

The True Witness and Catholic Chronicle.

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EPISCOPAL APPROBATION.

If the English Speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province consulted their best interests, they would soon make of the TRUE WITNESS one of the most prosperous and powerful Catholic papers in this country. I heartily bless those who encourage this excellent work.

PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

SATURDAY, April 8, 1899.

TOPICS FOR

IRISH CATHOLICS.

There are in Montreal, it is strange to say, some Irish Catholics who have resided in the city for many years—several of them for fifty years—who disapprove of the discussion of matters affecting the interests of Irish Catholics from an Irish Catholic point of view. They seem to tremble when they see the term "Irish Catholic" in print. Why they should be stricken with such fear it would be very difficult to explain.

Under present conditions all political, commercial, social, and educational matters are administered in our community on sectional lines. The "True Witness" regrets that such is the case, and when a general movement is set on foot to abolish sectionalism in such affairs it will be found amongst the foremost of the advocates of its abolition.

We have repeatedly called attention to the stealthy way in which our people have been discriminated against for years, as regards representation in public offices and employment, and promotion in commercial establishments, on account of their religion and their nationality.

As a rule, been filled by French Canadians or English Protestants. We all remember the scramble the French-Canadians made for the judgeship rendered vacant by the lamented death of the late Judge Barry.

By a custom which has been scrupulously observed for years as an unwritten law, every alternate English-speaking Mayor of the city is an Irish Catholic. In accordance with this unwritten covenant, the next Mayorally term belongs of right to an Irish Catholic.

That such a thing has been publicly mooted, however, especially when it is considered in the light of the other events to which we have alluded, is surely enough to impress upon Irish Catholics the absolute and urgent necessity of uniting in defence of their own interests and welfare, as well as of those of their children.

NATIONAL TACTICS.

A lively discussion is now taking place, in a section of the French-Canadian press, about the desirability, of inducing large numbers of the rural population of the Province, to emigrate to Manitoba. After referring to the excellence of the climate of the prairie province, its great agricultural resources, and the facility with which a home may be made there, in comparison to the arduous labors to be encountered, in the clearing of the land, and other obstacles to colonization in Quebec, one writer winds up by stating that after all it is simply a question of national tactics.

motives. Which is the most advantageous course for our French Canadian compatriots to follow, keeping in view the advancement of the interest of their race. Ought they concentrate all their efforts, toward strengthening their position, in the Province of Quebec, where there is still ample room for many more millions of people; or should they endeavor to strengthen their brothers, in the centres they have founded in the West? La Verite pronounces in favor of fortifying the citadel at home. No one can blame those, who having cast their fortunes into other provinces, now desire to attract others there to augment their influence and better their position.

On the other hand, should the population of the other provinces increase, more rapidly than in Quebec, they shall be entitled to claim an increase in their representation. It is, therefore, of the highest importance, that Quebec should maintain its numerical strength, so that it may not be swamped in the matter of representation in the House of Commons.

By that means, we shall best be able to defend our compatriots in the centres they have formed in the other provinces. A strong province of Quebec may be able to do something to protect them, a weakened Quebec would be powerless. At all events the question is so grave and so complex that it cannot be settled without the deepest study. It should be submitted to a truly national congress.

A GOOD FRIDAY SERMON.

In St. Patrick's Church, on last Good Friday, the Rev. Father Martin Callaghan delivered a most eloquent and effective sermon on the Passion. Although, for long years, Father Martin has been preaching both in Montreal and throughout Canada, and while his fame as a gifted pulpit orator has been well earned, we doubt if he was ever more happy in his subject and in the manner of treating it, than upon the occasion in question.

We make special mention of Father Martin, not merely on account of his Good Friday sermon—which we regret being unable to reproduce—but especially because he is a living example, in this his native city, of what a devoted, studious, determined young Irish Catholic can accomplish. He is the first native born Ir-

ish Catholic priest of Montreal to become a member of the Order of St. Sulpice; and he has spent his life in the midst of the people whom he knew from childhood. His missionary zeal has been almost all expended in the cause of truth, and for God's glory, inside the limits of St. Patrick's Parish. In one thing particularly is Father Martin an exception to the generality of men: "He is a prophet in his own country"; he has achieved success in his vocation amidst those who were most familiar with him; he has done in his native city that which other men could not accomplish without going abroad and aiming for success amongst strangers.

SOME PROTESTS, THEIR CAUSE AND THEIR VALUE.

In Monday's "Gazette" appeared a lengthy editorial under the above heading, and in which the writer goes into details and statistics, both interesting and striking, regarding the original names of various races. The aim of the article is to point out why the German and Irish elements in the United States are opposed to what is called the "Anglo-Saxon," or "Anglo-American" alliance.

It is well that the saying "if" is found in the above paragraph, otherwise it would not be equal to the test of criticism. Certainly "if" the American Government should find it to be to its interest, it would have the power to establish any alliance it saw fit, despite the protests of any element or elements in the country. But the question is: can the Government find it to the interests of the Republic to "strike a bond of union" against which the two strongest individual factors in the country protest? It must be remembered that the American Government is an elective one, and a party one; that party politicians regulate the public conduct of the representatives of the people.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

One of our New York exchanges gives a lengthy column, in small type of the various establishments throughout the union that are raising the wages of the laborers and mechanics. According to this report wages of workers may be considered as going up all over the country. Increases averaging ten per cent., in almost every important industry, are the order of the day.

When the wave of commercial prosperity rises in the United States, we are certain to feel its effects. It naturally acts upon our industries, and our working people's wages, as does the tide in the Atlantic affect the St. Lawrence for a couple or more hundred miles above its mouth. No matter what party is in power; no matter what political policy obtains; no matter how this one or that one may claim credit for the favorable change, the truth is that the wave must rise just as surely as it must sink when the tide of prosperity in the neighboring Republic is ebbing.

Consequently we deem such a report as that to which we refer far more important at this moment than the news of changes in tariff, or of treaties projected or secured. These poli-

tical problems are always more or less problematical, but the appearance of a wave of increased wages is something tangible, no matter what our international or political relations may be.

Quoniam: O'Hull writes: "If John Bull does not go to Heaven it will not be for want of religious enough." It is amazing how rapidly seats spring up; but for uniqueness and one man interest the following basis all the most eccentric and wild salvation schemes we have ever read or heard of:

"Francis Nichols, of Minnesota, who has organized a religious sect called the Brethren in Christ, says that all the human race, except the 100,000 in his sect, will be eternally lost. The property of the communions is placed in a common fund, of which Nicholas is the head. All funerals of the members of his sect must be under his direction, and his travelling expenses are, of course, borne by the mourners. Those who desire to "keep in the kingdom" must abjure all display in dress and all ornaments are forbidden. The members must not have any friends who are not in the kingdom, and this rule is not on the one of the most severe of all on the women. No tie of relationship is recognized, and persons in one's own family must be shunned if they are outside of the kingdom."

The Boston "Herald" says:—"In his closing plea for Dentist Kennedy, his counsel reminded the jury that it was almost 1900 years ago that the Saviour of mankind was crucified on what turned out to be false testimony. Notwithstanding this sacrilegious outburst, the jury promptly brought in a verdict finding the dentist guilty of the murder of Dolly Reynolds."

A despatch from Portsmouth, England, dated 3rd April, reads:—"The bitter feeling against ritualistic practices in the English Church was manifested here yesterday when a ritualistic procession to St. Agatha's Church (Anglican) was attacked by a mob. The crowd stripped the robes of the acolytes and emptied bags of soot over the white robes of the clergymen. The police charged the mob and drove it back, and finally, under strong guard, the church ceremonies proceeded."

On Palm Sunday matters were even worse than this in all the Anglican (Ritualistic) Churches in Liverpool. Truly the path to Rome is strewn with difficulties for the advanced members of the Anglican Communion. What will be the ultimate result of all this? The Scripture tells us that "a house divided against itself must fall."

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of St. Patrick's Society was held on Wednesday evening, in St. Patrick's Hall, on St. Alexander street, and was without doubt the largest held for some years. Dr. Kennedy, the president presided, and the annual report was read by the veteran secretary Mr. S. Cross. One thing noticeable about the report was the flourishing financial condition of the society. There is not the least doubt but the newly elected committee of management will devise some means of bringing together a larger attendance at the regular monthly meetings.

The election of officers resulted as follows:— Pres., Dr. E. J. C. Kennedy, re-elected; 1st Vice-Pres., Mr. Patrick Wright; 2nd Vice-Pres., Mr. P. C. Shannon; Rec. Sec., Mr. Samuel Cross, re-elected; Corr. Sec., Mr. Michael Birmingham; Treas., Mr. John O'Leary; Committee of Management: Hon. Dr. Guerin, P. F. McCaffrey, J. Hoalahan, John Foley, T. J. O'Neill, Jas. Meek, F. Casey, Patrick Connelly, P. O'Neill, J. Phoenix, J. S. Fitzpat-

rick, Wm. Davis, Jas. C. Mangin, C. Carven, John Layolle, B. Wall, John Dunlop and E. Campbell.

The President and Rec. Sec. were appointed as a committee to act in conjunction with the other Irish societies, in tendering a complimentary entertainment to Mr. Touhey. Various plans for the advancement of our people in this city was discussed. Dr. Guerin favored the founding of a kindergarten, something similar to those already carried on by Protestants for the care of young children during the day. Mr. Patrick Wright favored the building of an Irish hall for the use of the societies in a central part of the city. While Mr. T. J. O'Neill, who is a clever speaker, made a suggestion which is of vital importance to our race, and it interests from a national point of view. The plan is somewhat similar to the one already adopted by the United Irish League of Canada. Mr. O'Neill's proposal will be discussed at the next meeting.

ST. PATRICK'S TEMPERANCE MEN.

The fifty-ninth anniversary of St. Patrick's T. A. and B. Society was celebrated on Easter Tuesday by a grand vocal and instrumental concert in St. Patrick's Hall. Mr. John Walsh the first Vice-President occupied the chair, and was assisted by Mr. W. P. Doyle, the indefatigable secretary. The entertainment itself was of that excellent character which always marks any concert in which the choir of St. Patrick's takes a prominent part, but perhaps the most enjoyable feature of the evening was the address, or rather short lecture, delivered by the Rev. Father McCallen, S.S., president of the Society. The title of the address was "Blunders," and around this single word the Rev. president wove a very entertaining story. His definition of blunders and his illustrations of them were not only amusing but instructive, for he had the happy faculty of turning the blunder into an object lesson. He could point out sermons in blunders as well as stones. There was only one thing missing and that was that Father McCallen neglected to make any blunders himself. He had a whole fund of anecdote regarding bulls, historic, bulls traditional, and bulls local at his fingers ends. Some few of them had been heard before, but seldom have they been listened to with more enjoyment. There is a great difference in reading about a blunder and having the story of the blunder told by such a good "raconteur" as Father McCallen, who divided his subject under the heads of the blunders of the clergyman, the judge, the lawyer, the medical man, and the ordinary every-day non-professional world known as the laity. It was a large field to cover, but Father McCallen had selected the choicest specimens, rich in humor and not the less amusing because the blunder frequently is unwittingly witty. The humorous side, however, was not the only one treated of, and he succeeded in making his lecture fully as instructive as it was mirth-provoking. This was the second time that Father McCallen had made a dissertation on "Blunders," but like other good things it loses nothing by repetition.

The opening remarks of the President were brief and to the point. He called attention to the good work which had been done by St. Patrick's T. A. and B. Society during the last half century, spoke of the internal workings and the benefits which accrued to members and was hopeful that in a few years the membership would be doubled. The programme chosen for the concert was an excellent one and was splendidly rendered. The members of St. Patrick's Choir took a very important part and together with Prof. J. A. Fowler came in for many congratulations. The opening number was a piano solo excellently played by Mr. J. I. McCaffrey, who promises to occupy a prominent place in musical circles, in Montreal, at no distant day. Mr. R. F. Reddy was applauded for his rendering of Weston's "Amboline," which was followed by a very pretty guitar duet by Messrs. Gregory and Gregory. Miss Nellie McAndrew, the charming young soprano soloist, gave two numbers, "Far from the Land," and "Teddy Flynn," in a faultless manner. Miss McAndrew is deservedly popular with our national organizations. The Misses Coughlin are very clever and showed their versatility to good advantage by dancing a Highland fling in the first part, and giving some choice musical selections in the second. The Schubert Octet sung exquisitely the "Serenade." Mr. G. A. Carpenter's fine baritone voice was heard to good advantage in Gerald Lane's song, "The Unseen Kingdom," and Mr. James Kennedy rendered "Because," in splendid style. The elocutionary part of the programme was much above the average. Miss S. Jackson's treatment of "Kelly, Burke and Shea," was distinctively clever. Not a touch of the humor of the thing was lost. Mr. Hogan recited "The Vagabonds," in a touching way, and the humorous dialogue between Messrs. R. P. Sloan and J. M. Smith caused much merriment. Last but not least was the entertainment provided by Mr. Charles Coombes, entitled "Mirth, Music and Ventriloquism." The entertainment was a great success.