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VOL. X. No. 17

TORONTO, THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1902

PRICE FIVE CENTS

The Priest in the Fever Camp

(Special to The Register)

Depot Camp No. 1.
 Dear Editor—I am a stranger to you, but not to your valuable paper. That I got acquainted with last winter through the kindness of a friend who sent me an occasional copy during the quarantine on account of scarlet fever in the camp. It is really in the time of need that one of any faith can properly estimate the true value of our holy religion, and never before was this fact brought home to me till a month or so ago here in isolation. One of our men had died the day before the fever and 20 more were sick in an outhouse a short distance from the camp, amongst whom half were Catholics. Five of them were very sick, and after supper word was sent to me to the office that one was not expected to live and that he was calling at lucid intervals for a priest. I learned from the doctor the day before that there wasn't a priest to be had within a hundred miles from here. I went to the door of the fever camp, and when the poor fellow saw me he called out, "Did you not go for the priest? Well," he said, "I will go myself."

He was raving in the fever, and made a bound from the bed. Two men had as much as they could do to hold him down. You may judge of my state of mind as I turned from him to go away, when I thought of his state with the others on the brink of death and to my mind no possibility of getting a priest in time to give them the last rites of the church. I went to the office and as I opened the door, with his back turned to me, stood a man with overcoat and cap all covered with frost and snow. It was now late in the evening. He was talking to the foreman in earnest conversation, so earnest that he didn't turn round or notice me coming in. The foreman, a Protestant, was saying: "We have strict orders from the doctor that no one is to enter the sick men's camp except the two men they have placed in charge. They have pronounced it a very bad type of scarlet fever, more fatal than smallpox. One has died. The body is outside frozen and boxed, waiting for them to take it away and three or four more are not likely to live. No minister so far has ventured near the place and it would be useless to ask them on account of the danger of catching or spreading this malignant fever and I think you would be foolish to go there now. I never knew before what it is to have trouble, and I fear the worst has to come."

The man still standing never took his eyes off him and answered in calm and measured tones: "My dear man, I have driven over fifty miles to-day in a blinding snow-storm to reach a family twenty miles from here afflicted with the same scourge as your men to administer the consolation of religion. On arriving there what did I find? Three members of the family already dead, the father of nine not able to raise his head from the pillow, the wife alone was able to be around and had to bury the body of her thirteen-year-old son herself, who died the day before in a hole dug in the snow behind the log cabin. You, no doubt, feel your present situation to be anything but pleasant, and it is

poor consolation after all to know that others have a heavier cross to bear than we have. Life, dear sir, is a strangely twisted strand, full of knots and kinks and many find it a hard road to travel I heard on the way that some of your men are dangerously sick, and as I learned that there are a few Catholics amongst the number very sick of fever, I have come without waiting a call to prepare them for death.

"Are you not afraid of catching the fever?"

"Kind friend, I am a Catholic priest, and in discharging my duty I know no fear. I have been rubbing up against smallpox, diphtheria and scarlet fever off and on all the winter, and it is my duty to attend these cases at the risk—yes, even I knew for certain that I would catch the fever and die of it, I would gladly attend all the same. What better death could I have than to die like a true soldier at the post of duty?"

With an amused smile he added: "Perhaps it would be safer to read a few verses of Scripture and offer a prayer here for these poor fellows," as he picked up his valise. With a puzzled look on his face the foreman asked me to show him to the pest-house, and he followed me out as unconcerned as if he were walking to the station to take a train. I never felt happier in my life nor prouder of my religion as I saw him enter the fever camp and cheer up those poor fellows with his encouraging words, as he prepared them for death. One of them a short time after passed peacefully away I came after a while called with the cold to the office, where I found the foreman with his head between his hands doing some hard thinking.

"What priest is that?" he asked.

"He doesn't see, to have any fear of catching the fever. Are all the priests of your church, John, like him, ready to sacrifice their lives for the sake of others?"

"They certainly would. I never knew or heard of one yet who when called, failed to do the same as this priest is doing to-night."

"It is strange," he said, "very strange, the things that I have heard about priests, lead me to think differently of them, but my opinion is changed after to-night."

After a while the office door opened and a voice was heard: "If you feel any dread of catching the fever from my coming in contact with these men, I will not enter, but start right away to-night."

The foreman would not hear of it, and offered him his own bed, but the priest wouldn't accept, and preferred to sleep with his clothes on soiled in his overcoat and rug on the floor in a corner near the stove, to be handy, he laughingly said, to keep the fire on till morning.

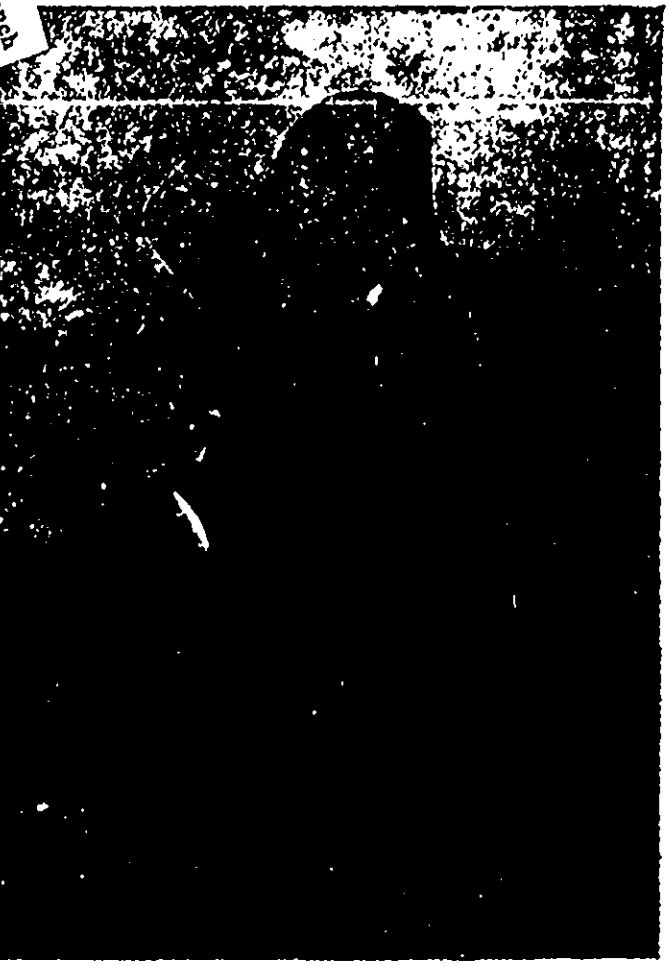
In the early morning he paid another visit to the sick men, and after a hasty breakfast prepared to go. As he was leaving he said to me: "What are you doing here? You seem better fitted for a salesman in a dry goods store than for a shanty-man in a lumber camp."

I replied that I had been for some time correspondent for one of the American dailies, but owing to ill health I was advised to spend the winter in Canada and for the present was doing some writing and keeping the books for my uncle, who had a share in the lumber business here. I intend, I said, to write an article this week, and your visit here under such difficulties will be the leading feature. By what name, Father, shall I call you?

"O," he said, "my dear fellow, there is nothing in my visit to interest anybody," and reaching his hand to me, with an amused smile, he said: "You newspaper men always make me a bit nervous. You seem to be so inquisitive. If you prefer to give me a name, Christen me a missionary tramp," and with a hearty shake of the hand he was off. Nobody seemed to know him, nor where he came from, but some time afterwards I read an article in a Parry Sound paper descriptive of missionary experience in the lumber shanties, in which the name of Rev. Father Fleming, stationed, I believe, at Parry Sound, was mentioned. So I think this is the same priest whose visit to our camp was so highly appreciated in the time of affliction, a visit that I can never forget, nor about which could I find a better theme to send a few lines.

Yours truly,
 J. W.

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THE LATE ARCHBISHOP WALSH.

Archbishop Walsh Memorial Window

The memorial window, erected in St. Michael's Cathedral, by the priests of the Archdiocese to the late Archbishop Walsh, has just been put in place. Its position is opposite to the place of burial of the deceased prelate, next to the altar of the Blessed Virgin, upon which the Archbishop said his first Mass after ordination. The subject is Christ delivering the keys of the kingdom of heaven to Peter. As we go to press the work has not been entirely completed, and a further description will be given next week.

A memorial window to the late Rev. Frank Ryan will also be placed in the Cathedral. This is under a provision in the will. The subject is the Sacred Heart, a devotion to which the late priest was deeply attached.

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY—ST. MARY'S BRANCH

The regular open meeting, for Catholics and non-Catholics, was held in St. Andrew's Hall on Monday evening last. The President, Mr. W. J. Fulton, D. A., in the chair. The large hall was well-filled and a goodly number of our separated brethren were noticed amongst the large audience.

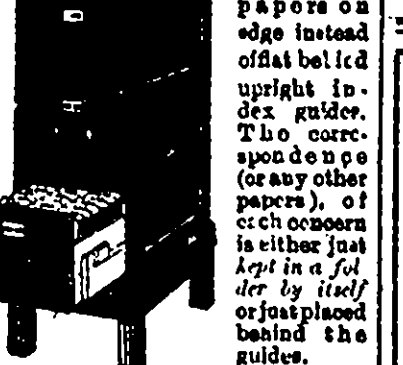
The lecture was delivered by the Rev. J. M. Fraser, who took for his subject "Our Lady of Lourdes." The reverend lecturer, who is well qualified for the subject, delivered an impassioned and instructive address, bringing out in detail the history of this most wonderful event.

The story of the innocent and saintly little Bernadette, of the supernatural apparition of the Blessed Virgin, of the miraculous bursting out of the healing waters from the Rock and the innumerable cures that have ensued, is one that is enthralling and inspiring, and it is sufficient to say that the reverend lecturer made a pronounced impression upon his hearers.

The musical programme which was under the direction of Mr. Frank Fulton, was most creditably rendered by the Misses Pauline Carton, Margaret Weir and Ada Watson, and Messrs. Corney Meehan, B. McWilliams, W. Kerswell and Fred. O'Connell.

Amongst those on the platform

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were the Fathers W. A. McCann and Williams and Messrs. Wm. Fraser, Jno. Doyle, G. M. Evans and W. E. Blake.

The next meeting of the Society will be held in Occident parlors, on Monday evening, April 28, when Mr. H. C. Stuart will address the Society. His subject being "The Patriotic Canadian."

THE CORONATION OATH.

To the Editor of The Register:
 Sir—Now that the day appointed for the coronation of King Edward VII. of England is so near at hand, and there is no evident sign that the obnoxious sentence in the oath which stigmatizes the whole Catholic world as idolatrous, is to be eliminated, would it not be a very Christian act for every Catholic to make it a point to be present at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on that day, not only to show his abhorrence of such blasphemy but also as an act of reparation to the offended majesty of God? Let us all pray in a special manner on that day for the conversion of the English nation, asking the Ever-Immaculate and Blessed Virgin to intercede for all those who have had the great misfortune to leave the fold of her Divine Son to wander along the highways of contradiction and uncertainty.

Blessed be Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
 Blessed be the great mother of God, Mary, most holy.

CATHOLIC.
 Montreal, April 21, 1902.

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Parliamentary Notes

The estimates are still the cause of the long hours of discussion. The House is almost constantly "in supply." Still the monotony of the necessary work was relieved on last Tuesday by one of the most interesting and certainly most important debates of this session. It arose like a cloud on a clear day, entirely unexpected, but while it lasted—and it lasted till midnight—it was heavy with important utterances. The fact that the Premier was the principal speaker, and the additional fact that he was in good form, "spirit and voice" alone lent a great importance to the event. The subject before the House was the questions that would occupy the attention of the Premier and others during the conference next June in London. The announcement of the British Budget and the imposition of a corn-tax, a slight deviation from the strict Cobdenism of England's fiscal policy, brought Mr. Maclean to his feet, and he poured in a series of questions, interlarded with criticisms, on the Premier. In a word, he placed Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the position of being obliged to state what the intentions of the Government and of himself in particular are, concerning the matters to be discussed in England at the coming Colonial conference. I am under the personal impression that, even though the subject was brought up without any prior notice, and was suddenly sprung upon the House, the Premier was not sorry to have an opportunity of setting at rest the public mind on the question thus raised. At all events he did so in a most emphatic manner. It is quite possible that all our readers have read reports of that speech in reply to Mr. Maclean, so I will neither reproduce it, nor attempt any summary of it. The situation may be resumed in very few words.

Three questions may be made the subject of discussion at the conference with the home authorities and the representatives of the Colonies. They are the defence, political and trade relations of Canada to Great Britain and the other British Colonies. The Opposition wish to have all three subjects discussed; the Premier declares that our trade relations alone should form the subject matter of the conference. War and commerce go not together, and our interests are purely commercial. There is a deal of wisdom in this, and also of pure Canadian patriotism.

Looking at the situation that recent events has principally contributed to establish, from the standpoint of an outsider, of one who is not in the secrets of any party, but who is at liberty to judge for himself it appears to me that while the announcement made by the Premier is eminently in accord with what the duties of a Canadian statesman to Canada should require of him, there is a grave duty that falls to the share of all representatives of our people under the peculiar circumstances. I will try to briefly convey my two-fold idea.

In the first place the time at the disposal of the members of such conference will necessarily be much shorter than could be desired, an immense amount of vital issues will have to be crowded into a proportionately limited space of time. It, therefore, stands to reason that the most pressing needs and most imperative interests of Canada should find ventilation in preference to all other subjects. This is a commercial, a trading country par excellence. We have no vast possessions scattered over the world to demand our protection from external or internal disturbances; we have no continental powers armed to the teeth as a precautionary policy, in the event of diplomatic rupture with us. Consequently the question of defence becomes secondary and, with us, entirely distinct from the trade question—which is the vital one upon which our Dominion's future depends. It is otherwise with Great Britain; her commercial ubiquity is so interwoven

with her military and naval interests, both as the motherland of colonies and as a European Power, that they may fairly be considered as the obverse and reverse of the same medal, or the two component elements of a same policy. So that when Canadian representatives argue that the Premier should discuss the defence, political and trade relations at the conference, they simply ignore the Canadian situation and build up their theories upon an Imperial basis—that is to say, consider the subject through British glasses, totally oblivious of Canadian rights or interests. Our future depends upon our products, our system of transportation and the favorable markets that we can find abroad, and this is the bulwark that is sought to be strengthened, thus the grand work that has got to be accomplished. And it is this that the Premier proposes to do, when the opportunity of next June comes to him.

Now for the second question: The duty of all Canadians, at this critical juncture in the affairs of our country and in the possible relations between Canada and Great Britain have to perform is one that not only savors of real national spirit, of true patriotism, but one that demands a degree of self-abnegation and sterling sacrifice.

At this particular moment the guarantees of Canada's future are passing through a transition stage; the immediate future is big with events of vital import. The opportunity is at hand, and it may not return "thin the lives of any of us. A conference is to be held in London this summer; the Premier of Canada is to take part in that meeting of the Colonial and Imperial representatives. On that occasion he will have it within his grasp, within the range of his power, to secure for this Dominion either the most favorable of advantages for the future, or a heritage of untold difficulties. The new departure in the British Budget regarding the taxation of bread-stuffs, opens an avenue for Canada to receive some share of favor on the markets of the old country, in return for all she has given to Great Britain. The Premier's speech in the House last Tuesday is a clear indication that he fully appreciates the gravity of the situation and the necessity of insisting upon our trade, or commercial interests. On the other hand, there is the risk of having our independence curtailed by a demand for permanent contribution from us to the defence of the Empire. This would be the introduction of the thin end of the wedge that would eventually be hammered in to the head and that would split to splinters the independent and self-controlling system which has obtained in Canada ever since the winning of responsible government for our country. Against that menace the Premier is equally on his guard. The position is one that demands not only statesmanship on the part of the chief actor, but of patriotic union in the support that the people and their representatives should afford him. He should be free from any distracting and confusing opposition. In a word, under such circumstances, the supreme duty to Canada, demands of both parties to strike all fetters of political, party, or other exigencies from the Premier, and to aid rather than impede him in the grand and all-important mission before him.

If there are political or party ends to be obtained, and men place party before country, then, at least, let them have the common courtesy to await his return and to watch for the actual results of his action. Then, if such results be manifestly antagonistic to the well-being of Canada, their time will have come to launch the necessary criticisms. But, at this juncture, no good and no honorable, no national and no patriotic purpose can be attained by depriving the Premier of every latitude in his proposed course of action, or by withholding from him the moral sympathy and support that the circumstances demand.

ST. MARY'S C. L. & A. A.
 The regular meeting was held on the 20th inst., the President, Mr. C. J. Read, in the chair.
 The auditors' quarterly report was received and was very satisfactory.
 Dr. Loftus was called to the chair, and Mr. J. G. O'Donoghue, L.L.B., gave an address on "The Lawyer's Moral Code," being an exposition of the duties of the legal profession from the moral standpoint. A cordial vote of thanks was extended Mr. O'Donoghue for his able address.
 Rev. Father O'Leary, who had just returned from Uptergrove, conveyed greetings to the association from Rev. Father Dollard, which were fully reciprocated by the members.
 The junior baseball team, under Manager Henry and the senior, under the able leadership of Manager Clarke, are already giving good account of themselves. The latter play their second game with the Toronto Ball Grounds.

United Irish League

A Home Rule Resolution to be Moved in the House at Ottawa
 Ottawa, April 21—At a largely attended meeting of Irishmen in St. Patrick's Hall yesterday afternoon, under the auspices of the United Irish League, it was decided to introduce a Home Rule motion in the House of Commons, and the Hon. John Costigan was entrusted to move the resolution.

The President, Dr. Freeland, was in the chair, and associated with him were Senator Sullivan, of Kingston, Mr. James Hughes, M. P., of Prince Edward Island, and Senator McHugh, of London.

Routing Home Rule speeches were given by Senator Sullivan and Mr. Hughes. Both expressed sympathy with the proposal to introduce a Home Rule motion in the Local House and in every other step to hasten the securing of Home Rule for Ireland. The sentiments expressed were enthusiastically received.

Before the meeting adjourned the following motion was unanimously carried:

"Whereas, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Earl Cadogan, has proclaimed the Coercion Act in Ireland; and whereas, the only reason alleged in defence of such action by the chief secretary is that the lives of many persons are made miserable by boycotting and intimidation; and whereas, the intimidation and boycotting complained of are simply the application of the legitimate principles of trades unionism to a perfectly constitutional organization; and whereas, the Normayle case, as stated by Mr. Dillon in the House of Commons, and the Walker charges, characterized by Mr. Wyndham himself as a tissue of lies, show the farcical nature of the alleged "violence and outrages," and whereas, the Chief Secretary admits that there is a comparative absence of crime in Ireland;

Be it resolved that we, the Irishmen of Ottawa, in mass meeting assembled, denounce the unparalleled folly and tyranny of the British Government in bragging on a peaceably disposed people the horror of coercion, the effect of which will be to flood peaceable districts with police, break up legitimate meetings with batons and prosecute and imprison the trusted leaders of the people. As loyal Canadian citizens, enjoying the fullest measure of liberty, we deplore the tyrannical action of Lord Salisbury and his colleagues in depriving millions of fellow-citizens of the Empire of the only constitutional means available for the redress of their admitted grievances.

Oh, for eyes that can see the deeper things of life, that can see the revelations of the spirit in human life; that can discern character where it is and find it without being told in so many words, for his revelations are in a thousand ways besides words; that can discern beauty where ordinary eyes do not see it, because they are looking only superficially, that can discern the shining of God on the face from the glory of the noble spirit within. Eyes filled with vanity and worldliness may not always discern such things. But the pure in heart shall see them.



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