



**EDITORIAL NOTES.**

Every person seems delighted with the TRUE WITNESS in its new form. To delight and to instruct, to amuse and to elevate are the objects we have in view.

The grand convention of the C.M.B.A., which took place in Montreal last week, was an event of unusual importance in the history of that admirable association. We publish, elsewhere, an account of the proceedings.

We publish, on another page, the full and authentic translation of the pastoral letter, from the Archbishops and Bishops of Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa, read last Sunday in the Catholic Churches of these dioceses.

The great Columbus celebration has commenced. On a most magnificent scale was the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America celebrated all over the continent. The Catholics did honor to the occasion by returning all the glory to God, from whom it came, and then commemorating the greatest event in the life of His servant Columbus.

Last Wednesday morning was an exciting and busy forenoon in our office. Hundreds crowded the sanctum and the passages; hundreds struggled to get inside the door; hundreds stood outside on the street. They had come to purchase tickets for the championship Lacrosse match. The Star gave a very graphic account of the scene in its edition of the 12th inst. We are not afraid to mention the Star, even if we do advertise it in so doing. But that powerful daily, of a many thousand circulation, is either afraid to mention the TRUE WITNESS in its columns, or else its selfishness increases according as it is satiated. It speaks of the TRUE WITNESS as "761 Craig street." A few more such transparent reports and we will actually believe the rumor that the "Star" so dreads every other light, except its own uncertain twinkle, that it makes it a rule to never mention a local contemporary.

The TRUE WITNESS has scored a decided success in the matter of that "Social Evil." We give a complete and exact account of what has been done to ameliorate the moral condition of the city. Until we stirred up the question, and kept it vigorously before the public, no person, no body of citizens seemed willing or able to wrestle with it. We secured, at last, our committee meeting, and with the co-operation of the Citizens' League, we have finally succeeded in obtaining real and earnest action on the part of the authorities. We thank the Witness for having reproduced our articles at the early stages of the movement, and we thank Major Bond for his powerful and effective assistance. Outside of these we have fought almost single-handed. We desire to personally thank Aldermen McBride, Gauthier and James for their marked interest in the movement and for the effective manner in which they lent their assistance. It is

but just to say that our appeal, of two weeks ago, was not made in vain, and that they proved to be all that we expected, serious and earnest men.

This week we give the last part of that beautiful Encyclical Letter of His Holiness the Pope, on the devotion of the Holy Rosary. We would invite our readers to carefully read the sublime and yet simple language of the Sovereign Pontiff. This beautiful devotion in honor of the Mother of God has been the means of unmeasured graces for mankind. It is a sweet, loving, holy exercise: and it is one that is fruitful of untold consolations and joys. Listen to the Poet Priest as he speaks of his Rosary Beads:

"For many and many a time, in grief,  
My weary fingers wandered round  
Thy circled chain, and always found  
In some Hail Mary sweet relief.

"How many a story you might tell  
Of inner life, to all unknown;  
I trusted you and you alone,  
But ah! ye keep my secrets well.

"Ye are the only chain I wear—  
A sign that I am but a slave,  
In life, in death, beyond the grave,  
Of Jesus and His Mother fair."

The Holy Office has recently given an important decision with regard to the funerals of cremated persons. The Church is opposed to cremation. By a decree of the Sacred Congregation, dated 19th March, 1886, she condemns that barbaric mode of disposing of the dead. The question arose whether a priest could perform the services of the Church over a body about to be cremated. Not if the deceased desired cremation; but she might act in the case when the cremation is not at the desire of or request of the deceased. But the clergy must abstain from attending the funeral at the crematorium. (*Ecclesiarum ritus adhiberi posse, tum domi, tum in ecclesia, non autem usque ad cremationis locum.*)

On the last celebration of the Italian "National festival," as it is nick-named, the Duke of Cajetan, the syndic of Rome, issued a most ridiculous and blasphemous address. It appears that this man belongs to the same family that gave Pope Boniface VIII. to the Church. Six centuries have rolled past since the days of the great Pontiff, a fully sufficient lapse of time for degeneracy to set in. It was a grand old Catholic family, but its sion of to-day has been touched with the plague that hovers over the Pontine Marshes—the miasm of infidelity. Might we not say of him as McCarthy sings of the one blot on the escutcheon of the "Clan of MacCaurel?"

"In thy story's bright garden the one spot of  
bleakness—  
Through ages of valor the one hour of weak-  
ness!  
Thou, the heir of a thousand chiefs, sceptred  
and royal—  
Thou, to kneel to dark Satan and swear to be  
loyal!"

The spirit of Denis Florence will forgive the paraphrase!

For the last half century an old domestic of the Vatican—Joseph Minocherel—flourished amongst the Papal servitors. He came from Imola; and in 1834 was in the service of the future Pius IX. He was in the secret of the Pope's flight from Rome to Gaeta, in those trouble-

some days of 1848. He died some eighteen or twenty months ago, and left to his son, Canon Dom Louis, a collection of souvenirs and stories of the good and ever to be lamented Pius IX. The editor of the *Osservatore Romano* has published these in a neat volume. We think it would be a book of great interest to all Catholics, and should be translated into English, French and other modern languages.

Miss Cusack is telling lies in London. It would be difficult to follow her through all the mazes of her falsehoods; she can invent and publish them about as rapidly as Mr. Justin Fulton—the Rev. New-Yorker, whose books on the Catholic Church were recently stopped at Rouse's Point and confiscated, by the American custom officers, as being *immoral literature*. But Miss Cusack, unlike Dr. Fulton, hazards slight concessions: she said the other day that Protestants "have persecuted against their principles and have expressed sorrow for having persecuted." What about John Knox preaching the duty of assassinating Marie Stuart? What about Calvin and the murder of Servetus Gruet, Castallo, Balsec and Gentilis? What of Archbishop Usher who told the government that "to give toleration to Papists is a deadly sin?" We need not speak of the Irish under Cromwell; nor is it necessary to refer to the cruelties practised from Henry VIII. down to William III., from Elizabeth to Anne, Melancthon, Zuinglius, Luther and all their immediate disciples not only persecuted, but they publically advocated persecution of Catholics, and they never repented of their act or their words.

"The Freemasons of Palermo have presented a gold medal to the Grand Master of the sect in Italy, Signor Adriano Lemmi." We have already referred to this notorious gentleman. He is the one who has striven to revive all the most abominable and anti-Christian principles of the Italian societies. He it is that wants to do away with marriage, except as a civil contract, to establish universal divorce, to confiscate all church property, to plunder the Papacy, to persecute the clergy and to pervert the youth of the country. Italy complains that she is poor, that, like her own lazy lazzeroni, basking on the marble steps of her abandoned temples, or her pagan marts, and living upon the alms of the public, she has no gold to support her commerce. Its wings flap heavily as they expand over her ports, from Genoa to Naples. And yet she can find gold to adorn the most wealthy and most grasping tobacco dealer in the land. Lemmi is an infidel, a mason, a socialist, a God-hater; therefore does Italy give him a gold medal and she admires the tyrannical possessor of untold wealth. Were Lemmi a Catholic; yes, were he a clergyman of the Holy Church, and were he to possess the twentieth part of his hundreds of thousands, Italy would brand him as a sample of all that is vilest, lowest, most grasping and most wicked. The poor fools! Leo XIII.

blesses them and they make him a prisoner; Adriano Lemmi humbugs them and they give him a gold medal. The Pope is the Vicar of Christ; Lemmi denies God! Such is the faith of society-governed Italy to-day.

We understand that His Holiness the Pope, is preparing a very important document to be read before the Bishops and leading Catholics of Spain, in the congress that is to soon take place at Saragossa. It is believed that the Pontiff will recommend the faithful to take up a constitutional ground, recognize the established government and work, without distinction of parties, for the good of religion. This is good news in more ways than one. Not to go any further, we can say that this is another telling evidence of Leo's great mind, of his powerful grasp of all questions political, social and religious. No matter in what country his voice is heard, its tones are in harmony with the existing government and the legally constituted authority of that land. Much has been said about the Pope's leanings towards Republicanism in connection with France. The fact is that the Sovereign Pontiff, as the Vicar of Christ and Supreme Head of His Church, is bound to be Catholic in every acceptance of the term. Empires, Kingdoms, Republics are all the same in his eyes; provided the government is legitimately constituted the Pope preaches obedience to their rulers when he addresses the faithful of such country. Well could we apply to Leo XIII. the words of Charles Phillips, when speaking of Pius IX. "He is like the last mountain of the deluge, immutable amidst change, magnificent amidst ruin, the last remnant of earth's beauty and the last resting place of heaven's light."

The London *Universe* recalls a peculiar historical incident that may be of interest to some of our readers, for amongst the subscribers of THE TRUE WITNESS we number members of the Papal Zouave corps. It is about a letter said to have been sent by Marshal Pelissier, Duke of Malakoff, to Cialdini after he had conquered DeLamoriciere by the force of numbers. The African soldier was indignant at the Italian's statement that he had made a French general turn and fly. In reality, when De Lamoriciere left the field of Castellidardo it was to march to victory at Ancona. There he held out for ten days and through sheer inferiority of numbers, was forced to surrender; but it was to Admiral Persano and not Cialdini that he handed his sword. In the letter in question Pelissier says: "Knowing you as I do know you, I know you to be incapable to make a French general turn tail, but your lie is the more grave and grotesque that it is directed at one who is bravery personified." He closes by stating that if ever he met Cialdini, as he had once met him in the Crimea, he would settle the dispute with the toe of his boot. DeLamoriciere's fame requires no vindication, especially from an attack made by a soldier of Victor-Emmanuel.