

# TWO CELEBRATIONS BY THE C. M. B. A.

## Stirring Speeches on the Aims of the Association.

The Montreal members of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, and especially the members of Branch 74, have every reason to feel proud of the great demonstration and parade of last Sunday. It was the most successful event of which the annals of the workings of the association in Montreal contain a record. It is to be hoped that it was the precursor of even grander and more enthusiastic demonstrations of the kind in the future. The admirable order and precision which characterized the day's proceedings reflected the highest credit upon President John S. Shea, and the other officers who had charge of the arrangements.

The processionists attended High Mass in St. Gabriel's Church, where the esteemed and energetic pastor, the Rev. Father O'Meara, was the celebrant. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Plante, S.J., who, taking as his text the words: "And the greatest of these is charity," delivered two eloquent discourses, one in English and one in French, in which he emphasized the paramount importance of the practice of this great virtue. The members of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, he said, have every facility of practising this noble virtue, especially in regard to the most meritorious work of caring for the bereft widows and orphans.

A banquet was held in St. Gabriel's Hall when High Mass had been concluded. The genial and courteous president, Mr. John S. Shea, occupied the chair, having on his right the Grand President, the Hon. Michael Francis Hackett; the Rev. Father O'Meara, the Rev. Father Bonin, pastor of St. Charles' Church; Grand Chancellor Finn, and Grand Trustee Hebert of Three Rivers; and on his left the Hon. Frank Latchford, Minister of Public Works, Ontario; Hon. Dr. Guerin, P. F. McCaffrey, Grand President of the Quebec Council; and F. B. McNamee, the vice-presidents of the banquet being Grand Deputy J. J. Costigan, J. H. Feeley, G. A. Carpenter, J. E. Bourgeois, J. C. Lamothe, C. Fortier and J. Lozeau.

When the good things provided by caterer Walter J. Shea, in his usual excellent style, had been enjoyed, and the toast of the King duly honored, "Our Association" was proposed.

Grand Chancellor Finn proposed it in a speech in which, after having congratulated the association upon the grand demonstration of the day, reviewed the beginnings of the association in Montreal. Fifteen years ago on a cold winter morning, he went to St. Gabriel's School, then a wooden building, to form Branch 74, which had made such great progress since, and which deserved the honor and the credit of the grand demonstration and parade which they had witnessed that morning. It would be nineteen years ago on the 13th of next month, since the Association was first introduced into this province. He was proud of the honor of being the first president of the first branch established here, Branch 26. At that time much opposition was met with. It was regarded as a foreign association, and the clergy and others looked shyly at it. They

were not conversant with its principles, nor with the benefits it conferred upon the clergy, as well as upon its members. There was no similar society that was of such great assistance to the clergy as the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association. (Applause). They had no occasion to ask any of its members if they had performed their Easter duty, for every member of the C.M.B.A. went to the sacraments once a month. (Cheers). He wished the association every success in extending the sphere of its beneficent usefulness.

The Hon. Michael F. Hackett, on rising to speak to the toast, was enthusiastically cheered. He said: "The world, we are told, is full of surprises and disappointments. A surprise came to me this morning, when I was told that I was expected to address you this afternoon. I knew I was coming here to attend a meeting. I knew that we would assemble this afternoon, to talk over matters connected with the association, and to relate incidents that happened at annual gatherings in bygone years. I knew that we would enjoy an hour of friendship and brotherhood. But the demonstration that took place exceeded all expectations. I congratulate Branch 74 upon the new feature which its members introduced into this year's parade—of having attended not only by members of the Association in Montreal, but by the charming representatives of the fashion and beauty of the city which we see with us this afternoon (laughter and cheers). The Catholic Mutual Benefit Association has done much for Catholics in the past; it has the power to do much for them in the future. It remains for Catholics to study the principles of the association, to join its ranks, and to make of it a flourishing organization. You understand what the C.M.B.A. is. It has no classish object, no religious object, in view. It aims at the edification and the elevation of the Catholics of this great Dominion, and at uniting them, north and south, east and west, from ocean to ocean, in one grand fraternal association. (Applause). It aims to promote harmony amongst Catholics, not for the assertion of any right, but to obtain, and to maintain, the respect to which we are entitled by our numbers, our education and our position. It aims to advance Catholic interests generally materially as well as spiritually, so that they may not again be, as they were in the past, the hewers of wood and the drawers of water for other people. (Applause). It aims also to create and foster that noble spirit of charity which succors the widow and the orphan. It aims to extend that brotherhood which exists between its members during life to their widows and orphans after death. It was my privilege recently to visit, in company with my friend, the Hon. Frank Latchford, the provinces down the sea. It gave me great pleasure to see how the C. M. B. A. was progressing there. On every side I saw Catholics giving the right hand of fellowship to each other in all walks of life, and thus becoming a great power in the land. I saw with pleasure, pride, and satisfac-

tion the great progress made by our Association.

This association has the approbation of the hierarchy and the clergy of the Dominion. How is it that we are not making the same progress in the Province of Quebec that we are making in other provinces? Is it not sufficiently Catholic, not sufficiently charitable, not sufficiently fraternal? Is the lack of progress in this Catholic Province of Quebec, and especially in this Catholic city of Montreal, due to apathy on the part of its members? Are the members not doing their duty? Are their mothers, their wives, their sisters, and their daughters not taking sufficient interest in it? The ladies ought to bestir themselves in behalf of the association; for it is their interest to do so.

I advise all the married Catholic ladies of Montreal to see that their husbands do their duty by becoming members of the C.M.B.A. (laughter and applause), to see that other wives do their duty in this respect likewise, and to see also that all the mothers, the wives, the sisters, and the daughters they know do their duty too. If every lady here would make up her mind before leaving the hall to bring one member, the association would receive a great impetus. (Cheers). I appeal to all the members to make the C.M.B.A. the banner Catholic Association of Montreal. Let us hope that when this beneficent association meets again in Montreal next year its membership will be doubled. (Cheers).

The Hon. Frank Latchford said: I was delighted to be present at the great demonstration to-day on the historic old Champ de Mars. The parade, which was most orderly, must have edified the citizens of Montreal. Although I came here at some inconvenience, I am very glad that I did come. I am very glad to see here many friends whom I met years ago at conventions held elsewhere, and whom I would never have met again if it had not been for the demonstration that was held to-day. I am very glad to see Brother Finn and Brother Reynolds, old stalwarts of the C.M.B.A. in Montreal. Such gatherings as those of the C.M.B.A. bring together Catholic people as no other organization in Canada do. (Cheers). I was glad to listen to the speech of one who has done so much for the association, Brother Finn. (Cheers). Fourteen years ago he was chairman of the committee of the whole at our convention in Toronto; and he discharged his onerous and difficult duties as chairman with great credit. Never since 1888 has the convention been so well presided over as it was by Brother Finn. (Cheers). As the Grand Pre-

sident has explained to you the objects of the association, it is unnecessary for me to touch upon the same subject. In Ontario the association is progressing, not rapidly, but steadily. I am surprised that it is not progressing more rapidly in this Catholic Province of Quebec. There are other Catholic associations here, it is true; but there is no other association that appeals to the Catholics of the Dominion as the C.M.B.A. does. (Applause). Demonstrations like that of to-day do much good by attracting attention to the association, particularly the attention of the ladies, especially those who have the good fortune to be married to members of the C.M.B.A. (Laughter and applause). If they would enlist the support of their lady friends who are not so fortunate they would help to extend the influence of the association. Young ladies ought to tell the young men who pay suit to them that they will not marry them unless they become members of the C.M.B.A. (Laughter). It would not entail a great sacrifice. All each young man would have to sacrifice would be the price of a bad cigar or a worse drink every day. (Laughter and applause). If the young ladies would follow this advice they would reap great benefit themselves and the association would receive a great accession of strength from those whom it wants particularly—young, strong, healthy members. Such efforts would bring the Province of Quebec in line with the other provinces. (Applause).

Grand Trustee Hebert responded in French. He said he was very glad to receive an invitation from Branch 74 to assist at the demonstration in Montreal, and he was still more glad that he had accepted it. He had expected a good demonstration, for he knew that the C.M.B.A. never did anything by halves. But he had not expected to see the grand demonstration parade that took place that morning. He asked his French-Canadian compatriots to respond to the appeal which had been made on behalf of the widows and the orphans, by joining the association. Great was the influence which could be exerted by the ladies; and he hoped that they would use their influence in the direction of increasing the membership of the association. He was very sorry when he read in the official bulletin that the membership had fallen off by thirty-seven since last year. There was clearly a lack of energy and devotion among its members. That was a hard thing to say; but the diminution in the membership fully warranted it. He appealed to every member to exert himself so as to bring in at least one other member. He was married; he had a family, and he was determined that all his sons, when they grew up, should be members of the C.M.B.A. (Laughter and applause). If other married men would do likewise, we should soon see the C.M.B.A. become a great power in this Catholic province. (Applause).

The Hon. Dr. Guerin proposed the toast of "Our Clergy." It would ill become an association like ours,

he said, to let an occasion like the present to pass without offering their homage to so highly a deserving class as the clergy. First, they would offer a toast to him who holds sway over five hundred millions of Catholics. None deserved such honor, respect and veneration as the men in each parish who look after our best and highest interests, who labor unceasingly among us, not for material profit, but in order to do us good, and, in so doing, to do the will of God. (Cheers). It was consoling to think that in joining that association they were entering upon the practice of the great virtue of charity. He belonged to many associations, and he had discussed the merits of the different associations with several people; and they all agreed that the C.M.B.A. was built upon a more solid foundation than any other society in our midst. (Applause).

Father O'Meara, in responding, said that if he were to recount all that the Church had done for mankind he would not be finished if he talked to them all day. (Laughter and applause). The great evil of the past as well as of the present time was the ignorance of the mind and the depravity of the heart of man. The mission of the Catholic Church was and is, and would continue to be, till the end of time, to enlighten human mind with the knowledge of the truth and to purify the human heart. The great old philosopher Plato said: "God must come down himself, and be our Master and Teacher." God came; He chose His twelve Apostles; He established His Church. There was no age and no nation that had not been benefited by the Catholic Church. (Applause). The priest was sent from God to go amongst men, to teach them His Gospel, to represent Him amongst them, to enlighten them, to teach them, to show them the way to Heaven. He hoped that all men present who were not members of the C.M.B.A. would join it without delay; and he hoped the ladies would follow Mr. Latchford's advice, and tell their young men that they would not marry them unless they became members of the C.M.B.A. (Laughter and cheers).

Rev. Father Bonin also responded. Speaking in French, he stated that he admired the Irish very much. They had always been the champions of religion and patriotism of justice and freedom. Notwithstanding oppression and persecution, they had always been true to their faith and their fatherland. (Cheers). The Irish clergy had always been devoted to their flocks, and their flocks had always rewarded that devotion by love and gratitude and generosity. (Cheers).

Brother Coffee proposed "Our Country" in a clever speech, and it was eloquently responded to by W. E. Doran, Frank J. Curran and J. C. Lamothe.

"The Grand Council" was felicitously proposed by Mr. Hackett, and ably responded to by Mr. P. F. McCaffrey.

## Catholic Notes.

**THE GERMAN CATHOLICS** in St. Petersburg, numbering about 5,000 souls, has, after years of fruitless negotiations, succeeded at last in obtaining permission from the Russian Government to erect a church for their own use.

**DETROIT'S POPULATION** of 300,000 comprises 100,000 Catholics.

**NOW IN GERMANY.**—Monsignor Joseph Schroeder, formerly of the

Catholic University of Washington, has been elevated to the rectorship of the great University of Munster, Germany.

**A STRIKING RESUME.**—Bishop O'Donnell, of Raphoe, Ireland, gives the following description of government as it exists at the present time in that country. "Over-taxation, depopulation, wholesale eviction, confiscation of improvements, coercion, the land question unsettled, and every reform delayed, are the noxious fruits of the government of Ireland from without. That our people are crimeless under the operation of such an evil system is no slight evidence of their capacity to practice

the restraint that becomes the exercise of self-government."

**THE TEMPERANCE CAUSE.**—The Catholic Total Abstinence Union of America decided at a meeting the other day at the Paulist Fathers' rectory, New York, to divide the whole country into seven districts and place an executive officer over each. The organization of a lecture bureau and a corps of lecturers was also decided on.

**IMMIGRATION.**—The Canadian Catholic Immigration Society is a good institution in London, Eng-

land, with a branch at Ottawa, which devotes its operations mainly to providing for orphan and destitute boys and girls by sending them to Canada and having them placed in the families of respectable Catholic farmers, the cost for each child being only \$60, which covers the expense of outfit, transit and visiting during apprenticeship. There are many experts in philanthropic movements who thought this a vastly better way to "save the boy" (Father Nugent's famous motto) than the industrial school or orphan asylum methods.

We lose the gift of prayer through our want of gratitude to God Who bestowed it.

## WITH THE SCIENTISTS.

**MACHINE TO FLY.**—The Paris correspondent of the New York "Herald" writes:—Among numerous types of flying machines now under construction in France that of M. Frederick L'Hôte is now attracting much attention. His air ship is completed, and moves with huge wings, very birdlike, and is made entirely of aluminum. It is of torpedo form, and seven metres long.

The first experiments will take place over the water. The motor works by means of a piston. There are five brace of wings, three metres

long and fifty centimetres broad, which rise and fall alternately. The machine differs from anything hitherto used. Its total weight is 450 kilogrammes. It is to be on view at the St. Louis Exhibition.

God inspires with a seraphic love those who, like St. John, love through consideration of the superior love wherewith he was loved: y Jesus.

A good thought propagated is an angel who goes, in the name and to the profit of Him Who sends it, to do good everywhere it has the mission to penetrate.

Directory of United Ir

Dublin.

**DEFENCE FUND.**—your earnest attention following resolutions, passed at last meeting National Directory:—

(1.) "The National Directory" turns its thanks for the enthusiasm and irrepressible sense with which the co-sponded in its appeal June last for renewed work of organization. quence has been that Irish League has now at unsurpassed degree of discipline in the country. crimeless combination of the people has been outburst of furious coercion against the rights of freedom of a Free Press in the strict counter-organization landlords, with the result of the counties towns of Ireland are no of the most elementary of rights. The Directory satisfaction the calm attitude with which this conspiracy between Dublin and the Landowners' Convention confronted by the looks forward with the to the continuance of the and barbarities of the come, relying for the certain victory (1) upon and incontestable freedom country from agrarian upon the fact that the League relies for its efficiency upon the weapons of opinion and freedom of action for common action, the admitted rights of combinations in their capital; and (3) that the creary has publicly con the Government cannot question which he owns most urgently pressing ment in Ireland, and de it must be settled by the terested, and consequently, priviled himself in the eyes of constitutional freedom justification for exercising of merciless coercion against organization, which displayed either the will the capacity to settle the and in the interest of a counter organization, which its face against every proplement, and has notoriously his own advice as to the Land Conference.

(2.) "The National Directory" regard to the fact of Landowners' Organization sealed to its members for £100,000 wherewith to people's combination, and out its diabolical projects extermination of our race pursuance of this design, tuted costly proceedings every for the ruin of the leaders; and, having regard that the landlords' a brother conspirators in Du le have made it one of the objects of their coercion ings to heap up crushing upon the United Irish League, constituting a general campaign destruction of the Irish Press, and for the prosecution virulence of the m Parliament and organizers tinguish themselves by effon in the movement, and consequence; the ordinary upon them, while the neces large and immediate expense weekly increasing, hereby that the time is come to the Irish people to take steps to raise a National Fund of sufficient extent to the National Directory to the powerful financial resources of the United Irish branches of the United Irish be requested at the earliest moment to institute parollections with that object; all subscriptions be forwarded this office on account of the al Defence Fund, or to any National Trustees, Most P O'Donnell, Lord Bishop of Mr. John E. Redmond, M Alderman Stephen O'Mara names the fund will be inv to Mr. Alfred Webb, 39 Upper Ball street, Dublin."

It is unnecessary to emphasize appeal by any words The necessity for an immediate response from the obvious and urgent. The