

THE IRISH LANGUAGE.

An Elloquent Appeal for Its Study and Preservation.

The following splendid letter appeared in a recent number of the Buffalo Catholic Union and Times; it is well deserving of reproduction:

I was pleased to see that the national convention of the A. O. H. donated \$50,000 for the endowment of an Irish chair in the Catholic University at Washington.

For the past eighteen years patriotic Irishmen in some of the principal cities and even in small towns in this country have been diligently studying their mother tongue to preserve it from "dark oblivion's grave," and now their exertions have been rewarded beyond their most sanguine expectations by the endowment of a chair for the cultivation and preservation of the Irish language and literature in the principal Catholic educational institution in America.

The Irish language has been so long wedded to Catholicity that it is only proper that our great Catholic University should cherish it in this country where it is free from the persecution of that perfidious Government that placed the same price on the head of a priest and a school teacher as on the head of a wolf. Notwithstanding the most barbaric persecution that hatred and savagery could devise, the religion and language survived the machinations of their unscrupulous enemy.

It would not have been surprising if the Irish language had succumbed during the persecution of the penal days, but it was reserved for our own times to see the death blow given to our mother tongue, not by force of arms but by the insidious and more effectual scheme, the English education of our people. National schools were established throughout Ireland, and the text books, having been published by the Government, studiously avoided any mention of Ireland and the glorious deeds of Irishmen. This English education taught the people to look on those who spoke the mother tongue as ignorant and unlettered, and I doubt not that there are thousands of Irish men and women in this city who think their national language is a mere gibberish.

The language that was formed into grammatical order by Fenius in the University of Senaar about 4,000 years ago, before a stone had been laid in the foundation of the first house in ancient Rome; the language in which the laws of Ireland were written by Ollamh Fodla long before the time that the ancestors of our enlightened English oppressors considered themselves the spontaneous production of the soil; the language in which Ossian sang, and in which St. Patrick preached Christ crucified to the Irish and rescued the nation from idolatry, converting the island into a sanctuary for the preservation of the true faith through the centuries of persecution which followed—a gibberish, indeed! Had the art of printing been in existence when the Irish nation reached the climax of its literary fame all the universities of the world would be stocked with its productions. As it is there is more manuscript material of history in the Irish language than in all the languages of Europe combined.

It is a sad commentary on the intelligence and patriotism of Irishmen that Germans are the cleverest Irish scholars at the present day, while Irishmen are ashamed to acknowledge that they know a word of their national language or ever heard it. They forget that "the language of the conqueror in the mouth of the conquered is always the language of the slave." The language called the nation into existence and when the language dies the nation no longer exists, but is absorbed by the country whose language it has adopted. And now after almost eight centuries of ceaseless strife, Ireland, though unconquered, is slowly but surely drifting towards England, because she cannot long retain the anomalous position of a nation without a language.

The national convention of the A.O.H., by its munificent gift to the Catholic University, has set a noble example for Hibernians and all Irishmen throughout the country, who need not contribute money, but could, by devoting a little time and exertion in the study of their national language, enable their little island to take her place among the nations of the earth and, in his mother

tongue, write the epitaph on the long uninscribed tomb of Robert Emmet. There are many young Irish men and women in this city who have a fair colloquial knowledge of their national language for whom it would be an easy matter in one year to acquire sufficient proficiency to enable them to read almost any modern production in the Irish language; and if our Irish vocalists would take up the study of their language and music they would not be placed in the humiliating position of displaying their vocal ability in "the language of the conqueror" when the representatives of other nationalities entertained the audience with songs in their own language, as occurred in St. Stephen's Hall last St. Patrick's night.

Every other nation in the world is learning and practicing their language except the Irish. No other people forget their language except the people of Ireland,—and why should not we be as patriotic as other nations? I appeal to the Irishmen of Buffalo to take up the study of their language and not be an exception to all the other nationalities of this great city. The Hibernians of Buffalo have patriotism enough to make a start and I am confident they would do so if they were assured of the assistance of teachers. There are Irishmen here who are competent and willing to instruct their fellow-countrymen in their mother tongue if a class can be organized.

"Oh, Irishmen, be Irish still! stand for the dear old tongue
Which, as ivy to a ruin, to your native land
has clung!
Oh! snatch this relic from the wreck! the
only and the last,
And cherish in your heart of hearts the language of the Past."

J. M. W.

Buffalo, June 3, 1894.

THE HOCHELAGA BANK.

The Hochelaga Bank has just opened a branch at L'Assomption.

ELECTED SUPERIOR-GENERAL.

On Sunday the Rev. Mother Marie Seraphinen was elected superior-general of the Order of La Presentation. She is fifty-five years of age, and for the past thirty years has filled the position of leader of the novices of her Order.

PILGRIMAGE FOR MEN.

A pilgrimage for men, under the auspices of the priests of St. Ann's Church, will leave for St. Anne de Beaupre, on Saturday, August the 4th, and will return to the city Sunday evening, the 5th inst.

SAILING FOR EUROPE.

Rev. Messrs. Collin, Marre, Pelletier and Guot, of the Seminary of St. Sulpice, will leave next week for Europe. Rev. Abbe Colin, P.S.S., superior of the Sulpician Order in Montreal, goes to France to join the council of the Order. Abbe Pelletier will attend the fiftieth anniversary of his father and mother in France.

ST. LAURENT COLLEGE.

THE ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.

On Thursday, the 21st instant, (tomorrow) the annual commencement exercises and distribution of prizes will take place at the College of St. Laurent. This is always a great day in the institution, and the public in general, as well as the parents of the numerous pupils, may accept a cordial invitation.

THE CATHOLIC IMMIGRATION HOME.

Miss Brennan of the Catholic Immigration Home, is working hard to bring about a change in the disposal of immigrant orphans. Under the old rule, children were taken from the boat at Quebec and sent directly to the persons who had engaged to hire them. This system seems to have resulted in many of the children being sent to situations for which they were not suited, and sturdy young people were sometimes sent to places where they received insufficient wages or no wages at all, for their services. It is proposed to remedy this unsatisfactory state of affairs by having the children come right up to the Montreal Immigration Home before they are sent out to work. The orphans will then be carefully selected and sent to

persons from whom references have been received, and a reasonable wage will be fixed upon. No children over 10 years of age will be allowed to work without wages, even if those wages are but \$1 a month. Any person wishing to adopt a child, must have but a small family of their own, and the child to be adopted must be under 10 years of age. By following the above rules it is expected that the children will be provided with suitable places and will always receive adequate remuneration for their work.

A. O. H.

THE FIRST BIENNIAL CONVENTION.

Officers and Delegates in Attendance—
Addresses of the Provincial
Delegates.

The first biennial convention and meeting of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of the Province of Quebec was held in this city, on Saturday, the 9th of June. The convention held its session in the Hibernian Hall, Notre Dame street, the headquarters of Division No. 3, and was attended by every eligible delegate in the Province. Owing to the fact that the size of the hall was inadequate to admit the city members, none but the duly accredited delegates were allowed to enter. The business of the convention was despatched with great promptness, and the committee of management deserve every commendation for their excellent management of affairs.

The following officers and delegates were in attendance:

Redmond, Keys, Provincial delegate.
Michael Bermingham, Provincial secretary.
Bernard Feeney, Provincial treasurer.

HOCHELAGA COUNTY.

R. J. Kerrigan, County delegate.
Division No. 1.—George Clarke, president; Daniel McCarthy, vice-president; Thomas Tisdale, recording secretary; James McIver, financial secretary; Patrick Scullion, treasurer.

Division No. 2.—Andrew Dunn, president; Charles McAlear, vice-president; Michael McCarthy, recording secretary; Thomas N. Smith, financial secretary; Edward Quain, treasurer.

Division No. 3.—M. F. Nolan, president; Martin J. Brogan, vice-president; W. J. Murphy, recording secretary; Dr. E. J. C. Kennedy, financial secretary; W. J. Burke, treasurer.

QUEBEC COUNTY.

Edward Reynolds, County delegate.
Division No. 1.—Jeremiah Gallagher (alternate, for president Dinan); S. J. O'Neil, vice-president; H. M. Hannan, recording secretary; J. M. Walsh (alternate, for F. S. Byrnes); George J. Mullronay, treasurer.

The provincial delegate read a very able and well-worded address, giving a history of the order from its foundation in the Province to the present time, of the good relations which existed between the Order and the Church, and of the undying debt of gratitude which the members owe the Rev. clergy of St. Patrick's parish, as well as the Rev. Father W. O'Meara, of St. Gabriel's.

The provincial secretary's report showed the membership to be 713, in good standing; the number of sick brothers relieved, 28; total amount paid for sick benefits, \$425; regalia and hall furniture, &c., \$1,700. Total amount to credit of the various Divisions, in the bank, \$1,847.54.

A committee of seven, given executive powers, was then elected to prepare a code of by-laws for the governing of the Order in the Province, the same to be ready by the first of August. The election of officer for the ensuing biennial term was then taken up and resulted as follows:—

Redmond Keys, Provincial delegate re-elected.

Michael Bermingham, Provincial secretary, re-elected.

Thomas N. Smith, Provincial treasurer. Quebec was selected as the next place to hold the Convention.

On Sunday, the 10th inst., the delegates were given a drive around the city to the principal places of interest, and at 3.30 p.m. left for Quebec, highly grateful of the hospitality extended to them by their Montreal brethren.

On Tuesday evening, 12th inst., the biennial meeting of the Hochelaga County Board was held for the election of County delegate, and resulted in the unanimous

election of Andrew Dunn, president of No. 2 Division.

During the present summer, divisions will be organized in St. Mary's, St. Ann's and St. Anthony's parishes, also in Lachine and Sherbrooke.

The different divisions will hold their annual elections next week.

ST. MARY'S C. O. F. PICNIC.

St. Mary's Court, 164 C. O. F., have received a large number of valuable prizes for competition at their picnic, at Otterburn park, on Dominion day, June 2nd. A very large number of tickets for the picnic have already been sold and the indications point to a very successful and enjoyable outing.

BLESSING THE BELL.

On Sunday next, June 24th, at four o'clock in the afternoon, the new bell of the Franciscan chapel, on Dorchester street, will be solemnly blessed by His Grace Archbishop Fabre. His Grace will also preach the sermon of the occasion. It is well known that the Franciscans do not advertise nor solicit patronage; but they are ever pleased when Providence touches the hearts of the people and causes assistance to come to them. The wonderful work that these saintly men are performing deserves the greatest encouragement, and we trust that numbers of our good and devoted Catholics will attend Sunday's ceremonies at their monastery.

THE FIRST ARRIVALS

AT THE ST. LEON SPRINGS HOTEL.

F. A. Clifford, Concord, N.H.; Wm. P. Smith, Bradford, Vt.; George F. Smith, Woodville, N.H.; L. B. Louden, Concord, N.H.; R. A. Horner, Woodville, N.H.; E. C. Girobell, do; E. B. Mann, do; C. S. Carpenie and wife, do; Chs. D'Amour, Montreal; Wilfrid Robert, do; George Morris, Syracuse, N.Y.; Joseph Plante, Louisville; Oscar Dipocas and wife, do; M. Malone, Three Rivers; E. Panneton, do.

THE SULPICIAN ORDER.

IMPORTANT CHANGES MADE AT NOTRE DAME AND ST. JAMES CHURCHES.

The council of the Order of Sulpicians of this city have just made several important changes in the personnel of their Order. It has been decided that the Superior of the Sulpicians in Canada, the Rev. Abbe Colin, P. S. S., would shortly leave Montreal for Paris, where he will become a member of the council of the Order in that city. Other changes have also been made in Montreal, and among these are the appointment of Rev. P. Deguire, P. S. S., and pastor of St. James Church, St. Denis street, who has been transferred to Notre Dame Church, where he will fill the place of Rev. Abbe Sentenne, P. S. S., who has been seriously ill for several months past and whose recovery is even doubtful. Rev. N. Troie, P. S. S., will succeed the Rev. Abbe Deguire as pastor of St. James' Church.

ST. JEAN BAPTISTE CELEBRATION.

The following is the programme which has been decided upon by the committee which has in hand the organizing of the St. Jean Baptiste celebration, which takes place throughout the province on the 23rd, 24th and 25th insts.:

Throughout the province the fires of St. John will be lighted on the 23rd. At 9 o'clock a volley of 60 guns will be fired on the mountain. This will be the signal for the lighting of the fires. This fusillade will be answered by another volley, and the mountains of St. Hilaire will be illuminated to light up the country in the south. On Sunday, June 24, all the societies will meet on the Champ de Mars before 9 o'clock in the morning to go in procession to the Cathedral. In the afternoon it is intended to hold meetings, at which several well known speakers will address the people. Besides these there will be a promenade concert at the Monument National on Sunday evening. The Monument will be decorated for the occasion. On Saturday and Monday there will be fetes champetres at Sohmer park.

Reduced rates have been granted by all the transportation companies for the occasion.