

SOLIDARITY OF MASONRY

The American Freemason of February, 1913 (though by a proofreader's oversight "1912" appears on the cover) publishes a summary of a circular letter sent out by a number of very earnest Freemasons who participated in the recent International Peace Congress at Geneva. The editor calls attention to the fact that "It is signed first by Brother Magalhães Lima, Grand Master of Portuguese Masons, and one of the principals among those concerned in the deposition of royalty in his home country, and in establishment of the Lusitanian republic. The circular is at once a warning and an appeal. It sets forth what are alleged to be the designs of the Roman Church—and to make itself the supreme, even the sole authority, not only in things spiritual, but also in purely temporal affairs. These efforts, says the circular, are adapted to meet every situation: sometimes made openly and blatantly, but at other times proceeding by methods hidden or plausible and jesuitical. The unceasing efforts of clericalism, continues the circular, have but one aim—to rehabilitate the Vatican as seat of a world power; to elevate the papacy above all governments. After giving several recent illustrations of priestly intrigue, the framers of the circular call upon Freemasons of all countries to forget their differences that they may unitedly face the common danger. Craftsmen are urged to make such preparation that they may resist clericalism at every point. Only thus can the freedom of conscience, gained by past struggles and sacrifices, be preserved from the destroying hands of bigotry and intolerance. Nor does this article exclude English and its associate American Freemasonry, which have hitherto protested that they had no affiliation with the anti-Christian Grand Orient of France. For in the same issue of the American Freemason we are informed that the result of the meeting of the International Masonic Club, held in London on November 15, was the conclusion: "1. That the Grand Orient of France, with regard to religious tests, is much nearer to the original plan of Masonry, as set forth in the first constitutions, than is the Grand Lodge of England. "2. That the French Masons are worthy men, doing a wonderful work for the cause of progress and enlightenment. "As a matter of fact," continues the writer, "French Freemasonry has ever since 1878 been steadily growing more intelligent and scholarly, more compact, more serene, more self-confident, more effective, and more elevated. At this day it is the model for all the world in respect to these qualities. There is no American jurisdiction that can compare with it. "And yet the Grand Orient of France is so avowedly atheistic that it boasts of having by its legislative action "extinguished even the lights of heaven"; while the Masonry of Portugal, over which Mr. Magalhães Lima presides, has made an infernal pact that unhappy country from the first day that the revolution, organized by the Craft, set up its cruel and ridiculous republic.—Sacred Heart Review.

the guilt I should have incurred, and the account which at the last day would have lain against me, had I not become a Catholic; and it pierces me to the heart to think that so many excellent persons should still be kept in bondage in the Church of England, and should, among the many good points they have, want the great grace of faith, to trust God and follow His leadings. This is my state of mind, and I would it could be brought home to all and every one who, in default of real arguments for remaining Anglicans, amuse themselves with dreams and fancies. I am, dear sir, truly yours, John H. Newman." Archbishop Bourne, on finishing the reading of the letter, remarked: "I think that we may safely say that he was raised up to convey the old, unchanging message in new words and in a fresh setting acceptable to the Englishmen of his day. No voice has fallen on English ears so persuasively as his."—Sacred Heart Review.

SHAMROCK WEEK IN OTTAWA

Under the distinguished patronage of H. R. H. Princess Patricia of Connaught and Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen, Vicereine of Ireland. "Wear a shamrock for the orphans." The Ladies' Auxiliary St. Patrick's Orphanage announces its second Shamrock Week, March 13th to March 17th, 1913. In thus appealing to the public through the dear little shamrock the society feels that it is performing a double charity, selling shamrocks made by Irish orphans for Canadian Orphans (at not less than 10 cents a spray.) This was strikingly verified by the Countess of Aberdeen's words to President Mrs. A. Livingstone Masson on the occasion of her visit to Ottawa Jan. 1913, when she congratulated the President of the Auxiliary on the good work being done and said, "Shamrock Week in Ottawa is only an echo of the joy that the Shamrock Week order brings to the Dublin Orphanage." This year's work will be carried on a house to house canvass principle, as in 1912. The president having divided the city into six districts, each with a convener who will appoint her own assistants. The educational institutions will be canvassed by a special committee, also the theatres. The society solicits orders under its own motto, "Wear a shamrock for the Orphans." All information etc. gladly given on application to the Secretary Ladies' Auxiliary, Mrs. Robert A. Devine, 181 Waller St., Ottawa, Ont.

CONCERT AND DRAWING OF PRIZES

On the evening of Feb. 3, a band concert and drawing of prizes was held in the town hall in Brampton in aid of St. Mary's Church. The following were the prizes and winners: Morris chair, won by Mr. Norval, Brampton; silver gold-lined comport, won by Wm. Higgins, Brampton; eight-day clock won by W. Anthony, Brampton; gold mounted umbrella, won by Mr. Greensword, Brampton; silver cream and sugar set, won by Bazel Koster, Toronto; set of carvers, won by Miss E. Egan, Toronto; box of cigars, won by T. McConnell, Brampton; box of tea, won by E. McCabe, Toronto; books, value \$5, won by Jos. Murphy, Toronto; pipe in case, won by Jos. Harrison, Brampton; box of oranges and pair of slippers, won by Mr. McQuinchy, Brampton; fancy cake, won by Mrs. Weir, Toronto; leather bill book, won

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by Miss Morgan, Dundalk; berry spoon, won by C. J. Boulton, Mimico; fountain-pen, won by Jos. Hosie, Brampton; fancy cushion, won by Miss Mulhall, Dundalk; box of chocolates, won by M. J. Gilpin, Brampton; shaving set, won by J. Dodd, Toronto; lady's waist, won by A. F. Walker, Orangeville; centre piece won by Mrs. Bright, Brampton; apron, won by S. H. McGibbon, Georgetown.

The pastor, Father Egan, announced to the large gathering that he had received nearly \$600 and he thanked the people for their generous support both in donating of prizes and purchase of tickets. He called on Rev. Dr. Treacy to address the people, and the Dr. in his usual fluent style gave a short lecture on the qualities of Christian citizenship and his talk, intermingled with a few stories, and his Irish wit, was much appreciated. A vote of thanks was moved and seconded by Mr. Ingoldsbay and Mr. Morphy, K. C., of Brampton.

"PASTOR RUSSELL"

A verdict for the Brooklyn Eagle and against Pastor Charles T. Russell of miracle wheat fame was returned by a jury in Brooklyn on Tuesday at the close of a \$100,000 libel suit which has grown out of the publication in the Brooklyn newspaper of a cartoon pretending to portray the plaintiff in the act of being called away from his task of peddling miracle wheat to join the union bank directors. The jury was out 40 minutes.

In summing up for the defense Isaac R. Oeland insisted that the sale of miracle wheat as carried on in Pastor Russell's tabernacle and elsewhere was a purely business scheme to benefit the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society, which, he asserted, is dominated by Mr. Russell.

FARMS IN THE WEST

We have been advised by Rev. Father L. Leconte, S. M. T., Castor, Alberta, that there are now excellent chances for settlers in the district where he resides. Intending settlers in the West might write him for particulars. Land is suitable for wheat or mixed farming and can be purchased cheaply and on favorable terms. In two or three years a much higher price will have to be paid. We are also advised by Father Leconte that there are good openings for young professional men in the many new towns opening up in that part of Alberta.

No man can be generous with God who has not a great, broad love of his neighbor. Words are little things, but they strike hard. We utter them so easily that we are apt to forget their hidden power. Fitly spoken, they act like the sunshine, the dew and the fertilizing rain, but when unfitly, like the frost, hail and devastating tempests.

FAVORS RECEIVED A subscriber in Cantley, Que., wishes to return thanks to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Blessed Virgin for a favor received. A subscriber wishes to return thanks to the Sacred Heart for a favor received. I promised to publish in the CATHOLIC RECORD, I also wish the prayers of the faithful for an undertaking through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin, and St. Joseph with a promise to publish if granted.

DIED O'NEIL.—In St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton, Ont., January 22nd, 1913, Gerald O'Neil, aged twenty years. May his soul rest in peace!

BEST.—At St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton, on Feb. 7, 1913, Alban Charles Best, native of Bath, England. May his soul rest in peace!

PEARSON.—At Warnock, Sask., on Jan. 27, 1913, Mary Kane, beloved wife of Wm. Pearson, aged forty years. May her soul rest in peace.

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MUTUAL LIFE

Notes on Annual Statement of the Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada for the year ending in January, 1913. For many years the progress of the Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada, while not spectacular has been rapid. To glance at the Annual Reports for the last twenty years is to observe year after year an almost continuous prosperity, happily unrelieved by a single calamity. The business of the Company in force at 31st Dec. 1912 was \$77,911,553.84. The yearly increases have been so regular that one can almost foretell without being a prophet that within a very few years the hundred million mark will have been passed.

ASSETS It was with some degree of pride that in 1900 the total amount was quoted at over five millions. Today they amount to over twenty millions or to be exact \$20,074,344.80. All these funds are invested in the Dominion of Canada and no speculative securities of any kind are carried. It is claimed by the company and its claim is valid that not since its foundation has \$1 of the policyholders' funds been lost.

RATIO AND EXPENSE Not the least remarkable feature in the year's Report is the low expense ratio. In view of the fact that the splendid new offices of the Company were completed and furnished during the past year, it was naturally to be expected that the expense ratio might rise. To the surprise of the officers of the Company themselves, it was found that on the contrary it had actually fallen by almost one half of 1 percent.

MORTALITY Referring to the mortality experienced last year the ratio of mortality was exceedingly low. This year it is 24 per cent, which, while higher than that of 1911, is still extremely favorable.

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WANTED A TEACHER FOR ADVANCED classes of Separate school, Cache Bay, Ont. French and English. Salary \$300. Apply to Rev. Thos. H. Trainor, Sec. Treas., Cache Bay, Ont. 1797-11

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AN INTERESTING NEWMAN LETTER

Preaching in the new Oratory at Birmingham on the sixty-first anniversary of Cardinal Newman's reception into the Catholic Church, the Archbishop of Westminster said: "We have his own assurance often times repeated as to the peaceful certainty which was the outcome of his submission to the Catholic Church. May I read to you a further testimony which, perhaps, may help some hesitating soul, even though more than fifty years have passed since the words were written? It was addressed to my own father, who then a young man and a very recent convert from Anglicanism to the Catholic Church, had been disquieted like many others, by the persistent rumors that Dr. Newman was dissatisfied as a Catholic, and was contemplating a return to the established church, and had written to ascertain the real truth from him to whose writings he owed, under God, his own reception into the Church." The letter is dated from Maryvale, June 13, 1848. It is embodied in the book of Cardinal Bourne, recently published, from which we quote it: "Dear Sir—I return an immediate, though necessarily hasty answer to your enquiry, which made me more than smile. It is wonderful that people can satisfy themselves with rumors which the slightest examination, or even attention, would disprove; but I have had experience of it long before I was a Catholic. At present the persons who saw through and reproached the evangelical misrepresentations concerning me, when I was in the Church of England; believe of me things quite as extravagant and as unfounded. Their experience of past years has taught them nothing. I can only say, if it is necessary to say it, that from the moment I became a Catholic, I never had, through God's grace, a single doubt or misgiving in my mind that I did wrong in becoming one. I have not had any feeling but one of joy and gratitude that God called me out of an insecure state into one which is sure and safe, out of the way of tongues into a realm of peace and assurance. I shrink to contemplate

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