

apparel, and with edifying regularity and recollection attend the various exercises. These days of preparation are crowned by a general communion and solemn procession of the Blessed Sacrament on the festival.

The Redemptorist Fathers of Portland, N. B., under the rectorship of Father Oates, are making many improvements in their church and grounds. A short time ago they purchased a vacant plot in the vicinity and have since converted it into a grand roadway fifty feet wide, as a main entrance to the church grounds. They have also procured a chime of seven bells from McShane & Co., Baltimore. The smallest of these bells, weighing 523 lbs., has arrived and was rung for the first time on Christmas morning.

The Toronto Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society are about to undertake the visitation of the Gaol, and to establish a library in that institution for the unfortunate inmates. Father Oruse, the present chaplain, has taken the matter up with great zeal and great good is likely to result, as has been the case at the General Hospital, the visitation of which has, since its inauguration, become one of the very best works of the Society in Toronto. His Grace, the Archbishop, has blessed and approved of both works.

Owen Connelly, the wealthiest merchant and citizen of Charlottetown, P.E.I., dropped dead in his store the other day. He was writing an order for a pair of blankets and a load of coal, which were to be a Christmas gift to a poor woman, when he sank into a chair and expired. He was 67 years old and married; he had no children. He was rated to be worth \$800,000, and his will, after making several bequests, gives the residue of his estate for the education of poor Roman Catholic children in Prince Edward Island. For the past two years the deceased was President of the Merchants' Bank of Prince Edward Island.—R. I. P.

The Church of the Holy Name of Jesus, just erected by the few resident Catholics of Essex Centre and vicinity, was opened and blessed on New Year's day. This church is completed, and has a fine gilt cross on its steeple, which attracts the attention of all beholders. At present we are informed that, unless some unforeseen circumstances arise to prevent their attendance, the Rev. Dennis O'Connor, C.S.B., Superior of Assumption College, Sandwich, will perform the dedication services, the Rev. J. P. Molphy will celebrate the Mass, and the Rev. Father McBrady, C.S.B., also of Sandwich College, will deliver the sermon.

The Charlotte, P. E. I., Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society held their annual meeting and election of officers in St. Dunstan's Cathedral on Sunday, Dec. 18th. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Rev. F. X. Gallant, Spiritual Director, (re-elected); John Caven, President, (re-elected); J. G. Eckstadt, Vice-President, (re-elected); Hon. A. A. Macdonald, Lieut.-Governor, Treasurer, (re-elected); Peter McIntyre, Assistant Treasurer, (re-elected); Henry FitzGerald, Secretary, (re-elected); Alfred E. McEachen, Assistant Secretary, (re-elected).

The Treasurer's report showed that the Conference received in cash, during the year, \$247.61, and paid out \$205.02, leaving a balance on hand of \$42.50.

The members are much indebted to the late Owen Connelly, Esq., who, during last year, placed at the disposal of the society one hundred tons of coal, besides a number of blankets, and intended to do the same this winter.

This is the same Owen Connelly whose sudden death is recorded this week.

The *Globe* thus writes of the French-Canadian poet, Louis Frechette, whose work has frequently been referred to in these columns:

"After a visit to Paris of six months, the poet Louis Frechette returned last week to his home in Nicolet, Que. We gather from French-Canadian journals that his last reception in France was of the warmest nature. He appears to be quite recognized as one of themselves by the great names of French literature. We hear of banquets in his

honour, and offers to have his name proposed for the next vacant chair in the Academy. It is highly gratifying to see a Canadian by birth and education taking so high a stand in the most cultured and fastidious literary society in the world. While in Paris, Frechette completed and published his latest work, 'La Legende d'un Peuple,' which we surmise to be the story in verse of the French race in Canada. The first edition was bought up eagerly, and the second one is being issued, which will be placed in the hands of American and Canadian booksellers. The poet has been commissioned by the manager of 'La Comédie Française' to write a French translation for the stage of Shakespeare's King Lear, which is to be performed in Paris during the Exhibition of 1889. This work is now in hand, but M. Frechette contemplates, upon his return to Paris next summer, writing a prose work on Canada, to be profusely illustrated by eminent artists.

"While Anglo-Canadians must regret that the genius of this great poet is consecrated to the tongue of his own ancestors, yet that is a means of bringing a knowledge of Canada before a portion of the Old World in a most attractive form. Wherever he uses his versatile pen it will be to the honour of his native land."

CATHOLIC AND LITERARY NOTES.

A correspondent of the Worcester *Travailleur* writes from Putnam, Conn., that the Parish Priest of that place has lately received from Mrs. Francois Cleveland, the wife of the President of the United States, a letter enclosing a bank cheque in favour of Madame Francois Sponci (Dauphinot). This graceful gift was sent to her on the occasion of the birth of her nineteenth child. Madame Sponci is a French Canadian and a Catholic; she is in perfect health and the correspondent adds that had she not lost her teeth, she would be considered one of the finest looking women of Putnam as well as being an honour to her nation and sex. Mrs. Cleveland stated that the gift was intended as an expression of respect and sympathy towards that good wife who had contributed so much to increase the population of the United States.

In a communication to the *Echo de Notre Dame de la Garde*, the Rev. Pere Augier, Provincial of the Oblates of Mary, residing at Montreal, speaks of a visit he recently paid to an Indian village called Maniwaki. Maniwaki, which means "land of Mary," is situated at the junction of two rivers emptying into the St. Lawrence, and is one of the missions attended by the Oblate Fathers. The Indians are comparatively few in number, but still form the majority of the congregation, composed in part of French and Irish, which fills the church consecrated to the Blessed Virgin. Father Augier says that the Assumption is the great festival day of these pious Indians, who each year prepare for its celebration by a retreat of eight days. They come from all parts, attired in their best apparel, and with edifying regularity and recollection attend the various exercises. These days of preparation are crowned by a general Communion and solemn procession of the Blessed Sacrament on the festival.

The latest schism from the church, which has been known under the name of "Old Catholicism," is now about its end. There remains only three priests in the dioceses of Breslau and Posen who cling to it, and one of these will retire on a pension this month. The others have either become reconciled to the Church, or have been withdrawn from the sect by death or by their voluntary act. The fidelity of the German priesthood has been thoroughly tested by the Falk laws; and they have not been found wanting in the crisis. Only 40 or 50 priests altogether out of 10,000 in the German Empire were found faithless to their duty, and even of these only about 23 joined the Old Catholic movement. The Kulturkampf did so much good that it made manifest the fidelity of the priesthood to the Rock on which the Church is built. No Bishop could be induced to abandon his post, so that when Bismark patronized the schismatical movement he had to have a Bishop manufactured, and he is thoroughly ashamed of his work now.