

The True Witness

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1896.

WANTS MARTYRDOM.

For some time back the notorious and Reverend Mr. Chiniy has been ignored by the public, he has drifted to the verge of the oblivion that awaits him; but there is no money in oblivion, and he is now making a terrible effort to get himself abused by somebody.

Quite an ingenious plan. Win or lose, the holy apostle of intemperance—in language, accusations, and everything except strong drink—must come out on the top of the heap.

We are not surprised that the Globe declined to publish the letter in which the brave old man issues such a very ably-prepared challenge to "Citizen."

THE GREAT ARBITRATOR.

Last week the London press gave currency to a rumor that His Holiness Leo XIII. had offered his services as arbitrator between Great Britain and the United States in the Venezuelan difficulty.

Unity, and kindred subjects, evidence a grasp of mind so far beyond the ordinary as to challenge the attention and admiration of all civilization.

When we consider all the work he has done in regard to Catholicity in England, and also to other subjects connected with the welfare, spiritual and temporal, of that country, it seemed impossible that he could possibly find time to deal with any other public questions.

When we watch the course of events in the United States during the past years, from the elevation of Cardinal Gibbons to the raising of Cardinal Satolli; from the Council of Baltimore to the establishment of the Catholic University, we might be excused were we to suppose that the Vicar of Christ gave all his attention to the American Republic.

Of course, were Leo XIII. to be accepted as arbitrator, the *gens* A. P. A. would declare that the American Republic was about to be handed over, lock, stock and barrel, to the "foreign potentate."

CIVIL STATUS.

In Saturday's "Daily Witness" appears a letter from a reverend Protestant clergyman, in which he objects to the law that obtains in this Province regarding the registration of Acts of Civil Status.

It is otherwise with the Catholic Church; so sacred is baptism held as a sacrament, that virtually speaking the registration of baptisms in a parish means the enumeration of births.

readers with an essay on the laws of Civil Status, we merely wish to indicate the extraordinary confession that these contentions lay before us.

"I confess ONE BAPTISM for the remissions of sins," says the "Credo." Outside the limits of the Catholic Church can any sect of Christians repeat those words? Here we have men professing to believe in Christ and His doctrines, claiming to have the true religion necessary unto salvation, and yet differing so radically from each other upon one of the all-important dogmas of the new dispensation, that they are forced to admit—what the Rev. clergyman and the Witness seem to glory in—namely, that the record of their baptisms is no indication of the number of their births.

DREAMS OF YOUTH.

With pleasure and pride do we note every step taken by our Irish-Canadian fellow-citizens along the highway of letters. We welcome with delight each fresh contribution to the rapidly increasing volume of our young literature.

Perhaps it may hold all of those dreams that the author at present recalls; but those on record now prove clearly that he has other and greater dreams—if not visions—which sooner or later we hope to find embalmed in future verses.

A FLOURISHING BANK.

Elsewhere we publish a full statement of the business done by the Merchants' Bank of Halifax during the year ending the 31st of December, 1895. It will be seen by this report that the affairs of the Bank are in a very flourishing condition and that amongst the solid financial institutions of the Dominion may be ranked the Merchants' Bank of Halifax.

ON THE INDEX.

Not long ago it was stated by some of the European press that a work of Leo XIII., whilst Bishop of Perugia, was placed on the Index. It is hard to credit the person who started the story with good faith in doing so, when we discover the real facts of the case.

authority, a work on the culturs due to the Blessed Virgin. Mgr Pecci, having read the book, disapproved of it, and wrote to the Sovereign Pontiff explaining his objections.

HON. EDWARD BLAKE.

By recent despatches from the old country, we notice that there is a probability, should Mr. Justin McCarthy retire from the leadership of the Irish Parliamentary party, that Hon. Mr. Blake is likely to be called upon to succeed him.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

NINE Italians, near New Orleans, were murdered a week ago by the Mafia. So much for secret societies!

DR. JAMES WEBB ROGERS, formerly an Episcopalian clergyman, and a convert to the Catholic Church, died in Washington on the fourth instant. He was first editor of the Indianapolis-Central Catholic.

THE Bishop of Orleans delivered the other day a very touching address on the late Marshal McMahon; the event was the marriage of Mlle. Yvonne de la Selle, a grand-daughter of the great soldier, to Mr. Ernest de Baudreuil.

NOT INFALLIBLE.

Of late our friend the Daily Witness—at least in its editorials—has fallen into very few blunders concerning Catholic teachings. This may be accounted for in the fact that our contemporary has been so occupied with political subjects it has not had space to devote to questions of religious controversy.

THE great gold mines of Colorado have turned out to be worthless. The local poet of Denver will have to change his verse; it no longer suits:

"The State of Colorado, Is the only Eldorado In the world."

A MANUSCRIPT of Josephus of the thirteenth century was sold for a thousand dollars at the recent Jackson sale in London, and a "Pontificale Romanum," made in 1539, for Cardinal Marcantonio Colonna, librarian of the Vatican, was sold for one thousand and twenty dollars.

AMERICAN eagles to the value of \$310,000 were withdrawn from the Bank of England on Friday, the 10th January. It is not likely that England had any objection; the country has been somewhat tired of late with the screaming of America's big eagle, and must be glad to let all the nest full of little eagles go home.

"WHAT is to become of Dr. Jameson?" asks a correspondent. We have no idea. It is absolutely impossible to form any prognostication. Murderers and criminals of all classes, blundering leaders, fiery enthusiasts—*et hoc genus omne*—are so peculiarly and surprisingly treated in our day that it would take a very sage prophet to foretell the fate of any man—no matter what the accusation against him.

ters of moral or dogma. Moreover, he must positively declare that his pronouncements are intended to be official utterances of Christ's Vicar. Even on questions of Church discipline the Pope is not infallible. Much less would he be so in matters pertaining to the temporal welfare of any section of the world.

If, therefore, Leo XIII. were to be chosen as indicated, his decisions would not have any greater value than those of others, on account of his prerogative of infallibility in affairs spiritual—rather would the importance of his pronouncements be due to the fact of his individual talents, his wonderful foresight, his calmness of judgment, his great grasp of all national and international situations, as well as the evident absence of any prejudice, or undue influence—both of which are liable to exist in any other arbitrators.

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DENMARK wants to sell out three islands in the West Indies. Uncle Sam would do well to buy them, seeing that if anyone else attempts the purchase the Monroe Doctrine may be called into play to cancel the deed.

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ABOUT 2,000 Christians are said to have been killed in the massacre at Orfall. The official despatches admit that 900 were wiped out. Hard times, indeed, in the far East—and yet sympathy is about all that the Powers can give.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND, on Saturday, 4th January, signed a proclamation making Utah a State. What is to become of the Mormons? Wouldn't Grover feel happy signing a proclamation proclaiming Canada a State? A bad state, indeed, would we be in.

SINCE Luther's time Catholics have founded forty-six universities in Europe; thus up to the present time one hundred and eighteen universities have been founded by Catholics in Europe. And still we are told that the Church is the mother of ignorance.

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JIM CASH-CASH, a rich Protestant Umatilla Indian, has applied to the courts in Oregon for a divorce. He complains that his wife is going back to savagery, and in evidence of the barbaric spirit of his better-half, he alleges that she puts rouge and powder on her face. If that is a

proof of the savage state the aborigines tribes cannot be dying out so rapidly—there are thousands of barbaric females to be met every day in this country. Dressed in bloomers, seated on a bicycle, rouged and powdered—add a few imitation scalps to their belts and you have the real thing—less the war-whoop.

THERE is a Rev. Joseph Pullman in Connecticut who has been abusing Catholics and vilifying them with impunity. The other day he used his pulpit to call vile names to an actress. She has entered a libel suit for \$25,000 against him. He finds that it pays better to attack and belie the Church that does not care a snap for him.

THE municipal election fever rages. The ex-aldermen, and present aldermen, and aspiring aldermen, are busy drumming up voters and securing influence; once more Montreal has an opportunity of securing good civic government. Al ready the certainty of a first-class mayor is about a foregone conclusion. Mayor Smith should be surrounded by the very pick of our best citizens when the new Council meets.

THREE hundred and eighty-six distinct libel suits have been commenced by as many priests against the Paris Journal, on account of an article reflecting on the clergy of the Hautes Pyrenees. Each asks for \$20 damages if they win, and that the result of the law suits will be printed in five newspapers of Toulouse, as many of Bordeaux, and in twelve newspapers in the Department. The Journal will be more watchful in the future.

WE clip this interesting paragraph from an American contemporary:—

"The following figures show the recent large increase in imperial grants to Roman Catholic schools and the comparative growth with Episcopal schools in Scotland: In 1872 the Roman Catholic schools numbered 22, with grants of over \$23,000. Now they number 177, with grants of \$374,940. At the same date the Episcopalians had 46 schools, with grants of about \$20,000. Now they have 74 schools, with grants of \$86,000.

It is not generally known that at the foot of the high altar in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, is a crypt in which lie the remains of Archbishop Hughes and Cardinal McCloskey. Each Archbishop of the diocese, when death overtakes him, will rest there. The crypt can hold forty coffins. The average reign of the Archbishops is ten years each—the present Archbishop is now twelve years in office—so it will be over four hundred years before the crypt is full.

CHARLES THOMAS FLOQUET, formerly President of the Council of Ministers, Minister of the Interior, and President of the Chamber of Deputies in France, died at noon on Saturday. All the members of the present ministry visited him before he died. One by one the leading men of France disappear—a grand funeral, civic obsequies, popular orations, marble monuments, silence, decomposition, dust, oblivion, follow in each case; no one speaks of the soul.

THERE is one person in Canada who is not pleased with us; we happen not to kneel down before the idol of his adoration. We are sorry that our respective devotions are reserved for different shrines; but, while granting the gentleman in question a perfect right to his opinions and believing in the honesty of his convictions, we would simply request the same concession on his part towards us. If we all were of one mind the world would be too perfect for human habitation.

It is pleasing to note that our young professional men continue to come to the front in a creditable manner. At the Catholic Truth Society's meeting Mr. Frank J. Curran, B.C.L., whose address at the Father Mathew celebration created such a favorable impression, delivered an excellent lecture on "The Land Laws in the Province of Quebec." Our young friend speaks in the calm argumentative style with much felicity of language. By continued application and, in the matter of style, a strict adherence to the advice of Boileau, "polissez vos sens et le polissez," he will attain a prominent position amongst the foremost forensic pleaders at the Bar of the Province.

A SUBSCRIBER, who, by the way, renews his subscription, informs us that he finds it hard to pay money to support a paper that is an enemy of the United States. Were it not that the letter was addressed to THE TRUE WITNESS we would have supposed that he had reference to some other paper. We are no enemy of the United States—far from it. But we hope that the citizens of the great Republic do not lay claim to a monopoly of patriotism. They might as well find fault with the people of Austria for feeling proud of their land and proclaiming the same. That sentiment by no means prevents them from admiring and honoring the institutions and citizens of the United States. If there is any enmity it must come from south of the line forty-five; we don't harbor such sentiments.