Archbishop Feehan, over which a solemn and impressive Pontifical Requiem Mass had been celebrated Thursday, was taken from the public receiving vault in Mount Calvary Cemetery and placed in the private vault of a prominent Chicago family. The Church authorities will not acknowledge they are afraid of grave robbers, but it is known that the robes in which the prelate was buried are rich with jewels. Upon one finger there is a massive ring of diamonds, with an immense amethyst in the centre. The trimmings and embroideries of the vestments are a wealth of pure gold, and all the pins of the vestments are of the same precious metal, and some of them are jewelled."

The Benedictines At Mount Olivet.

The Abbot-General of the Cassinese Congregation of Primitive Observance has sent to all the monasteries of the Congregation copies of the decree which the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda, by order of the Holy Father, issued on the 26th of August, last year, with regard to the erection of a Benedictine monastery with a Syriac seminary attached, on Mount Olivet, upon property acquired by the Benedictines. The purchase was in time to prevent the acquisition of the property by the Russian Church which is actively endeavoring to extend its influence in the Holy Places. By the decree authority is given to the Benedictine monks to erect on Mount Olivet a seminary for the education of young clerics belonging to any diocese of the Syriac Rite. The direction and administration of the seminary and the church will be in the hands of the Benedictine monks who will continue to use the Latin Rite. They will be aided in teaching the liturgy of the Syriac Rite by ecclesiastics whose functions are exercised according to that Rite. The new church will correspond with all the requirements of the Syriac liturgy. The Holy Father has given 20,000 lire as his contribution to the proposed buildings.—Catholic Times, Liverpool.

GENEROUS REQUESTS. By the will of the late Miss Kate Twohig, the following charitable bequests are made for San Antonio, Texas: St. Mary's Church, \$1,000; St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum, \$500; St. Francis Home for the Aged, \$500.

The Trappist Monastery At Oka

TOTALLY DESTROYED BY FIRE.

It is with great regret that we have to chronicle the total destruction by fire of the renowned Trappist Monastery at Oka. Of the magnificent stone buildings which greeted the eye of the tourist on the slope of a hill overlooking the Lake of Two Mountains, about nine miles from St. Eustache, all that now remains are a few walls and a mass of debris. The main portion of the monastery was two hundred feet long and seventy feet wide, and was four storeys in height. It was flanked by two wings of the same height, and measuring seventy-five feet in length and fifty feet in width. There were also several outbuildings, including a bakery, a cheese and butter factory, a house where wine and cider were made, a store-house for vegetables, and other buildings. The fire broke out in the tailor shop on the third storey of the eastern wing, where a large quantity of woollen and linen fabrics were stored. The cause of the fire is a mystery; it is at present attributed to mice nibbling at match heads. Flames were noticed in this part of the building at five o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, and the alarm was given to all who were staying in the monastery, guests, monks and students in the agricultural school. The monks employed in the fields and gardens, were just returning from their labors, and were in time to render all the assistance they could. The monastery was well equipped with fire extinguishing apparatus, but as a very strong wind was blowing all the willing aid in some cases, daring efforts put forth to cope with the fire were unavailing. The flames first extended from the tailor shop to the chapel, which was a beautiful structure, richly embellished. All the sacred vessels, the crosses, and the sacerdotal vestments were saved, but all that is left of the sacred edifice itself is a quadrangle composed of four stone walls. The alacrity with which the salvage was effected was due to the Rev. Father Aureliou and the thirty students of the school of agriculture. The flames swiftly spread to the main body of the building, thence to the west wing, and from there to the out-houses. There was somewhat of dramatic force in the spectacle presented by ninety-seven monks, all working in silence to subdue the flames and to save whatever could be rescued from the devouring element. Even in the excitement naturally caused by such a conflagration they never spoke, but merely gave signs with their hands when compelled to communicate to one another. There were three invalid brothers in the monastery, and these were safely removed to a small building adjoining the agricultural school fifteen acres from the scene of the disaster. St. Eustache was telegraphed for assistance, and this was promptly forthcoming. Owing to the assistance rendered by the people of St. Eustache and their fire brigade, the barns and the stables were saved from being burned. In the cellars of the main building were 4,080 gallons of wine and 9,000 gallons of cider, 15 barrels of sugar, wine-making machinery, etc., and all was destroyed. But the greatest loss was that of the library, where about 5,000 books and a large number of old manuscripts, all of great value, were placed. They were all destroyed. The farmers from the surrounding district lent all the assistance in their power, as did also the guests at the hostelry of the monastery, among whom were: Messrs. St. Maurice, professor of chemistry at McGill University; Gaston de Montigny, journalist of Montreal; John Daly, the Landon brothers (Greeks), Pige,

Catholic Sailors' Club.



PROF. P. J. SHEA.

The weekly concert of the Catholic Sailors' Club, which was given by Prof. P. J. Shea and St. Ann's choir, on Wednesday evening, was one of the best of the season. The choir was assisted by a number of seamen of the ships now in port. Among those who occupied seats on the platform besides Mr. M. Casey, president of St. Ann's Young Men's Society, who presided, were Rev. Father LaRue, chaplain, Rev. Fathers McCarthy, Gagnier, and others. The chairman in opening the proceedings, delivered a neat speech, in the course of which he complimented the president and executive of the Club upon the splendid work they were doing in aid of the seamen. He closed by assuring the Club of the hearty support of the organization which he had the honor to represent. The following ladies and gentlemen took part in the programme:—A. Jones, E. Norris, E. Jackson, R. J. Hiller, A. Reid, J. Slattery, E. Watt, Miss Mackay and Miss Jones, Seamen Jenkins, Jones, Robinson and Pigton. The physical drill in which Masters Griffin, Guy, McFarlane, Scott, Donchie and Brady, from the steamship Montezuma, took part, was an excellent feature. A most pleasant evening was brought to a close by the singing of God Save Ireland. Next Wednesday's concert will be given by Division No. 2, of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

ALDERMAN WALSH THANKED.

At the regular meeting of Hochelaga County Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, held on the 18th inst., resolutions were unanimously adopted, thanking Alderman M. J. Walsh for his successful efforts towards securing recognition of the just rights of the Irish citizens of Montreal.

IRELAND'S GREAT PRELATE

Dr. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel, is now seventy-eight years of age. He is the "Grand Old Man" of the Irish hierarchy.

PATRIOTIC IRISH AMERICANS.

The handsome sum of \$17,000 has been subscribed by Irish Americans to the United Irish League.

THE PRESTON LAWS

The report of the Commissioners for the Publication of the Brehon Laws and Institutions of Ireland has at last been presented to Parliament. In it the Commissioners explain the long delay which has occurred in the completion of the work as being due to the singular fatalities which accompanied its pro-

gress, and to the difficulty of the work itself. The work, they state, is now, however, complete, as far as publication from the manuscripts originally contemplated is concerned; but they point out that there are many Irish manuscripts in other libraries, relating to the Brehon Laws, which have not yet been edited or even properly examined, and they are of opinion that the Government should consider the advisability of employing a competent scholar to visit the continental libraries and report as to the additional matter which may be found there. But whether this be done or not, the Commissioners believe that the volumes which they have published will place in the hands of Celtic philologists and philosophical jurists an important body of materials, which must throw a most valuable light on the legal institutions and social system of ancient Ireland. In conclusion, the Commissioners pay a tribute to the work of the late Bishop Graves in connection with the Commission.

ENTHUSIASTIC PARISHIONERS.

Future parishioners, men, women and children, of the new Catholic Church to be erected at Thirtieth and Reed streets, Philadelphia, not long ago turned out to the number of one thousand, each carrying a shovel or a pick, and began to make excavations for the foundation of the building. The Rev. Patrick Mullen, pastor of the parish, turned the first spadeful of earth. Then the waiting throng went to work with a will and dug a trench sixty yards long and five feet deep. The toilers, it was said, would continue to dig every night until the foundations were finished.

NEW YORK CATHOLICS AND PETER'S PENCE.

The archdiocese of New York has realized the expectations of the late Archbishop Corrigan by giving \$50,000 this year to Peter's Pence. At the time of the Pope's Jubilee Archbishop Corrigan sent him a check for \$50,000 as New York's contribution to Peter's Pence. The Archbishop anticipated that the generosity of the diocese would approach this sum.

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Little traits often reveal character more effectively than great deeds.

A Christian hand must by no means be lifted up in resistance; for Christ will not have His disciples like the rest of the world, but orders them to shine with a distinguishing patience and meekness and to win men over from their sins by such gentle arts of conversion. And I could give you a proof of the influence of such bright examples from many converts amongst us, who from men of violence and oppression were transformed into quite another nature, perfectly overcome by the passive courage of their Christian neighbors or by observing the new astonishing patience of such injured Christians as they chanced to travel with, or the experience they had of their fidelity in their dealings.—"Apology" of Justin Martyr.