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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 "\PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal."

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

SITUATION IN IRELAND .- Whether it may be looked upon as a favorable comment or not, or whether or not it is intended to be friendly, certainly there is a great deal of spatch sent from London, by its cor-At all events it indicates the gather-ing strength and increasing influence of the Irish Nationalist Party. We need not comment to any extent upon the purport of that correspo ence, for it speaks for itself. The correspondent says:-

Whether or not the Trish Nation alists and the Ministry really are in league, as many allege, it certainly is becoming increasingly common to find the Nationalists in the Minis-ters' division lobby. As it is, the Ministers' majority has fallen once or twice lately to below forty, has shrunken, that is, to one-third of its normal size, and would have come near to the vanishing point but for the Nationalist help, to counterbalance the young Tory rebels and the other Tories, who lacking the courage to go into oper revolt, abstain from division."

Here is where we find the indications of a Home Rule outcome to all these strange changes. The despatch

"The Nationalists do not keep Ministers in place for nothing. Pay day approaches, and if current re port be credited, it will see not aone an Irish Land Bill buying out the Irish landlords upon credit and with the cash of the British taxpayer, but also a bill creating such a oman Catholic university for Ireland as Mr. Balfour long has favored personally. It is even said that Secretary Wyndham has convinced himself, as he is convincing the Cab- life in their midst. inet, that it may safely go further to inaugurate a new Anglo-Irish era | NOW MEMBER FOR GALWAY of good will by such a measure of self-government as would be called Home Rule if it were proposed by the Liberals. In other words, some such provincial councils proposal as formed Mr. Chamberlain's aternative to the Gladstonian Home Rule.

In pointing out that Home Rule may eventually come from the Tory party, we have a still stronger proof that the treatment so far accorded to Ireland has been one based upon e supposed political requirements of each succeeding party that held power in England. If so it was a far better calculated and far more than even the worst enemy thereof could have supposed. The communication goes on:-

"This coquetting of the Nationaltersa, concludes with a cial Liberal detachment from the cial Liberal detachment from the Nationalists. Lord Spencer, the Liberal leader in the House of Lords, this week strongly condemned the Nationalists for their support of reaction in English education, and flatily declared that Irish self-government was very distant and would be impolitic to bring forward now. What is more surprising is that few Radicals even protest. Home Rule. What is more surprising is that few Radicals even protest. Home Rule, Radicals even protest. Home Rule, when it does come, probaly will come on the initiative of that party which controls the House of Lords, namely, the Tories. It would be a happy dreumstance if the outcome, as was the present English franchise, should be by an agreement of both the great parties. That is a possibility of near politics."

ST. ANN'S WARD.—The to divide St. And's Ward, flew of increasing its reprint the City Council, is on

OUR NEXT ISSUE will contain full reports of the celebration of the National festival. Our subscribers can obtain extra copies by ordering them at this office or at the various

HON, SENATOR COFFEY.-From press despatches we learn that Mr. Thomas Coffey, the esteemed and enterprising proprietor of "The Catholic Record," of London, Ont., has been appointed to the vacancy in the Senate, caused by the death of the late Hon. John Donahoe.

Although we have not had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of our confrere, we have long known him by reputation to be a Catholic and an Irishman who has been always ready to promote the twofold cause of our religion and nationality. The new senator is an example to our young men of what can be achieved by patience, industry and honesty of purpose. The "True Witness" wishes Hon.

Thomas Coffey long life and success in his new sphere.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE. -- The first anniversary service in memory of the late lamented pastor - Re John Quinlivan-of St. Patrick's parish, was held in St. Patrick's Church on Thursday. Rev. M. Callaghan, P.P., officiated, assisted by Rev. Fathers McGrath and Ouellette. as deacon and sub-deacon. In the sanctuary and other portions of the sacred edifice there was a wealth of mourning draperies. The parishioners were present in large numbers to bear testimony of the fact that there lingers in their hearts tender memories of the gentle and kindly priest who spent the greater portion of his



MR. CHARLES R. DEVLIN, N. P.

cable announces the election of Mr. Charles R. Devlin for Galway reland. Mr. Devlin who is widely cnown in this city, is yet quite a young man. He was born at Ayl ner, P.Q., on October 29, 1858, He mer, P.Q., on October 29, 1858. He received his education at the Montreal College and at Laval University Consbec. He is a son of Mr. Charles Devlin, sr., a highly respected and most successful merchant of Aylmer. and brother of Rev. O. B. Devlin, S.J., and Mr. E. B. Devlin, devocate. Mr. Devlin, was elected in 891 for the County of Ottawa, and oppresented that constituency until e was appointed Dominion immiration Agent at Dublin, Ire.

The "True Witness" congratulates as new member for Galway and redicts for him a bright and useful redicts for him a bright and useful

Mission St. Patrick's.

The mission under the direction of the Passionist Fathers, now in progress at St. Patrick's Church, is one most successful held in that parish for many years. During the first week which was set apart for the married women it is estimated that the average attendance at the exercises was 2,200; and it is now stated on the most reliable authority that the attendance this week during the exercises for the unmarried women has reached the magnificent figures of 3,500.

On Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock the closing of the mission for married women took place. Judging from the remarks which a represent-ative of the "True Witness" heard. from the lips of one those who had attended the mission, the scene must have been not only impressive, but soul-inspiring.

The sermon was preached by Rev Urban Foley. It was worthy of the occasion and make an impression upon the large congregation which will not soon be forgotten. Father Foley

"You have made the mission, and I hope, made it well. * * * * *

Oh! Catholics, ever be true to yourselves, your Church and your God You will be so, if you are careful to say your morning and evening prayers. Never leave your room in the morning before kneeling down and saying at least three Hail Mary's. Do the same thing before retiring to rest at night. Do this much at least, it will not take you more than a few minutes! I vouch for it, you will feel the protecting armor of God thiown around you.

What are we to think of those women,, who not only miss Mass themselves, but who, by their bad exam ple cause others to do likewise? No wonder so many lives are blighted No wonder so much infidelity stalks abroad! No wonder a ray of heaven's sunshine never lights up so many desolated homes!

How can you have the blessing of God, upon yourselves, your homes and, your families, when you begin week by outraging Heaven? When you scorn God's greatest gift to mankind; when you deliberately shut Heaven's gates of mercy.

Mass-missing is one of the worst sins you can commit

00000000000000000000 The black clouds of infidelity that are gathering upon the horizon of the accursed practise of Mass-missing. The greatest danger to the Church in America, is this sinful practice. When you miss Mass you break the last chain that binds you to God. You destroy the last hope of your salvation, Gaze upon Calvary's Cross! See Ohrist offering himself in a bloody manner. That was the first public Holy Mass. The Jews who jeered and jibed, and scorned the dying Saviour, left that acorned the dying Savious, let that nill of sacrifice; they went down to their homes; they missed that hely Mass, and they were lost eternally. Whereas the Jews who remained upon that hill of sacrifice heard that holy Mass and were converted and saved, I care not how wicked a woman is. Let her be more unjust and tremberous than Judas; more impure than Magdalen; yet if she comes to this new hill of sacrifice, if she heare holy Mass, sooner or later the blood of Christ will touch her heart, she will repent and confess her sins. Yes! the holy sucrifice of the Mass is the greatest gift of God to mankind. It is the greatest treasure in the Catholic Church. that hill of sacrifice heard that

Wherever you go you shall have see two contending armies. The leaders are Christ and Satan. The army of Christ is small and unsignificant, while that of Satan is large and powerful. Between the two armies you can see thousands of soldierstragglers, who are wavering their allegiance. Some approach nearer the banner of the Cross. They Some approach are going to join the ranks of Christ. You belong to this army of Christ. You are supposed to fight under the banner of the Cross. Wili you lose courage? Will you waver in your allegiance? Will you again join the ranks of the erring? * * * Now, to prove faithful we need something to spur us on. Some inducement must be held out to poor human nature. What is it that causes young men to bid farewell to home and country; to cross the seas; to endure trials and hardships; to nerve them in withstanding trials and hardships; to stand at the cannon's mouth and sacrifice their young l for their country's weal? It is the hope of victory, the hope of reward. What caused millions of humanity's noblest sons and daughters to rally around the banner of the Cross in the trying days of persecution? What caused timid, innocent girls like St. Lucy, St. Agnes and Cecilia to scorn the threats of tyrants. It was the hope of victory,

How long, Oh! God! how long! will it be till thou wilt encircle our brows with the crown of immortal-Oh! the echo comes back upon the winds from the great White Throne: "A few more weeks. A few more months. Perhaps a few more years till that glorious crown shall

During the past days you have re flected upon very important truths You have realized that you have souls to be saved; that your grand life-work is to secure your salvation; that there is a hell to be at God to be possessed. You have examined your con-

sciences; you have confessed sins; you have been united to Christ in the sacrament of his love; have made high resolves and deter mined resolutions! You have enlisted under the banner of the Cross, and have sworn eternal allegiance Christ your leader! Oh! then, be women of honor! Respect your womanhood! Be true to yourselves; to your colors; and to your leader -Christ. Take unto you the armor of God; and do so by daily and fervent prayer; by hearing Holy Mass; by frequently receiving the ments, and by fidelity in keeping your good resolutions.

Remember what you are! Frequently gaze upon your banner. If the very right of the tattered and bloodstained that led our heroes on to victory, causes the patriot's heart to throb with pride and Jermeates his whole soul with dauntless resolution to die for his country's flag. Oh! Christian women, what eifect should not the banner of

Cross have upon your Catholic hearts? to stained banner of the cross. It has been crimsoned with the blood of millions upon millions, heroes and heroines who died embracing it; your own forefathers bled and died for it. The blood of a God — man sanctified it. That banner has float-ed over the Republic of the Catholic Church for nigh 2,000 years; millions upon millions have borne aloft, and by it have conquered the world, the fleeh and the devil; yes, they have scaled the battlements of heaven, and they stand to-night victorious, crowned with the jewelled diadem of everlasting glory!

And if you would follow up their victory! If you would be heroes in the strife! If you wish to wear that crown for all eternity, you, too, must bear the cross; you m true to the Cross, you must be true to the Cross, you must hold to the Cross, for by the Cross you shall be judged when you and I—when the whole human family shall be gathered togeher for the last judg-

Keep the imagination same— that is one of the truest conditions of communion with Heaven.

At a regular meeting of St. Ann's Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society, held on Sunday, March 1st, 1903, a resolution expressing sympathy with Rev Father Flynn, C,SS, R., Director, on the death of his esteemed and venerable father,

The St. Ann's Young Men's Society at their regular meeting, held recently, also adopted resolutions of sympathy which were ordered to be transmitted to Rev. Father Flynn

Lenten Preacher At Notre Dame.

AT NOTRE DAME .- On Sunday last, Rev. Father Lemerre, O.P., who is preaching the Lenten Station at the Church of Notre Dame, delivered a grand, touching and powerful sermon upon the necessity of spiritual life. Much comment has been made upon the eminent Dominican, and he has been pronounced to be a master of sacred eloquence. The word of God is the Truth; and whether it be delivered with simplicity, or with the most fervid eloquence, it is still the word of God, and the results of it in the souls of the faithful is the best evidence of the preacher's success. But, taken apart from the work that he, as a priest, is called upon to perform, and regarding it from a purely human standpoint, it must be admitted that God has gifted Father Lemerre with all the accessories needed to constitute a great orator. He has the voice the gesture, the appearance, and the spirit; in addition he has the great advantage of the Dominican garb, which lends elegance to movement and, like the toga of Cicero, aids in the attractiveness that all orators must seek to produce.

But richer than the voice, more

emphatic than the gesture, more inspiring than the attitude, more a tractive than the garb, is the solid and dogmatic argument that underlies and constitutes the basis of the sermon. When he tells the Christian that Christ, in His humanity, pre-sents a model of relative perfection that man may reach by a close imitation of the life and a faithful adherence to the teachings of Our Lord, he imparts a hope and gives us an impetus to virtue. We know that ab solute perfection belongs to God alone, and that man cannot reach it; but man can aspire to that human perfection which Christ played in His humanity-apart from all question of His Divinity. When he shows us the balance of power or of justice in the Hand of God, encourages the Christian to live faithfully in accordance with God's law. The rich man who prospers and is an infidel, and the poor man hearts?

Gaze upon the tattered, blood-who suffers privations, and yet is a faithful Christian, are equally considered by Divine justice, and on the last day the balance will be found correct and in accordance with Divine Wisdom. The man of success and means may have some natural virtues, he may do good in some way or other, without doing it for the higher purpose of an eternal reward; he gets his reward of a day for a day's goodness. He is reward ed in this world for whatever good he did. The other must await an eternal reward, for his merits are supernatural and beyond they mand a recompense far in excess of anything merely temporary. Thus he encourages hope and faith in the Christian. He shows how all of life's obstacles are but as the clouds life's obstacles are but as the clouds of morning obscuring the rising sun. But behind the clouds, and away beyond there reach is God. It is thus that the great preacher sows the seeds of the truth, scatters the word of God, implants Faith. Hope and Charity in the heart and soul. And, seen in this light, he is truly a great preacher, but he is a still greater. preacher; but he is a still greater

Lenten Mission in St. Gabriel Parish.

Rev. William O'Meara, pastor of St. Gabriel's ever solicitous about the spiritual welfare of his parishioners has arranged to have a two weeks' mission in his parish, which will begin on Sunday, March 22.



REV. G. O'BRYAN, S.J.

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Rev. Gregory O'Bryan and Rev. O. B. Devlin, two well known and highesteemed members of the Society of Jesus, will be the preachers. They possess in an eminent degree all the zeal and eloquence, so characteristic of our race,

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REV. O. B. DEVLIN, S.J.

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The first week will be for women, married and unmarried, and the second week for men, married and un-

Lenten Mission at St. Anns's

In St. Ann's Church, last Sunday evening, the closing exercises of the married men's retreat took place, and certainly it was for the Fathers of the parish a gratifying end to a most successful mission

The parishioners turned out almost to a man, every night and morning, and it was not uncommon to see numbers of those who work all night, go to Mass and wait for the instruction before going to their

Sights such as these give evidence of picty that well may edily the parish, and give silent proof of a great and successful retreat.

The sermon—an eloquent, strong appeal to strong Catholic men, to make a practical Faith the glory and happiness of their families and their homes,—was given by Rev. Father McPhail, the regular preacher, during the week.