

The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY
The True Witness Printing & Publishing Co.
(LIMITED)
233 St. James Street, Montreal, Canada
P. O. Box 1138.

All other communications intended for publication or notice, should be addressed to the Editor, and all business and other communications to the Managing Director, True Witness P. & P. Co., Ltd., P. O. Box 1138.

Discontinuation.—Remember that the publishers must be notified by letter when a subscriber wishes a paper stopped. All arrears must be paid.

Returning your paper will not enable us to discontinue it, as we cannot find your name on our books unless your post office address is given.

The date opposite your name on the margin of your paper shows you up to what time your subscription is paid.

We recognize the friends of THE TRUE WITNESS in the prompt manner in which they pay their subscriptions.

Always give the name of the post office to which your paper is sent. Your name cannot be found on our books unless this is done.

When you wish your address changed, write us in time, giving your old address as well as your new one.

WEDNESDAY.....JUNE 16, 1897.

THE AMBASSADOR OF CHRIST.

There is a world of meaning in these words which His Eminence, the Archbishop of Baltimore, has chosen to be the title of his treatise on the Priesthood. The dignity and authority thereto appertaining are derived from neither popular favor or the sanction of political authority, but from the King of Kings whose power is immeasurably above that of any earthly sovereign. Our Lord Jesus Christ, with His own voice and hands, called and set apart the Apostles for their divine mission, and the anointed preacher of the New Law inherits the office of the prophets and the apostles, and, as he continues their mission, he shares in the dignity and prerogatives conferred on them so long as the integrity of his private life corresponds with his sacred calling. As the new Covenant is more glorious than the old, so is the priest exalted above the prophet of the old dispensation. To show forth the dignity of the priest, the Cardinal finds no method more effective than to enumerate the titles of honor by which he is distinguished in the New Testament. He is the salt of the earth that preserves it from corruption; he is the light of the world, enlightened by the Sun of Justice Himself; he is the man of God, as anti-Christ is the man of Sin; he is the servant of God, whom to serve is to reign; he is the friend of Christ and His brother, while to his flock he is a spiritual father. And yet of all these titles there is none more sacred and honorable than that of Priest. "As the most sublime act of Jesus Christ was His Sacrifice on Calvary, so the Sacrifice of the Mass, which commemorates the bloody immolation of Jesus Christ, is the most august act that can be performed by a human being." As St. Thomas says, "No act is greater than the consecration of the Body of Christ." Yes, the true priest has the noblest mission on earth, for not only does he offer up the Lamb of God upon the altar, but he also immolates himself on the altar of duty and charity on behalf of his fellow-creatures. And how many parts has he to perform under that great office? He is a captain in the Church's warfare; a shepherd of the flock of Christ; a magistrate in the city of God; an overseer under Christ in the true vineyard; a leader in the defence of the mystical Jerusalem.

And how are men called to so exalted an office? It is an undoubted truth that it is not to all that the door is opened for the exercise of such dignity and authority in God's household. And he who enters by any other way than the door is, in Christ's own words, a thief and a robber. In the lifetime of Jesus, men were called by the Divine Master's own voice—Follow me. This voice is now heard in the conscience of him to whom it speaks with compelling power. The choice is the same. Matthias was as truly chosen, through the agency of the Holy Ghost, as the other Apostles had been by Christ's direct invitation. And to what responsibilities is the priest called, to what toils, to what tests, to what self-denial, to what life-long obedience? He must minister as he is ordered faithfully; must be pure in mind and body; must come close to sin in every shape without being sullied by it. What care then is necessary to distinguish between a genuine divine call and the promptings of ambition or other unholy motive. There is plenty of important work for conscientious laymen, and it is better for a candidate for the priesthood to withdraw in time than to deceive his own heart and wrong others by assuming functions for which he is disqualified by inherent unfitness. The number of such cases of late repentance is, indeed, surprisingly small compared with the whole body of the priesthood, and this is due to the extreme care exercised

by those in authority in accepting only such as they have reason to regard as worthy of so great an honor.

We have dwelt more especially on these chapters in which the transcendent honor of the priesthood is dwelt upon, because therein are shown the extraordinary claims of those who are anointed for the altar's service to our unfeeling veneration and obedience. In the following chapters the impression already conveyed is deepened and intensified, as we discern in the exhortations and counsel of the Cardinal Archbishop the hedge of unceasing supervision by which the priesthood is secured against the admission of the unworthy. To the clergy themselves these admonitions will suggest a constant fulfilment of the duty of self-examination as to every detail of their sacerdotal obligations. The style of His Eminence is extremely clear, extremely plain and entirely free from pedantry or affectation of any kind. It is marked by the simplicity of greatness and bears the stamp of the virtues that it inculcates. Yet the illustrious author has strengthened his arguments and pleas by bringing all knowledge, ancient and modern, sacred and profane, to bear upon his theme. While quotations from Holy Scripture abound in every chapter, and the great Fathers and Doctors of the Church have been used with judgment and taste, the masters of classical and modern letters have been made to contribute to the elucidation of the subject sometimes with the happiest results.

We must bear in mind, however, that the book—"The Ambassador of Christ"—is addressed to the Priesthood. To certain old-fashioned people it may be a cause of some surprise that such a treatise should have been brought up in the popular form, as though it were addressed not to the clergy only but to the curious laity—not to Catholics only but to all non-Catholics who can afford the small sum necessary for its purchase. Those who read "The Ambassador of Christ" will wonder no longer. It is, indeed primarily addressed to the clergy, but those who wish to know by what standard of duty the Catholic priest is judged, and to compare that standard with the rule of the Bible or the Fathers of the highest ethical teaching of the world in all ages, can do so by reading Cardinal Gibbon's book, and no Catholic need be apprehensive of the result. "The Ambassador of Christ," by James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, author of "The Faith of our Fathers" and "Our Christian Heritage," is published by Messrs. John Murphy & Company, 44 W. Baltimore St., Baltimore, and 70 Fifth Avenue, New York; and by W. R. Washburne, 18 Paternoster Row, London.

THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

For months past preparations have been made all over the Empire for the celebration, in a manner considered to be in keeping with the unusual nature of the event, of the completion of the 60th year of Queen Victoria's reign. Our own country has taken a leading part in these preparations and, besides the representation of Canada at the Jubilee ceremonies in London, where it will have a place of honor corresponding with its rank in the colonial domain, all the cities and towns will have special celebrations of their own. Montreal, as the commercial capital of the Dominion, will not be behind-hand on such an occasion. The arrangements are of such a kind as to enable the entire population to participate in the memorial festivities.

As our readers are aware, some of the leaders of Irish opinion in the Old Country have protested against Irishmen taking part in the Jubilee celebration on the ground that Ireland has not been a beneficiary during the Queen's reign so far as the Sovereign and her government were responsible for its progress or prosperity. It is pointed out that at the commencement of the Queen's reign Ireland's population was over eight millions, whereas to-day it is less than five; that the Queen has by preference kept away from Ireland, and that, although the jubilee has always been associated with acts of pardon, the government has deliberately refused amnesty to the unfortunate Irishmen now within prison walls for political offences.

That there is great force in this argument must be admitted, and we have ourselves, again and again, dwelt upon these and other grievances of the Irish people, which, while unredressed, make rejoicing out of the question for those concerned, as descendants of the Irish race in sympathy with the stand taken by the representatives of the Irish people. On the other hand, as residents of the Dominion, we feel that we ought not and cannot separate ourselves from the community to which we belong. Here we make our living; here we educate our children; here we worship God in churches built with our own Canadian money; here most of our friends reside; and here our business interests are centered. Whatever good will we have entertained or still entertain, therefore, to Messrs. Dillon or Healy, or Redmond or O'Connor, and however loyally we may desire the success of Home Rule

for Ireland, we must not forget that Canada also demands our devotion. It has shown on more than one occasion its anxiety for the removal of Irish grievances in the granting of Irish rights; that it is the land of our young people, and that however true we may be to Ireland, it would fare ill with us if, because we were Irishmen, we refused to be Canadians.

From this point of view, whatever we may think of the duty of the Home Rulers in the Old Country, we can hardly hesitate, as Irish-Canadians, to give a hearty reply to the appeal made to us to commemorate our country's progress during the last sixty years. Not long since we had a jubilee of our own, in which we thankfully looked back on the course of events through which Providence had guided us and forward with confidence to a future in keeping with that past. The retrospect we take now is somewhat enlarged as to time and much more comprehensive as to the persons and events concerned—for it covers the whole of Canada from 1837 to the present. And those who compare the scattered provinces and territories of that momentous year with the vast, populous, wealthy Dominion of to-day, will admit that there is no part of the Empire that can with better reason join in the *Jubilæus* of the present month than the land of which we are citizens.

POPE LEO AND THE GREEKS.

That an Italian Deputy should charge Pope Leo XIII. with neglect of duty will, to some of our readers, doubtless, seem a monstrous thing and so contemptible as to be unworthy of notice.

Under ordinary circumstances such would be undoubtedly the proper course to take. But with respect to Signor Bovio's allegation in the Italian Parliament, it has been thought wise by those who represent His Holiness in the press to give not only a general, but also an explicit, denial to the slander. The reason of this is that what M. Bovio said seemed to have a certain plausibility for ignorant, thoughtless or prejudiced people. His Holiness, Signor Bovio said, ought to have interfered either at the outbreak of the struggle in Crete or Candia, or, at any rate, when the war stage had been reached and much Christian blood was about to be shed at the hands of the Turks. As the Head of all Christians, it was the Pope's place to interpose on behalf of a portion of his world-wide flock and to prevent a sanguinary and disastrous war. In this contention Signor Bovio was not wrong. His Holiness gladly admits that, as Christ's Vicar, his sympathy should surpass the barriers of Catholic loyalty and fidelity and embrace in its blessed influence all who call themselves disciples of Christ, even though they have erred through false doctrine or schism. That is the belief and practice of the Holy See, and again and again it was the Pope's influence that saved the world from an internecine conflict.

That the Pope should be indifferent to the misfortunes of a Christian nation like Greece is simply impossible, and to conceive such a thing is evidence of either malevolence or a strange ignorance. The *Ossevatore Romano* gives a few instances of the proceedings of His Holiness on behalf of the victims of the late war. As soon as the Sultan declared war against Greece, it may be remembered that the Porte ordered all Greeks on Turkish territory to leave the country within fifteen days. As both in the Capital and throughout a great part of the Empire the trade and commerce are largely in the hands of Greeks, such an order meant ruin for thousands. Of the Greeks of Constantinople, about 4000 at the outbreak of war were Catholics, and these, through the interposition of Mgr. Benetti, were exempted from the operation of the edict. Through the same prelate the French Ambassador received them under his protection. Of the remaining Greeks, about 70,000, being of the orthodox or Greek church, were favored with the kind offices of Mgr. Benetti, who exerted all his influence on their behalf. Nor were his efforts altogether in vain though he had to contend with adverse diplomacy and conventional prejudice. Even after the French ambassador had failed to obtain a relaxation of the rigorous and cruel order, the Papal Delegate strove with zeal and humane perseverance to bring pressure to bear on the Turkish government. At last the diplomatic corps united in a demand that the Greek merchants domiciled at Constantinople should be allowed a sufficient time to settle their affairs before leaving the city. Ultimately the decree was so modified as to exempt some 30,000 Greeks from the disastrous consequences of the enforcement of the original order.

This is only an illustration of the utter futility of Signor Bovio's rather spiteful statement. If the Pope's good deeds on behalf not only of the faithful but of all professing Christians, were published in blue or yellow or green books, after the manner of the governments of Great Britain, France and Italy, the world would not be deceived by unauthorized

statements like those of Signor Bovio. But the Holy See does not look to public opinion for an approval of its acts. It is content to leave them in *foro conscientiarum*.

THE VACANCY IN THE CUSTOMS.

By the death of Mr. W. J. O'Hara, an important position became vacant in the Montreal Custom House. Some few years ago the English-speaking Catholic section of the community was well represented in the local Customs Department. M. P. Ryan was Collector; W. J. O'Hara, assistant Collector; John Cox, Chief Clerk of Shipping; John P. Purcell, Chief Statistical Clerk; Charles Selby, Cashier; W. F. Casey, Chief Guager, and James Dunne, Chief Check Clerk. Death or superannuation has removed them from the scene of their labors. They have all been replaced—except Mr. O'Hara—and in not a single case has an Irish Catholic been appointed successor. To the position now vacant an Irish Catholic has clearly the first claim. We would urge the promotion of Mr. W. J. McKenna, Accountant of the Department. Though a young man, Mr. McKenna is old in the service, having grown up in it, and possesses all the necessary technical knowledge and the natural ability to fill any position in the Customs service. His appointment would prove satisfactory to the business people, who recognize his competency, and would be appreciated and remembered by the Irish Catholic portion of the community, amongst whom he is most highly esteemed.

THE RATE OF INTEREST.

The mind of the business community has of late been considerably exercised over the proposed reform of the law as to the rate of interest. The question is one on which it is very easy to theorize. But when it comes to practice there are few average men engaged in commerce who will not at times be tempted to go counter to their own theories. The more ingenious and enterprising a man is, unless he has been born rich and never lost control of money, the more likely is he to have known moments when even the most exorbitant rate of interest would be considered a slight matter provided he could only secure the sorely needed cash. Many a failure might be averted if only enough were procurable to satisfy an importunate—because needy—creditor at a particular juncture. There are few even of the most prosperous business houses that have not some time or other passed through this kind of experience. If they could resort to better-off friends who had enough faith in them to advance the needed, they were exceptionally fortunate. But sometimes there is a pervading tightness when a firm's friends are as straitened as it is itself, and the only resource is the money-lender, with his high rate of interest.

It may be that there are judicious and provident business men who never allow themselves to be caught in such a trap; who have made provision against all possible chances, hard times, fluctuations of the market, changes in the tariff, desperate debts and other ills that flesh is heir to. If so, they are exceptionally blessed. And when the average merchant comes to be as wise or as fortunate the money lender's occupation will be gone.

On the other hand, it seems hardly fair that the temporary need of money should be made a crime to be punished with a fine of varying amount. For as such the excess above what on any defensible principle might be called equitable interest may be considered. But how is the limit of charge for the use of money to be settled? There are circumstances in which a cup of water might be invaluable. But it would be absurd to adduce such an exceptional instance in fixing the water rates. Many commodities have at times abnormal values, but this fact does not influence the market price. The intensity of a man's need or desire, or even his willingness to pay extortionate rates of interest, cannot be regarded as justifying these rates. Properly speaking, perhaps some of those who are willing to pay exorbitant rates are just the ones that ought to be protected against themselves. Some of the rates that have been charged in this province are an outrage on justice. The only justification for having the rates of interest unrestricted is that a temporary loan even at an exceptional rate may be of inestimable service to a solvent borrower. It is the abuse of freedom in the ruin of the rash and thriftless that makes restriction necessary even to the disadvantage of a few.

Then there is the possibility of enforcing a limit. It is so easy to evade a law. The needy borrower will agree with any device that the unscrupulous lender proposes, so long as it relieves him from the pressure of his immediate difficulties. As long as a man has any property that he can turn into security, or a friend or means to back him, there is nothing to prevent him borrowing—the rate, of course, rising with the risk. In view of this facility and the necessity of such accommodation for a consider-

able portion of the community, it would be almost futile to place the limit too low. It would be wiser to make it moderately high and to insist on obedience to the law. A limit of from 12 to 15 per cent. per annum would, for instance, if enforced, be a great improvement on the state of things to which attention has recently been called. But no law that affects a large and comparatively important portion of the community ought to be passed without ascertaining the opinion of the most intelligent and reputable of those directly or indirectly concerned.

AFTER SIXTY YEARS.

The reign of Queen Victoria has been for the Dominion of Canada an era of extraordinary development. In 1837 the half century that followed the Constitutional Act of 1791 was in the first stage of its stormy close. Upper and Lower Canada were in the throes of civil war and for both the future was dark with threatening clouds. The history of that period, though often written, is still the subject of controversy. There were faults on both sides, no doubt, though it is not always easy to apportion the blame with justice. The union which was the remedy proposed for the evils under which both provinces labored, was by a good many looked upon as an aggravation of the malady. It seems now to have been a necessary stage in the constitutional development that had confederation for its terminus. It gradually brought responsible government into more or less successful operation and the working of the new system was attended by some important reforms and considerable general progress. One of its first fruits was the educational settlement, which after some controversy placed our separate schools on a satisfactory basis. Municipal government was another of the advantages that it conferred—a method of local administration which, though still susceptible of improvement, was certainly a marked advancement on the bureaucratic centralism that preceded it. The abolition of seigniorial tenure and the adoption of a method of land holding more in harmony with the freedom of British institutions was another step forward. More attention was given to colonization and a good many districts were opened up for settlement. At the same time the pressing need for means of communication was met by the adoption of a vigorous railway policy, and the country's great waterway, were supplemented by a scheme of canalization and river improvement which has been steadily maintained. The Canadian government, by assuming control of the postal, customs and other departments that had been supervised from Downing street, entered in the full enjoyment of that power which it was now the people's privilege to give or take away. While by our enlarging railway lines we were brought into constant relations with the rest of the continent, enterprising merchants gave us the boon of regular intercourse with the old world.

These and other improvements were not brought about without a good deal of discussion, and political controversy was sometimes bitter enough. It attained the highest pitch when the burning of the Parliament House in a fit of partisan spleen deprived Montreal of her rank as the political metropolis of the country. A stage of contention which, if less violent, was also less easy to placate, was reached some fifteen years later. It then became evident to the more far-sighted of our statesmen that the union regime had served its purpose, and it was proposed to solve the deadlock by inviting the other provinces to cast in their fortunes with the Canadas.

Thus passed the first half of the Queen's reign. Thirty years ago a fresh union was formed, consisting of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. In six years it had grown, so far as territory was concerned, into a vast Dominion, extending from ocean to ocean, which only required people for its waste regions and means of communication to make it one of the powers of the future. In 1855 a band of steel bound the whole vast stretch of country into one, and at the same time created on British ground a new path-way to the east. By schemes accomplished or in process, the time distance between Britain, Canada, Australia and India is to be reduced to a minimum. Meanwhile, Canada's national life is only beginning. Millions upon millions of her fertile acres are still untenanted. Her vast resources are only coming to light. Her trade, her industries, are still in their infancy. But she has a grand future before her if only her people are true to themselves and to the best traditions of the great races, Celt and Saxon, Norman and Latin, from whom they are proud to be descended. Of all the colonies that share in the Jubilee celebration, we question if there is one more loyal to the Crown than the Dominion of Canada—with its French Canadian Prime Minister.

We must never undervalue any person. The workman loves not to have his work despised in his presence. Now, God is present everywhere, and every person is His work.

THE FETE DIEU.

Mgr. Merry del Val to Officiate.

The Order of Societies and Parishes—Route to be Followed.

The annual Fete Dieu procession will take place on Sunday next. High Mass will be celebrated at Notre Dame Church at 8.30 a.m., and then the procession will take place in the following order: Schools of Notre Dame Congregation, the orphans of St. Joseph's, the Congregation of Notre Dame de la Victoire, the Congregation of the Holy Name of Mary, the Ladies of the Holy Family, the Grey Nuns, the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, the Christian Brothers' pupils, the scholars of Mount St. Louis College, the Mount St. Louis Cadets, the scholars of St. Mary's College, St. Mary's College Cadets, pupils of the Montreal College, the Congregation of Men, the Gentlemen of the Grand Seminary, the Clergy, the Dais, the Churchwardens, the Bar, the Medical Profession, the Merchants' Association, the Benefit Societies, the Congregations of St. Patrick's and St. James parishes.

The route to be followed will be: From Notre Dame Church via Place d'Armes, St. James, St. Lambert Hill, St. Lawrence, St. Catherine, St. Denis, Champ de Mars, Gosford and Notre Dame to the church, where the Tantum Ergo will be chanted, followed by the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. A Repository for the Host is to be erected at the corner of St. Denis and St. Catherine streets.

Rev. Abbe Troie announced on Sunday, at Grand Mass, that a telegram had been received from His Excellency Mgr. Merry del Val, to the effect that he would be present in Montreal on the occasion and would officiate.

ORDINATION SERVICES.

The following ordinations took place at St. James Cathedral, on Saturday morning. His Lordship Monsignor Emard, Bishop of Valleyfield, officiated.

Priests—Messrs. Picotte, Bordeleau, David and Vaillancourt.

Deacons—Messrs. O'Reilly, Weirich, Brodeur, Dutriac, Champagne, McNeil, Mongeau, Macdonald, Duplessis, McKeough, Benoit and Levesque.

Sub-deacons—Messrs. Barry, O. Levesque, McLaughlin, Collman, Cunningham, Jodin, Abbot, Martin, Dobbell, Latour, O'Neil, Doyle, Trudel, McGegan, McKay, O'Neil, Jobin, Nagle, H. Trudeau, Delibanty, Banasiewicz and W. Doyle.

Junior orders—Messrs. Lafrance J. Brien J., Aubertin, Descaerries, Dubuque, Renaud S., Corbel, O'Brien, Roberge, Abel, Roseler, Desjardins, Donnelly, Frehill, Gagnon, Laframme A., O'Donnell, O'Leary, Quinn, Reid, Pontbriand, Donohoe, Curran, Huseay, Racine, Martin T., Berthiaume A., Berthiaume C., Deschamps, Corbel Ed., Lapalme, Herbert Prosper, Godin, Peikert, Loosbruck, Guillelte, Egan, Flynn T., Bourlerice, Sinnott, Fox, Sullivan, Conroy, Nolan, Murtagh, Labelle, Picotte, Mochler and Walsh.

Tonsures—Messrs. Deschamp, Corbel Ed., Lapalme, Herbert Prosper, Godin, Peikert, Loosbruck, Guillelte, Egan, Flynn T., Bourlerice, Sinnott, Foy, Sullivan, Conroy, Nolan, Murtagh, Labelle, Picotte, Mochler and Walsh.

WHISKEY AND CRIME.

NINETY-FOUR PER CENT OF MASSACHUSETTS CRIMINALS WERE DRINKING MEN.

No more powerful indictment could be written against the rum business than the recently published report of the Massachusetts state bureau of labor statistics, giving the results of a year's investigation conducted under the direction of Horace G. Wadlin, chief of the bureau, by authority of the state legislature. These investigations covered the period ending Aug. 20, 1895. Summaries of the results given in this report show that 80 per cent of the cases of lunacy in Massachusetts, in cases ascertained, were caused by the use or abuse of intoxicating liquor, either by the patient himself or by some other person.

In a table, compiled from this same report, it is shown that 82 per cent of the persons convicted of crime in Massachusetts during the year were actually drunk when they committed the crime for which they were convicted. It appears, further, that 94 per cent of the year's criminals of Massachusetts were drinking men. Advocates of the use of "light" drinks, such as beer and wine, also strike a snag in this report. It is shown that more than 20 per cent of all the crimes were committed by persons who drank only wine and beer. It is also shown that 15 per cent of the persons convicted of drunkenness were persons who abstained from spirits and drank only wine and beer, "which does not intoxicate, you know."

ST. PATRICK'S T. A. & B. SOCIETY.

The regular monthly meeting of the St. Patrick's T. A. and B. Society was held on Sunday afternoon, June 13. The religious exercises in the church were conducted by the Rev. J. A. McCallen, S.S., reverend president of the society, who administered the pledge to a large number. Mr. John Walsh presided at the business meeting held subsequently. The various reports for the annual picnic were presented. It was decided to forego the usual programme of races, and have a revival of olden times in the shape of a grand hurley match between twelve married and twelve unmarried members of the society, the losers to pay the cost of a barrel of flour, to be donated to the St. Patrick's Orphan Asylum. Mr. P. Conolly was elected captain of the married men's team, and Mr. Joseph Meegan was elected captain of the single men's team. Messrs. J. H. Feeley, W. Rawley and James Meak were elected delegates from the society to the St. Patrick's League.

Miss Ella Walker, vocalist, winner of the Canadian scholarship at the Royal College of Music, London, Eng., says of the Karn pianos: "For durability and purity of tone they are very fine. I can heartily recommend them."