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MONTREAL, THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1908

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THE CITY OF THE VIOLATED TREATY

Built in a Magnificent Plain, Through Which Flows the Shannon, the Historic "City of the Violated Treaty," is Proud of Its Storied Past, Which Will Live in the Irish Mind Impenetrable Through All the Ages in Connection with the Last Great Armed Struggle for Irish Freedom—Still Maintains Its National Greatness, and is Justly Proud of Them—An Important Place as Early as the Fifth Century, when it was Visited by St. Patrick.

(John O'Callaghan, in the Boston Globe.)

The women fought before the men, Each man became a match for ten, And back they drove the Saxon then, From Limerick, on the azure river.

There is no city in Ireland that to anybody interested in her chequered history can surpass the historic old "City of the Violated Treaty," by which, "as swelled by many a rivulet, the lordly Shannon flows." Proud of its storied past which will link it in the Irish mind imperishably through all ages in connection with the last great armed struggle for Irish freedom, Limerick still maintains its national traditions, and is justly proud of them.

BUILT IN A MAGNIFICENT PLAIN

The names of Sarsfield, O'Brien, Lord Clare, before whom on "Ramilles' bloody field," the victor Saxon backward reeled, and in later times of William Smith O'Brien, who was sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered for his connection with the Young Ireland rising of 1848, have all been closely identified with the storied city of Limerick. The city is built in a magnificent plain, through which flows the river Shannon, after having wound its way southwards from the County Leitrim, and watering one-half the length of Ireland on its way. Limerick is built on the southern shore of the Shannon, the river dividing into two streams, just above the city, enclosing what is called King's Island. The city consists of two practically distinct portions, one known as "Irish town," the other as "English town."

RECEIVED ITS CHARTER A CENTURY BEFORE DUBLIN.

Upon the arrival of Strongbow, Donald O'Brien swore fealty to Henry II. He subsequently revolted, however, and then Raymond Le Gros laid siege to the city and captured it. It was the scene of fierce fighting from time to time, being alternately in the possession of the Irish and British, until it finally became an addition to the British crown. Richard I. in the ninth year of his reign granted the charter to elect a mayor. In this respect it antedated the city of London, and it was a century later before Dublin's charter was received. King John, when he visited Limerick, was so struck with its importance that he caused Thomond Bridge and a castle to guard its passage, to be erected and established there a mint.

A GLORIOUS EPISODE.

The record, however, which constitutes the most glorious episode in the history of Limerick was its defense against the attacks of William of Orange, and of his commander, Ginckle. The glorious bravery of Patrick Sarsfield in that conflict not only rendered his name imperishable in Irish annals, but the renown attached to the defence of Limerick has served Irish arms to deeds of bravery on every battlefield, both foreign and domestic, ever since. King James' army had been routed at the Boyne by the Williamite forces William advanced on Limerick with

SARSFIELD AND THE WILLIAMITE TRAIN.

The country around was all held by the Williamites, but Sarsfield's guide, immortalized in local tradition as "Galloping Hogan," the Rapparee Chief, knew every path and pass among the mountains, and guided Sarsfield and his followers through the gorges of the Silver Mines and Keeper mountains, where they bivouacked all day in a wild ravine. When night fell on Monday, Sarsfield and his men girded on their swords, lightened their horses' girths and started in the direction of the place they knew the Williamite train must have reached from Cashel, where it was the preceding day. The Williamites had bivouacked for the night and stacked their guns at Ballyneety, and when Sarsfield reached within a mile or two of that place at 3 o'clock in the morning he learned from a farmer that the object of his search was close by.

By a peculiar coincidence the password of the Williamite convoy that night was "Sarsfield." Sarsfield obtained the password by some means, the generally accepted belief being that it was obtained from a woman, the wife of a sergeant in the Williamite convoy, who had been left behind on the road by her own party in the evening, and had been most kindly and humanely treated by Sarsfield and his men. Sarsfield and his army rode quietly to within a short distance of the place which had been indicated to him as the resting place of the convoy. He sent out a few trusted scouts to take observations, and they quickly returned saying that there were only a few scores of the Williamite troops awake, and that they were drowsily sitting beside the watch fires. The rest of the convoy sleeping in fancied security.

"SARSFIELD IS THE WORD, AND SARSFIELD IS THE MAN."

Sarsfield gave his final orders, absolute silence or death till his men were in upon the sentries, then forward like a flash upon the guards. One of the Williamite sentries fancied he heard the beat of horses' hoofs approaching, but never dreamed of foes, and thought it must be one of his own patriots. He saw the figure of an officer, evidently at the head of a body of cavalry, but whether it was a phantom or a reality he could not tell. The sentry challenged, and still believing the approaching forces were his own friends, demanded the "word." Suddenly, as if from the spirit land, and with a weird and wild shout, that startled all the sleepers, the "phantom troop" shot past him like a thunderbolt, the leader of the Irish forces crying out as he flashed his sword, "Sarsfield is the word, and Sarsfield is the man."

The guards dashed forward, the bugles shouted the alarm, the sleepers rushed to arms, but the broadsword of Sarsfield's five hundred men were flashing in their midst, and in their fright the number seemed to the defeated Williamites as if it might have numbered as many thousands. The fight was short, desperate and bloody, and in a few minutes the convoy were cut down or dispersed, and William's siege train was in Sarsfield's hands. But his difficulties were not over yet. Morning was approaching; William's camp was only eight or ten miles distant, and some of the escaped Williamites had already fled there.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SIEGE TRAIN.

There was little time to be lost; he ordered the siege guns and mortars filled with powder, the mortars buried in the earth; the pontoon boats, the contents of the ammunition wagons and the stores of various kinds were laid upon and around the guns, and a train of powder was laid to the huge pyre from a safe distance. Sarsfield removed all the wounded Williamites out of the line of danger, a kindness of which even the Williamite chroniclers themselves make mention, and then drew off his own men. The train was fired, and with a flash that lighted the heavens for miles around, and seemed as if the whole countryside had been blown into the sky, while the ground rocked and heaved beneath the feet of the watchers, the whole train went up into the air with a roar that was heard by the sentinels on the walls of Limerick itself.

The echoes rolled like a thunder-storm across the Shannon, over the hills of Craige, on the Clare side, and waked the sleepers far into the county Clare. William heard the sound at Cahircionish, and knew what had happened. He knew, too, that only one man was brave enough to execute such a daring feat, and he immediately ordered out two other bodies of horse in addition to Lanier's party, who had felt the ground shake beneath their feet as by an earthquake as they arrived at Ballyneety, just in time to be too late. He sighted Sarsfield's rear guard as they retreated after the blowing up of the siege train, and started to give pursuit and cut Sarsfield off from safety by preventing him re-crossing the Shannon.

Judge Curran Speaks Before Caledonian Society.

A banquet and ball marked the occasion of the Burns anniversary at St. George's Club House. The speaker of the evening was Hon. Mr. Justice Curran, who took for his subject "The Memory of Burns." He said that to be called upon at a strictly Scotch gathering to respond to the memory of Robert Burns was a compliment he fully appreciated. No one not to the manor born could do justice to such a toast. He felt there was but one valid apology, and that had been furnished by Burns in his famous poem "For a' that," when he sang: "It's coming yet for a' that, That man to man the world o'er Shall brothers be for a' that." The speaker throughout a most brilliant speech quoted from many of the poet's most popular poems, and closed by a fervent appeal to join hands and hearts in this glorious country, and whilst honoring the memories of the poets, the orators, the statesmen, scholars and soldiers of the land of our forefathers, to act in such a way that in days to come Canada would be spoken of as a God-fearing, God-loving country, a land of brave men and of women as virtuous as they were beautiful; a land whose people were true to the noblest traditions, ever ready to defend their rights, but excelling in the arts of peace, the highest type of civilization. The address was frequently applauded during its delivery, and hearty cheers were given at its close. During the evening musical selections from Burns' works were rendered.

Cardinal Richard Dead.

Francis Marc Benjamin Richard, Archbishop of Paris, died there on Tuesday of congestion of the lungs, after a short illness. Cardinal Richard was born at Nantes, March 1, 1819, and he was made Cardinal in 1889. He came from the ancient and noble family of the Ivergne. He received his first teachings in the old family castle from a private tutor, entered the Seminary of St. Sulpice and was ordained in 1849. The Archbishop of Nantes took a great liking to the young but able priest and he was called upon to fill the vacancy of Vicar-General, which position he occupied for twenty years. On the 16th of October, 1871, he was promoted to the See of Belley, France, and in March, 1875, received the title of Archbishop Coadjutor of Paris, with a promise of succession. At the death of Archbishop Guibert, on May 24th, 1886, he took possession of the See of Paris. On May 24, 1889, he was made Cardinal and during the same year he wrote his pastoral letter on the French Revolution, in which letter he approved of the progress made during the past hundred years. The following sentence was made much of by the Republicans and caused some discussion on the part of the Ultramontaines: "The City of God does not reject the democratic forms of modern societies any more than it rejects the monarchic or aristocratic forms of other centuries or other countries. She admits a legitimate use of civic liberties."

OBITUARY.

DEATH OF MR. PETER DONOVAN. On Saturday evening last, the death occurred of Mr. Peter Donovan in his ninety-second year. When very young he came with his parents from Ireland, who settled in the West. For many years he conducted a large lumbering business. In 1862 he first entered the City Council, sitting as member for St. Ann's division. This position he filled for five years. Then in 1878 he was elected again for the same ward, holding the seat for nine years. An honorable and upright citizen, he has gone to his rest regretted by a host of friends who held him in the highest esteem. There are left to mourn their loss two daughters, the Misses Helen and Mary Donovan; one son, Mr. James Donovan, and grand-son, Mr. Peter Donovan. The funeral took place to St. Anthony's Church, Rev. J. C. Donnelly officiating, and was very largely attended. Amongst those noticed in the cortege were the following: Messrs. Frank Connaughton, sen., F. Casey, C. A. McDonnell, Judge Guerin, J. Mulcair, C. J. Coughlan, Ald. Sadler, J. Fallon, Arthur James, P. J. Gordon, J. Brady, W. Barclay, D. Ford, B. Tansey, J. O'Connor, Wm. McVey, P. Flannery, Ald. O'Connell, W. McCormack, A. D. Mann, T. Kinella, A. Finn, D. O'Shaughnessy, T. J. Petron, And. Laing, W. Reynolds, J. P. Clarke. After the celebration of the solemn requiem Mass the funeral proceeded to Cote des Neiges. May he rest in peace.

13,887,426 Catholics in United States.

There are 13,887,426 Catholics in the United States, according to the advance sheets of the 1908 official Catholic directory published in Milwaukee. These figures show an increase of 788,078 over last year.

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Including the Catholic population of the Philippines, which is 7,106,452, and adding the 100,000 Catholics in Porto Rico and the 35,000 in the Sandwich Islands, the entire Catholic population under the United States flag amounts to 22,018,906.

There are 15,665 Catholic clergymen—11,496 are secular priests and 4,069 are members of religious orders. The total number of Catholic churches in the United States is 12,513. New York leads the forty-six states with a Catholic population of 2,650,000. Illinois is second with 1,468,644 Catholics, and Pennsylvania third with 1,404,604.

A French Bishop On Pius X.

Mgr. Guibert, Bishop of Fréjus and Toulon, who has recently been in Rome, has written for his people a singularly happy description of the character and policy of the Holy Father. "Pius X.," he says, "seeks advice and listens to it, but he governs with the deep consciousness that the responsibility is his own and cannot be communicated to others. He selects for the highest offices men of worth without troubling himself about the customs of the Curia or alleged claims of priority. His great force lies in the simplicity of his motives; the progress of the Kingdom of God, without anxiety for the things of this world. When you are near him, when you listen to his strong, clear words, and witness his illuminated expression and his decisive gesture, you feel carried away by a sense of conviction and ready to follow where he leads. He is the leader of Israel after the fashion of the prophets. Under his vigilance the true doctrine stands in no danger—he has shown this recently, and he will continue his work of preservation. On God alone Pius X. bases his supernatural mission and his love for the Church. In vain do political parties, including those which vaunt their religious faith, endeavor to draw him and the bishops to their side; in vain do reactions of all kinds seek to compromise him in the toils of their old prejudices, on the plea that he has inexorably condemned dangerous novelties. On the contrary, the Pope has taken care to show that in social as well as in scientific questions he makes a clear-cut distinction between the aberrations of the modernists and the true needs of the time; and the encyclical of Leo XIII on the condition of the working classes constitutes to be as we have heard from the most authoritative sources, the principle of his social action and the inviolable rule of his councils."

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