

YATES AND BLAKE.

Mr. Edmund Yates, the notorious author of court gossip and editor of the *World*, gives his readers the following piece of criticism:—

"Mr. Blake owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Chamberlain. Had he not had the good fortune to follow the member for West Birmingham, it is pretty certain that very little that was good would have been heard of his maiden effort in the House of Commons. One is loath to interfere with a reputation made in the Dominion Parliament, but in common justice to the public a statement, rendered necessary by the hysterical eulogies of the Irish members of Parliament, should be put forth as to what sort of speaker this man from Canada really is. He is a gauche student, painfully dull. He took immense pains over his effort on Friday, but the speech was contemptible to hear, unbearable to read; in fact, if Irishmen had not given him and ovation—an honor, by the way, which they seem determined to render dangerously cheap, as Mr. Gladstone will know ere long—he would hardly be noticed except as a curious novelty."

It is somewhat refreshing to read such a criticism upon a man like Edward Blake, and by such a man as Edmund Yates. The gentleman whose business it is to pick up and deal out, for the amusement or information of the curious, every tit-bit of court gossip, the details of the Queen's programme, the intentions of the members of the royal family, the latest remarks of some lady-in-waiting, or the most recent joke of the master-of-the-hounds; this Mr. Yates whose anti-Irish bigotry is so red hot that it confuses his poor brain to a degree that he mixes up the events of the world at large with the important performances in the Osborne kitchen or the Sanderham stables; this Mr. Yates is the person who rises to criticise the Hon. Edward Blake. Yes, to criticise a man who, by his innate ability, his commanding talents and his powerful energies has arisen to the first rank in the legal and political circles of this Dominion, and who, with the poor advantages of a colonial training, has leaped, at one bound, unto the very highest plane of Imperial distinction. Blake has done in one short half year what Yates could not have done in four centuries, were they at his disposal. Start Yates in Toronto on an equal footing with Blake, and the latter would eventually have reached the high station he now occupies in the eyes of the world, as well as in the arena of Imperial politics, while Yates would at, best, have never made a reputation extending beyond the limits of our Dominion. Start Yates and Blake with the same advantages, in London, that the editor of *The World* possessed, and Blake would have been Premier of England fully a decade ago.

This elegant court reporter, but very indifferent parliamentary critic, says that had Blake not followed Chamberlain "very little that was good would have been heard of his maiden effort." It is unfortunate for Yates and the few, very few, narrow creatures of his caliber that Blake got an opportunity of firing his *impromptu* shots into the ranks of the blue-blooded Tories. It was very lucky for Blake, and the cause he upholds, that he had the chance of riddling "Brumegem Joe" with the gattling gun of his eloquence. What Yates seems to despise is exactly the circumstance which adds most to Blake's merit: the ability with which he, a mere colonial statesman, handled the great Joe. Chamberlain, and without gloves or preparation. But how very ridiculous the narrow-minded, and mentally distorted, are willing to become, provided they are enabled to strike a blow, (even below the belt) at one they envy and hate.

Here is how Yates characterizes Blake's style of speaking! All ye in Canada, who have ever heard the Hon. Edward, read attentively! All ye, in America or England who have read the unanimous and powerful eulogy of the British press upon his first effort in the House of

Commons, pay attention to Yates! "He is a gauche student, painfully dull." How does Yates know whether Blake is an apt or dull student, whether it takes him an hour or a day to learn a subject or solve a problem? He could not have been a dull student who, in such a short space of time, and with so much to occupy his mind otherwise, had reached the very highest round in the legal ladder, and whose grasp of Imperial laws and systems was so exact, even after scarcely any study. What is a "gauche student?" Does he mean "left-handed?" We think Blake's speech was such a genuine Irish *Contologue* to the anti-Home Rulers, that Mr. Yates feels his ears burning yet from the effects.

Yates goes on to say: "He took immense pains over his effort on Friday, but the speech was contemptible to hear, unbearable to read." Great Caesar's ghost! How in the name of all Parnassus could the man have "taken immense pains over his effort," when it was an *impromptu* reply, delivered immediately on Mr. Chamberlain resuming his seat? Does not Yates tell us so himself? If the London court-pet would only try to look honestly at the matter he would ask himself this: "If Blake's maiden effort, delivered on the heels of Chamberlain's speech, and consequently unprepared, is such a splendid success, what must he not produce when he does 'take immense pains with his speeches?' Yates says it was 'contemptible to hear,' and all the press of London, and all the statesmen and critics, Tory as well as Liberal, are unanimous in saying that it was the very best speech ever made in the House on the subject. Yates says 'it is unbearable to read;' because it is too convincing, and Yates don't want facts, logic and beauty of diction combined in a defence of 'the abominable Irish.'"

It is well for Yates that he has his world in which to disapprove of Edward Blake and to criticise him; for on the other hand Blake has the whole world of civilization to admire, honor, praise and immortalize his work, his talents and his magnificent eloquence. Yates' world is a poor, cold-hearted, miserably bigotted paper, with a circulation of ten thousand or so; Blake's world is a large, warm-souled, broad-minded race of men, coming from all ends of the earth, and numbering several millions. Yates and his world, in one scale—you have a pigmy and a pea; Blake and his world, in the other scale,—you have a giant and a generation of men.

WE WERE AMUSED by the following extract from one of our American contemporaries. It at once recalls a saying of the immortal Liberator, and gives us an idea of the late Lord Beaconsfield's views with regard to his Satanic Majesty.

The tendency of modern thought to deride the personality of the devil, gives a living interest to the testimony of the man who was said by O'Connell to be descended from the impudent thief. Lord Beaconsfield, in his novel, "Endymion," says of the want of faith in the existence of the "evil one": "If the personality of Satan be not a vital principle of our religion, I do not know what it is. You think it is safe, and I dare say it is fashionable to fall into this lax and really thoughtless discrimination between what is and what is not to be believed. It is not good taste to believe in the devil. . . . Now mark me; you and I are young men—you are a very young man. This is the year of grace, 1839. If these loose thoughts, which you have heedlessly taken up, prevail in this country for a generation or so—five and twenty or thirty years—we meet together again, and I shall have to convince you that there is a God."

SPRING is coming on and it is probable that in its train will come the panthom of Asiatic cholera that threatened this continent last autumn. If preparations were not made last summer to meet and strangle that scourge before it could touch our soil, it is high time that every precaution would now be taken to protect the country against it. It is not when the "Phantom's on the Threshold,"

that the authorities should awaken to the necessity of means to drive it back. Not only is there danger from incoming vessels, but we have a native peril in our midst—the unhealthy condition of houses, streets, and premises. A word should be sufficient to give a key-note to the guardians of the city's health as well as the city's peace. There is no false alarm in the cry of "cholera;" it lurks around the cities and sea-ports of Europe, and may start forth at the opening of navigation with redoubled strength.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

Meeting of Irish Societies to Decide Upon the Route of the Procession

A meeting of the representatives of the various Irish societies was held at St. Patrick's hall last evening. Among those present were Jas. O'Shaughnessy and Samuel Cross, St. Patrick's Society; Thos. Latimore and J. J. Costigan, St. Patrick's T. A. & B. Society; John Power and A. Jones, Irish Catholic Benefit Society; J. J. Ryan, and M. J. Stack, Catholic Young Men's Society; Edward Halley and D. Gallery, Young Irishmen's Literary & Benefit Association; P. Kennedy, M. L. A., and John Kilfeather, St. Ann's T. A. & B. Society; P. T. O'Brien and Thos. Sullivan, St. Ann's Young Men's Society; Thomas Kane and Thomas Phelan, St. Gabriel's T. A. & B. Society; J. P. Heffernan and E. J. Hunt, St. Mary's Young Men's Society; Mr. Robert Warren, secretary, and others. The Rev. Father Quinlivan, of St. Patrick's, presided, and opened the meeting by a short address, in course of which he expressed his great pleasure at meeting the representatives of the various societies and dwelt upon various matters which affected them as Irish Catholics and citizens. Mr. P. Kennedy, M. L. A., also made a short address. It was unanimously decided to hold the procession this year as formerly, and suggestions were made towards making the event worthy of the occasion. The route of procession was chosen as follows: The societies will form on Victoria square, Radegonde street, at 9 a.m., and proceed to St. Patrick's church. After High Mass the societies will muster on Lagauchetiere and Radegonde streets, and proceed by Victoria square, St. Antoine, Chatham, Notre Dame, Seigneurs, Centre, Wellington, McCord, Ottawa, Colborne and Notre Dame to St. Patrick's hall on McGill street.

Mr. James Milloy, of the St. Patrick's T. A. & B. society, was elected marshal-in-chief for the occasion. Invitations were ordered to be extended to the Huckmen's union, Shamrock Lacrosse club and Holy Name society of St. Mary's. The various societies were requested to invite the C.M.B.A. and Foresters within their districts to join in with them on the occasion. Appropriate remarks were made by Messrs. P. Kennedy, M.L.A.; P. T. O'Brien, Thomas Kane, John Power, J. J. Ryan, A. Jones, Ed. Halley and others. A vote of thanks to the rev. chairman was carried unanimously and the proceedings were brought to a close.

United Concert of St. Patrick's Society and Catholic Young Men's Society in the Windsor Hall.

This year the national celebration of March 17th will be observed with a display perhaps surpassing anything witnessed in Montreal in former years. One of the principal features of the evening will be the Concert and Lecture given in the Windsor Hall by the Catholic Young Men's Society, aided by St. Patrick's Society, and the combination of these two societies will certainly give both strength and tone to the great Concert.

The programme will consist of the leading professional talent of Canada and some of the best amateur talent of Montreal—among them Miss Ella Walker, Sir Donald A. Smith's protegee; Miss M. Hollinshead; Mrs. J. G. H. Bergeron, wife of the Deputy Speaker. Miss Bertha O'Reilly of Ottawa, graduate of the New England Conservatory of Boston, and at present teacher in the Canadian College of Music, and superintendent of musical instruction in Lord Stanley's family in Ottawa, will render some choice selections of her own on the occasion. Also Miss McNailey, Miss O'Brien, and others. Among the gentlemen who will take part will be Mr. H. C. St. Pierre, Q.C.; W. E. Burgess, ventriloquist and humorist; Mr. W. Sullivan, Mr. H. O'Brien, Mr. W. Simpson, Mr. Charlie O'Brien, Mr. Bolger, Mr. J. C. Dixon, D.S., and others.

Rev. Father Doyle, the famous Paulist Missionary and Lecturer, of New York, will give a lecture appropriate to the day. Hon. J. J. Curran, and Mr. J. J. Ryan, the two presidents, will preside jointly. Mr. Curran will open the concert and Mr. Ryan will close it. The tickets have begun to sell rapidly already, though the plan is not publicly opened yet, but can be seen at St. Patrick's priests' house.

Capital Punishment.

To the Editor of THE TRUE WITNESS:

SIR,—Allow me to say that with the general argument of your article on this subject I am entirely in accord, but that you seem to have overlooked the principal quotation from Scripture in favor of capital punishment, namely, Genesis ix. 6. "Quicumque effudit humanum sanguinem fundetur sanguis illius"—"Who so sheddeth human blood his blood shall be shed." I am not a theologian, but unless that command be abrogated by the "Ego autem dico vobis" ("But I say to you:") of St. Matt. v. it must, I think, remain in force. Surely, also, the words of St. Paul concerning the temporal magistrate that "he beareth not the sword in vain" [i.e., the power of inflicting death] would seem to support his contention.

FRANCIS W. GRAY.

Feb. 26, 1893.

(The foregoing was received as we closed our forms; we will refer to it next week in our Editorial Notes.—Ed. T. W.)

C. M. B. A.

Lachine branch of the above association on Friday night renounced their allegiance to the Grand Council of Quebec, of which they formed part, and returned in a body to the Grand Council of Canada, voting entire confidence in the latter. The great majority of Quebec province, according to official figures, are with the Grand Council of Canada. The assessments for the ensuing year in connection with the Grand Council of Canada will, it is expected, not exceed fourteen, owing to having separation from the United States. Last year the assessments in connection with the Supreme of the United States, numbered twenty.

The Late Mr. P. Kearney.

ROXTON FALLS, Feb. 23d, 1893.—Mr. P. Kearney, died this a. m. after a brief illness. Mr. Kearney was one of the oldest merchants in Canada, having immigrated to this Province in 1844. He first established his business in Pointe Claire then in Roxton Falls, where he had carried on business successfully for over 35 years. Mr. P. Kearney was well-known among the mercantile men of Montreal. He leaves a wife and ten children. R. I. P.

The Late Major Alexander Daly.

Scarcely ever have we been called upon to record a death that more surprised and more grieved us than that which took place in this city, on the 24th February, when the long and useful life of Major Alexander Daly closed forever. Mr. Daly was in his 86th year, and only a few weeks ago he called upon us, and appeared full of life and energy, "ready," as he said, "to face ten years more of life." It may be remembered by our readers that last September we gave a sketch of Mr. Daly's life, on the occasion of his sending to the Chicago World's Fair the original compass used by Jacques Cartier on his second visit to Canada. Only the other day the deceased told us of his intended trip to the Great Exhibition and of all the projects he had formed for the amusement of his many friends and relatives over there.

Here is an exemplification of the saying: "Man proposes, but God disposes." Mr. Daly had been a surveyor and one of the early pioneers of this section of the country. He was long connected with the "Woods and Forest branch" of the Crown Lands Department. It was during those earlier days that he became a major in the local militia of the Province, and during one of his exploring and surveying expeditions he became possessor of the historical relic above mentioned. He was a sincere and devout Catholic; a man of upright character and very sterling qualities. He loved to go over again the story of the earlier times upon the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa, and many a tale he could tell of pioneer bush life and of the prominent men of half a century ago, who have long since preceded him on the way to eternity. He was kind-hearted in the extreme, and very fond of reading, antiquities, relics, and every thing that might serve to better illustrate and perpetuate the history of Canada. Early in January he called at our office and gave us a fund of information about the principal personages who figured in the early history of this portion of Canada. Even then he had the appearance of a man whose lease of life was renewed for several years to come. Yet, strange to say, he remarked to us that he felt anxious to tell all these reminiscences in case he should be summoned away before he expected; and these interesting facts would be buried with him. One would almost think that "Coming events cast their shadows before." However, that long and useful life is closed, and we can but express our sincere sympathy for his relatives and friends, while we pay our humble tribute to the memory of a good, honest and faithful man. The funeral took place on Monday afternoon from 791 St. James street, to the Dalhousie square station, thence to Rawdon, Que., where the interment ceremony was performed. Truly, pointing to that grave in the little Catholic cemetery of the country village, where so much of his earlier life was spent, the passer-by could say:

"In yonder grave a Druid lies."

And while his remains moulder in the pretty church yard, we, who are of his faith, and who knew him well, can say: "May his soul enjoy eternal peace!"

Ordinations.

At the Academie St. Denis on Saturday morning Monsignor Fabre, assisted by Rev. Canon Martin, of the Archeveche, and Rev. Abbe Chevrier, P.P.S., conferred the order of priesthood on Rev. Mr. Alexandre Perron, of Hamby, and the diaconate on Messrs. Placide Desrosiers, of Joliette, and P. H. Perron, S.J. The brother of the new priest, Rev. Father Modestus-Alban, of Longueuil college, was present during the ceremonies.

Ecclesiastical Changes

Monsignor Fabre has made the following changes in the vicariats-forains: No. 6 vicariat will consist of the parishes of Saint Jesus du Mile End, St. Jean Baptiste and St. Louis, together with the Bon Pasteur and Mont St. Louis, which have been detached from No. 2 vicariat. Rev. Canon Trepanier, chaplain of the Deaf and Dumb Institute, has been named vicar-forain of the new vicariat. No. 15 vicariat will in future comprise the parishes of LaSalle, St. Isidore, St. Constant and St. Francois Xavier of Caughnawaga.