

THE SOCIETY—Established 1856, incorporated 1864. Meets in the hall, 92 St. Alexander street, first Monday of each month. The committee meets last Wednesday. Officers: Rev. Director, J. J. O'Connell; P.P. President, J. J. O'Connell; Justice C. J. Doherty; F. E. Devlin, M.D.; 2nd Curran, B.C.L.; Treasurer, J. J. O'Connell; Correspondent, J. J. O'Connell; Secretary, T. P. Tansy.

T. A. & B. SOCIETY.—Established 1856, incorporated 1864. Meets in the hall, 92 St. Alexander street, at the Committee of Management in same hall on the first of every month at 8 o'clock. Rev. J. J. O'Connell, Director; W. P. Doyle, Recorder; P. Gunning, 716 St. Street, St. Henri.

T. A. & B. SOCIETY.—1868.—Rev. Director, J. J. O'Connell; President, D. M.F.; Sec., J. F. Quinn; Dominique street; M. J. Curran, 18 St. Augustin street, on the second Sunday of every month, in St. Ann's Church, Young and Ottawa, 8.30 p.m.

YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY.—Established 1886.—Meets in the hall, 92 St. Alexander street, on the first of every month, at 8 p.m. Spiritual Director, M. O'Connell; President, J. J. O'Connell; Treasurer, Thomas J. O'Connell; Sec., Robt. J. Hart.

OF CANADA, BRANCH.—Established 1886.—Meets in the hall, 92 St. Alexander street, on the first of every month, at 8 p.m. Spiritual Director, M. O'Connell; President, J. J. O'Connell; Treasurer, Thomas J. O'Connell; Sec., Robt. J. Hart.

URUH BELLS.

McSHANE BELLS.—Established 1886.—Meets in the hall, 92 St. Alexander street, on the first of every month, at 8 p.m. Spiritual Director, M. O'Connell; President, J. J. O'Connell; Treasurer, Thomas J. O'Connell; Sec., Robt. J. Hart.

BELL COMPANY.—Established 1886.—Meets in the hall, 92 St. Alexander street, on the first of every month, at 8 p.m. Spiritual Director, M. O'Connell; President, J. J. O'Connell; Treasurer, Thomas J. O'Connell; Sec., Robt. J. Hart.

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The True Witness and Catholic Chronicle



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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 best circulated of the Catholic papers in this country. I heartily bless those who encourage this excellent work."
—PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

LENT.—Next Wednesday will be Ash Wednesday, the first day of the annual period of penance and mortification, which the Church has designated as Lent.

To prepare for His public mission, Christ retired and spent forty days in the wilderness, where He fasted and prayed. The great event of Easter is approaching, and in imitation of her Divine Founder, the Church ordains that for forty days the faithful should practice mortification and in humility and penance prepare for the celebration of the glorious day of the Resurrection. There is something peculiarly impressive about the ceremonies of the Catholic Church—whether they tend to awaken sentiments of awe or delight—and there is an appropriateness in each of them that bespeaks the perfection of the institution founded by Divinity. The warning words of the priest on Ash Wednesday, and the solemn significance of the act of placing ashes upon the forehead tend to awaken serious thoughts in the Christian. We learn at the altar rail that we are but dust and that the day is not very far distant—much nearer than we may imagine—when back into dust we shall crumble. With that awful truth before us, the entry upon the season of sacrifice and mortification marks a most important period in our short careers.

Having felt, in all its truthfulness, that death is certain, the mind pauses in dread before that other fact—the uncertainty of the hour place and manner of our exit from life. Perhaps this is to be a last Ash Wednesday for many of our readers; most positively for a few their last Lent is soon to commence. It is impossible to tell how many of us and which of us shall be "dust again," when Ash Wednesday, 1905, dawns upon the world. Consequently it is wisdom to seize the opportunity that now presents itself; it may be the last.

In olden times the fasting, the mortifications, the sacrifices of Christians during the Lenten season were so severe that even the reading of them almost makes one feel inclined to believe that the accounts are exaggerated. In our age the prescribed penances are comparatively insignificant. According to circumstances the members of the hierarchy modify and change the rules and obligations of Lent in order to suit the health, the condition and the requirements of each individual. In times of epidemic the fast and often the abstinence, may be dispensed with. In fact the modern Lent is very easy to observe, and yet there are hundreds who complain of the severity of the Church's laws, and seek to avoid by every imaginable excuse, the proper fulfillment of the few simple regulations that are imposed. It would be profitable for such Catholics to meditate seriously upon the words of the priest, when imposing ashes on the heads of the people. A person finds it difficult to abstain from flesh meat, or to follow the rules of fasting, during a period of forty days; let us suppose that next Wednesday will be the commencement of the last Lent for each person; how very much more satisfactory would be the "returning to dust" when the soul would have a few sacrifices and voluntary penances to present before God! But, apart from the ordinary fasts and abstinence of the Lenten season, there are many other acts of mortification and of merit which can be heaped up to one's credit in the treasury house of God. There are extra prayers to be said, special visits to the Church to be made, fits of temper that may be curbed, evil

thoughts that may be banished, hot words to be left unsaid, cruel slanders to leave unuttered, and the creating of enemies to be avoided; there are also many extra acts of virtue to perform. There are charities to be given, soft words of consolation to be spoken, kind deeds to be performed, generous and holy thoughts to entertain. In fact there are a hundred and one ways in which a good Catholic can help to keep Lent. The will is all that is required, the opportunity is not wanting, nor is the capability. If you cannot fast, at least you can refrain from cursing or lying, or slandering others, or using immoral language; if you cannot abstain, there is nothing to prevent you from saying a few extra prayers, or from omitting to give offence to others. In a word, the Catholic who wishes to imitate the One who fasted for forty days, can make Lent a season of countless blessings and graces, and even should it be his last one earth, he can turn it into a harvest season of the most abundant returns.

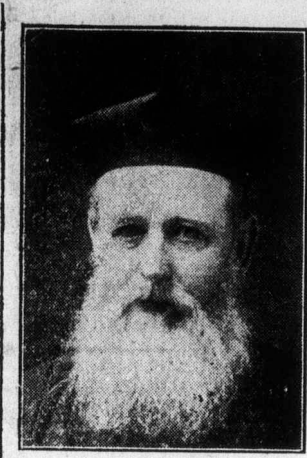
THE WAR COMMENCED.—The famous "war cloud" that has hung over the Orient for so many years, and which has been like a perpetual menacing volcano, has at last broken, and the downpour of fiery rain has been commenced. Japan has struck the first blow; what will be the ultimate result, and which of the conflicting Powers will strike the last blow, is something that only the future can tell. The world hoped for peace; the Holy Father still prays for it; the Czar personally would wish to secure it; the Mikado had trusted that it would prevail; the Russian people were not desirous of a strife—for it must interfere with their grasping march southward; the Japanese preferred peace, for it was their security in their possessions and national existence. Yet all have been disappointed, for the cannon booms to-day in the Yellow Sea, and the thunders and flames of war are at Port Arthur. England and France have so far declared their neutrality and it would seem as if the two Eastern Powers were to be left to themselves to fight out the war to the bitter end.

Japan certainly has the greater portion of outside sympathy; not so much on account of her own claims being upheld by foreigners, as of their opposition to the vast encroachments of Russia. Like a huge avalanche, or rather an unmeasured glacier, Russia's ponderous bulk has been for generations slowly but surely moving southward, and it is clear to all who will see that her ultimate aim is to obtain universal Empire in the Orient.

Just let us glance back for a moment over the story of Russia's increasing advance into domains that are not by nature her own. For a century or more Russia's advance in the East has been like the tramp of time or the march of fate. India and Persia are her two objectives on the South; ice-free ports and fresh markets in the Far East. The Ural river was her southern boundary in Asia in 1689, with a nominal sovereignty over the wild tribes that were as far East as Omsk. The years 1725 and 1796 saw her boundary line shifted southwards to the Sea of Aral, and beyond the sandy shores of Lake Oalkash. Since 1856 she has made a further series of advances which have left nothing between her and India's boundary but the dilapidated back yard state of Afghanistan. She holds the forehead of the Eastern Hemisphere, has occupied and fortified Manchuria, se-

Some one has described a friend as "the first person who comes in when the whole world has gone out."

LENTEN MISSIONS IN MONTREAL.



REV. WILLIAM DOHERTY.

One of the greatest means of securing all the benefits of the Lenten season is that of missions. In almost all churches do we find regular Lenten sermons preached by specially selected priests. For example, it has been the custom at Notre Dame Church, as it has ever been at Notre Dame of Paris, to have an eminent preacher come to deliver a series of sermons of a dogmatic character during the seven Sundays of Lent. This same system has spread abroad and in all our leading churches, such as St. Patrick's, the Gesu, St. Ann's and others, each Sunday in Lent a preacher treats one grand subject in a series of well thought out and perfectly prepared sermons. For the man, or woman, of the world, whose daily occupations preclude the full opportunity of studying those matters so essential to a full comprehension of Christian life, and to the practice of the same, these Lenten missions are a boon and a blessing. But advantage should be taken of them.

In following any one of these missions you have a splendid opportunity to refresh your memory in regard to subjects that are of paramount importance. Remember that you sit for half an hour, or an hour, and without any effort on your part, without any cost to you, you derive the full and entire benefit of the long days and nights of study and preparation that constituted the labor of the preacher prior to coming to you with his mission of instruction. He toiled and sowed, and even he reaped the harvest; all you have to do is to enjoy its fruits.

And what numbers there are among us who stand in need of a better education than they possess in matters that concern the soul and the great life to come. In the hurry and bustle of life we are carried away on a turbulent stream, and it takes almost all our energies to tow against the current that perpetually tends to rush us downward towards the great ocean of futurity. It is consoling and comforting to be allowed an hour of rest, to lean upon the oars, to gaze about us, to drink in the beauties of nature, to enjoy some repose while feeling assured that our progress towards the great gulf is checked, and that not a moment of our time or an atom of our strength is being lost.

This year, as in the past, we will have advantages very numerous of this class, and it is for us to make good use of them. We all need instruction; we all require to be spurred on to nobler endeavors; we all require consolation; we all have reason to reflect and to turn our minds from the fleeting to the more permanent interests of our existence. All these things will come to us during the present Lent if we make it a point to follow faithfully and attentively some of the several missions that will be given.

AT ST. PATRICK'S—A three weeks' mission under the direction of the Paulist Fathers will open on Sunday, Feb. 21. The opening week will be for married women, the second week for unmarried women, and the last week for men, married and unmarried.

AT ST. ANN'S.—In St. Ann's parish arrangements are now in pro-

gress to hold a mission for the men, married and unmarried. The date of the opening sermon has not been definitely fixed, but we are informed that it will not be later than the 28th inst.

AT THE GESU—The English sermons in this Church, at 8 o'clock on Sunday evening, which were delivered by Rev. William Doherty, S. J., during the Lenten season last year, and which attracted a large attendance of Catholics and non-Catholics, will be resumed this year. Father Doherty will again be the preacher. We have much pleasure in reproducing the likeness of the eloquent, zealous and genial priest who has scores of friends in this city.

ST. ANTHONY'S.—In this parish the pastor has arranged for a two-weeks' mission for the women and men. The first week will be for the former section of the parish, and the second week for men. Two members of the Society of Jesus will conduct the Mission.

MISSION TO NON-CATHOLICS

At the ending of the mission for non-Catholics which the Paulist Fathers have been conducting for three weeks at the Paulist Church at Fifty ninth street and Columbus Avenue, New York, Father Conway announced that 64 conversions had been made. Of the converts 23 were baptized Sunday. The others had already received the Sacrament. The instruction of the converts will be continued for three months before their confirmation. Father Conway said that one of those converted was an actress of considerable prominence. A Presbyterian minister connected with one of the West Side churches is under instruction, Father Conway said, but has not yet decided to enter the Church. One of the converts is a Jew, the first to be baptized by the Paulists in seven years. Of the others, nine came from the Episcopal Church, six from the Lutheran and two from the Presbyterian.

A LENTEN PRACTICE.

As an aid to the proper observation of the holy season of Lent, the total abstinence societies of Cleveland have ordered 10,000 copies of a promise to abstain from intoxicating liquors during those forty days, also a little circular entitled "How to Keep Lent." These will be distributed from the different churches and will no doubt accomplish a missionary work in their small way. The little card is called the "I Thirst" card, and contains the following promises to which the name is signed:

- I promise. 1. To abstain from all intoxicating drinks during Lent. 2. To keep out of the saloon, 3. To say one "Our Father" and three "Hail Marys" every day for the suppression of intemperance.

This is to be done in honor of the sacred thirst and agony of our Saviour on the Cross.—Catholic Columbian.

VACANCIES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Much interest is manifested by the leaders of both political parties, in the bye-elections which will take place on Tuesday next in eight constituencies; four in Quebec, St. James, Hochelaga, St. Hyacinthe and Montigny; two in Ontario, East Lambton and East Bruce; one in New Brunswick, St. John; and one in Prince Edward Island, West Queen's.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

This week there is only the usual, or unusual, cold to write about. In the depth of night, while the thermometer was several degrees below zero, the inmates of St. Patrick's Home had a rude surprise. Fire had caught under the furnace in the boiler room. However, it is pleasant to know that there was more smoke than fire, and that the damage done amounted to less than one hundred dollars. No panic occurred, on account of the coolness and discipline that both Sisters and inmates exhibited.

On Sunday next the Archbishop of Ottawa will have published in all the Churches the Lenten regulations for the present year. It is understood that they will be exactly the same as those of last year.

On the 18th February, in St. Patrick's Hall, a lecture will be given by Seumas McManus, the Irish writer and wit. It will be the first time that this gentleman has appeared in Canada in his capacity of lecturer, and it is expected that there will be a very large attendance. The whole talk of the city now is the fearful railway accident, on the Canadian Pacific, which took place a few miles west of Ottawa early this week. As the "True Witness" circulates amongst a great many people who are personally interested in this sad event, I will take the liberty of asking space to give a few details of the disaster. While the preparations for a coming session are going on so slowly that they seem at a standstill, the people are occupied with the war news, and the details of the Sand Point collision which I now give.

THE DEAD—13.

- Joseph Jackson, 279 Concession street, Ottawa, engineer on No. 8.
- Nelson Robinson, Montreal, express messenger, No. 8.
- Ernest Dubois, Montreal, fireman, No. 7.
- John Toole, 110 Sherwood street, Ottawa, baggage man, No. 7.
- Willie McMullen, Montreal, newsboy, No. 7.
- Roy Thompson, Montreal, messenger, No. 7.
- Dolphus Seguin, 194 Brewery street Hull.
- Jos. Chalut, 89 Wall street, Hull.
- Geo. Paquette, Blind River, Ont., hotelkeeper.
- John Carriere, Ottawa, scorer. Was going to Gordon & Edwards camp, North Bay.
- M. Lehouff, Gaspé, shantyman.
- Wm. Hickey, 2 St. Bernard street, Hull.

One unidentified, a half-breed Indian who was going to the shanties. THE INJURED—21.

- J. Dudley, Hintonburgh, engineer on No. 7, arm broken. Set at St. Luke's Hospital. Doing well.
- Godias Caron, Little Valley, Quebec, skull fractured, dislocated collar bone. Better.
- Edwin A. Beach, 36 McLaren st., Ottawa, mail clerk, bruised and generally shaken up.
- G. F. Price, Brockville, fireman on No. 8. Face and throat scalded. In critical condition at St. Luke's Hospital.
- Peter O'Neill, Ottawa, shock and bruises.
- Etienne Cardinal, 16 Papineau st., Ottawa, leg broken, compound fracture, and face cut. Getting better.
- Antoine Gendron, St. Regis, ribs broken; back injured. At St. Luke's Hospital.
- E. Larose, Ottawa, leg cut.
- Peter Rochelle, Gatineau Point, Sprained knee.
- W. Rail, Montreal, chest squeezed, Peter Fortier, Hull, leg bruised.
- Alphonse Demarce, leg broken.
- James McCaul, Montreal, back injured. Getting better.
- T. J. Higgins, Ottawa, generally shaken up.
- E. Seguin, Ottawa, fingers torn; right hand and left foot sprained.
- J. Jory, Ottawa, left leg injured.
- A. P. Black, 96 Henderson avenue, face cut and chest injured. Progressing favorably at St. Luke's.
- Harvey Brousseau, St. Casmir, Que., leg and arm injured; body scalded; head injured.
- Eusebez Brousseau, Gaspé, ankle sprained; internal injuries. Getting better.
- Ovide Brousseau, St. Casmir, Quebec, abdominal injuries; face cut.
- W. F. Pouliott, St. Francis, Que., broken thigh.