

The True Witness and Catholic Chronicle.

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All communications should be addressed to the Managing Director, "True Witness" P. & P. Co., Limited, P. O. Box 1138.

TERMS, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

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.

PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

SATURDAY JUNE 16, 1900.

Notes of the Week.

EMIGRATION. — A glance at the emigration statistics, compiled at Queenstown, for the week ending Sunday last, reveals an enormous increase over the number that left during the corresponding week last year.

WESTMOUNT CATHOLICS. — The meeting of the Roman Catholic residents of Westmount to discuss the question of erecting a church and creating a new parish in that locality, took place in St. Paul's Academy, corner of Sherbrooke street and Greene Avenue, Sunday last, and was largely attended.

The general opinion of those present seemed to be in favor of the movement, and it was decided to hold another meeting at an early date to discuss the question of the tax to be imposed.

"Let it Rest," is the heading of an article in one of our dailies, in which the writer contends that it would be a misfortune if the Manitoba School Question were again allowed to constitute a political issue.

In the course of an article upon "Compulsory Civic Virtue," the "Evening Post" says: "Some day, perhaps, the people of this city will come to recognize this principle as applying to the business of Government, and then the edifying spectacle of a sensational press hounding on officials of dubious virtue to the prosecution of others of the same stripe will come to an end."

need not grumble because the spoons are missing, or think that the trouble is with the penal code. It is not uncommon to hear a man of respectable position say that he would vote for the Devil if he were the regular party candidate.

There is a significant lesson taught in these few remarks. For years we have been preaching the very same theory, but our advocacy of more independence in politics seems to have been too often, and for our people unfortunately, disregarded.

The rebellion that seems about to dismember the great Chinese Empire, has its humorous as well as its serious side. How these Chinese malcontents came by the name of "Boxers" is more than we can tell.

A rather odd name for a Chinese faction is that of the "Boxers." How they came by such an appellation is a matter of conjecture. If it was intended as a compliment to the British "ring," our prizemen of the four-ounce gloves may feel flattered; but the European Christians (Protestant and Catholic) whose lives are in danger would much rather that the "Boxers" reserved their aggressive attentions for their pigtail compatriots.

A couple of weeks ago we made a lengthy reference to Hall Caine's coming novel, the ground work of which he has been securing in Rome. The "Catholic Times," of Liverpool, dealing with this subject, remarks that: "Of his forthcoming novel Mr. Hall Caine will lay the scene in Italy, probably in Rome. According to the well-known correspondent Dr. Croke, there is a common rumor in the literary circles of the Eternal City to the effect that the author is conceiving the Vatican, with a successor of Leo XIII., like-minded and equally energetic, as a rallying point for the political and social development of the earlier years of the twentieth century, and that the unfolding of this idea will form a notable feature of the work."

Tuscan tongue, that we may expect attractions even greater than usual. Certain it is that he will deal reverentially with religious affairs, and that there need be no fear of the offensiveness from that point of view which disfigures M. Zola's novel on Rome."

In connection with the fund raised in New York for the erection of the "Irish Palace"—mention of which is made elsewhere—a prominent judge of that city made use of the following remark:—

"For the first time in the history of the Irish race in America a fund has been set aside and kept for the use for which it was intended. It was a herculean task to accomplish this."

It is difficult to say whether this is intended as complimentary to the Irish people of New York, or the contrary. Certainly we can scarcely believe that the first part of these assertions is exact. In fact, since the learned judge refers to all America, we are confident that the majority of cases would be unfavorable to his assertion.

Lord Russell considers that language is not essential to nationality, and he points to America as a case in which a nation has grown up without having any distinct or special national language. This is most illogical, as far as we can understand the subject.

"When this English Colony issued the Declaration of Independence it did not instantly become a nation. It was only the germ of a nation, that which was intended to develop into a distinct nation in time to come."

No one talks of "the American Race." If they did, they might be understood to mean the Indian aborigines. The case of Ireland and the other European races is entirely different. They have a language and a history stretching back for hundreds of years. They are distinct race-types who have developed on independent lines; and it will readily be admitted that it is better that each race should supply the world with what is native and original than that it should become an exact imitation of some other people, whose national characteristics are unsuited to it.

A pious practice exists amongst our French-Canadian people of publishing cards of thanks to Our Blessed Lady, or to saints, through whose intercession favors have been obtained. Anyone taking up a copy of one of our French dailies will find many such cards of thanks. They are published at a mere nominal cost, and to us the practice of such publication seems very edifying.

"There are many designs and formalities connected with our State affairs which we know little or nothing about. One of these is the Great Seal, about which Mr. Gibson Bowles asked on Monday why a new seal was necessary, and how many of them have been made in the present reign. Mr. Hanbury's reply was that a seal becomes worn out after eighteen or twenty years' use. The seals cost from \$400 to over \$500 each. During the Queen's reign three seals have been made, and now the fourth is required. The seal is kept in a valuable purse, which is renewed every year. The Lord Chancellor gets the old seal as a perquisite, or reminiscence of his office."

It is the same here in regard to the chair of the speaker of the House of Commons. It is very fittingly recognized that when a man has been elected by his peers to the honorable position of "first commoner in the land," the least the country could do is to furnish him with a new chair.

The result of the recent election to the Belgian Chamber of Representatives has been announced as follows: Catholics, 85; Christian Democrats, 1; Liberals and Radicals, 33; Socialists, 33; Brussels has returned five Socialists, two Progressists, eight Catholics, and three Liberals to the Chamber, and two Liberals, two Progressists, and five Catholics to the Senate.

MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART.

June is the month consecrated, in a special manner by the Church, to the Sacred Heart of Our Lord. While during this month extra efforts are made to fan into life the embers of devotion that exist in every human heart, still we may say that the whole year is rapidly becoming one unbroken period of adoration of the Sacred Heart. Of late, despite the degeneracy of man and the evil influences that seem to be on the constant increase, the world, at large, is being consecrated to the Sacred Heart. The magnificent pilgrimages from all the countries of Europe, from America, and from our own Canada, that are being made to the shrine at Paray-le-Monial; the countless sodalities that spring daily into existence, in every land and in every sphere; the emblems of devotion to be found on almost every notch-chain or coat-lapel in the country; the images of the Sacred Heart above almost every doorway in the land; all these things indicate in a most emphatic manner that the world, with its endless train of iniquities, is sure to be redeemed by the virtues of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

This devotion has received its grand impetus from the Holy Father, when he wrote his memorable letter on the necessity of this method of repairing the outrage incurred by that Heart of Infinite Love. The actual devotion dates back to that day, centuries since, when Our Lord, in person, appeared to the Venerable Marguerite-Marie, and gave her the mission of inaugurating and spreading abroad this special mode of honoring the Redeemer's Heart. It was in the little town of Paray-le-Monial that this wonderful vision took place, and as rays diverging from the sun, and again converging towards it, we have beams of grace flashing upon humanity from the burning centre of superhuman love, at the town of Paray.

During all this month special devotions akin to those held during the same month previous in honor of the Blessed Virgin, that glorious temple of the Sacred Heart that rears its stately form above the Heights of Montmartre, is a silent, but perpetual sermon telling the world that the Heart of Jesus still bleeds, but with marvellous results, for the salvation of the human race. Almost every diocese throughout God's Catholic universe has its chapel dedicated to the Sacred Heart; not a parish but has its union, or association, connected with the grand "Apostolate of Prayer," and the devotees are numbered now by the hundreds of thousands. One of the principal prayers that ascends to the Fountain of Grace is that which pleads for the conversion of the world. As infallibly as the coming of the end of time shall come the union of all sections in the one fold and under the one leader. When that glorious day dawns upon the earth the Sacred Heart shall have ceased to bleed—its mission of salvation being completed—and will commence to expand around each soul until all, all are swallowed up in the measureless abyss of Infinite Love.

"A CENTURY OF CATHOLICISM"

On Monday evening last, the Rev. Doctor Shahan, of the Catholic University of Washington, lectured before a large and intellectual audience in Windsor Hall, on "A Century of Catholicism." The Very Rev. Abbe Colin, Superior of the S.S., presided, and on the platform were many distinguished members of the clergy and laity. The doctor's reputation, for learning and eloquence, had preceded him, and the anticipations of the audience, as to the treat in store for them, were more than fulfilled. Taking as his starting point, the French Revolution, the lecturer spoke of the causes that had produced that unparalleled upheaval. The description of the condition of society in France, and in Europe generally, at the breaking out of the great revolution, was vivid and striking, and the immediate effect of the movement, upon the Catholic Church and religion generally, was painted in language not likely to be soon forgotten. How everything was swept away, until at last the goddess of reason was enthroned upon the high altar; how the reaction set in and the way was paved for the arrival of the dictator, was set forth with great power. The establishment of the Concordat, and the effect of that understanding upon religion in France from that day to the present time, was rapidly but effectively placed before the audience, and a comprehensive summary of the leading events arising out of the relations of Church and State faithfully portrayed. The role of bishops and cardinals was placed before the audience, and the difficulties they have had to contend against made manifest. The Concordat, the Rev. Doctor said, despite the unfair construction put upon it by "hostile" governments, had been instrumental for great good.

TRAFFICKERS IN THINGS SACRED

Not long since "La Semaine Religieuse," of Montreal, official organ of the Archdiocese, found it necessary to warn the Catholic population against certain leaflets that were being scattered on all sides, containing certain prayers to St. Joseph and informing the public that by copying these prayers five times, and repeating them every day, the person who could not possibly fail to obtain

role of the religious orders and the persecutions they have had to endure occupied the attention of the lecturer for a brief period, and he paid a deserved tribute to the zeal of the missionaries. France is still the cradle of heroism, her children being found in England, doing the work of evangelization. From France the scene was changed to Spain, and thence to Portugal, after which a graphic picture was presented of the Church and her trials and tribulations in Italy and Germany. Lastly, the lecturer dealt with the Catholic movement in England and Scotland. His statistics were most interesting. The grand eulogy pronounced upon O'Connell, the Irish liberator, for his wonderful achievement in the great cause of emancipation, called forth the warmest applause. The lecture lasted for an hour and a half, and was replete with erudition. We have given but the merest outline of the ground covered by the learned Doctor. At the close Hon. Mr. Justice Curran, in appropriate terms, tendered a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which having been seconded by Hon. Mr. Justice Doherty, with his usual ability, was carried amidst applause.

CREATING PREJUDICES.

It seems to us that no person is more fertile in resources for creating prejudices than the one who wishes to belittle, or injure the Irish people—either in reputation or in national interests. It is so easy to make the world believe anything bad about the Irish that there is no great merit in belying, or ridiculing, or misrepresenting them. Almost any fool can do so; for, no matter how stupid or transparent his methods he can always find men, as prejudiced as himself, who affect to believe him. It was too much for the feelings of some anti-Irish correspondents that the boom of some weeks ago was given the Irish people. The idea of the Queen's visit was the source of deep anxiety for them; the honors paid to Irish bravery was gall and wormwood; but they felt that in the long run the anti-Irish prejudices of that country's real enemies could be worked into an effective counteracting power. Lord Salisbury's unstatesmanlike utterances threw cold water on the enthusiasm created by the Queen, while every petty scribbler for the press has since been exerting himself to propagate the old and miserable prejudices by means of insinuations, innuendos, the gathering into one heap of all the items of news that might tend to leave a bad impression, and the launching of these in the form of correspondence to American papers.

All this we readily understand; but what most astonishes us is the fact that our Irishmen—claiming to be patriotic—in vast numbers encourage these writers, by giving such organs a preference over their own newspapers. We will give you a single sample of the stuff that a certain class of our fellow-countrymen prefer to encourage rather than lend the same help to a truly Irish and patriotic organ. We clip this introduction to a weekly letter from Dublin, as it appeared in a contemporary:—

"Dublin, May 23.—Amongst other evils it seems that the war is responsible for an increase of drunkenness, at least if we can judge by the experience of the magistrates of the Boyle (Co. Roscommon) Petty Sessions. The presiding magistrate (Mr. Jones, R.M.) expressed bewilderment at the enormous increase in the number of cases of petty drunkenness and assault, saying he had never known such an epidemic of minor offences for the past twenty years. Enquiring into the cause, he was informed by the police that the wives and other relatives of the soldiers now serving in South Africa were in the habit of indulging in a regular carnival on receipt of their allowances. Much amusement was created in court by the way in which some of the female defendants tried to awaken the sympathy of the Bench by reference to a husband, brother or father at the front. In Dublin it is just the same, and when the wives get the month's pay there is a general orgie while the money lasts."

In the first place, this is a lie. There may be found some isolated case or other upon which this fabrication is constructed; but the aim is too obvious and only the already prejudiced will accept such news as genuine. We neither envy the writer nor the organ their dispositions and fine natures.

PILGRIMAGE TO ST. ANNE DE BEAUPRE.

Rev. Father Strubbe, P. P. St. Ann's, has announced that the date of the annual pilgrimage to St. Anne de Beaupre for the ladies and children of the various Irish parishes has been fixed for the 30th of June. This annual visit to the famous shrine, the scene of so many wonderful cures, has been for many years under the special direction of the Redemptorist Fathers of St. Ann's parish. This year Father Strubbe has made special arrangements with the Richelieu Company for the comfort of the pilgrims. On the way the boat will stop at Cap de la Madeleine, where a brief visit will be made to the historic church of that village, and around which there clings so many memories of favors granted. The rates of passage for the round trip are within the reach of all, as may be seen by a reference to our advertising columns.

what was required. What the object the person, or persons, who took the trouble to prepare and publish, free of charge, so much spurious literature, could be, we have no knowledge; but, certainly, the undertaking has proved to be a failure. In a recent issue of our London, Ont., contemporary, the "Catholic Record," we find an editorial that should obtain wider circulation throughout Canada than even the most extensive weekly edition of any Catholic paper could impart to it. After making reference to the manner in which the different councils of Baltimore have specially denounced and forbidden a shameful traffic in sacred things, such as is carried on by some unscrupulous characters, the article says:—

"We understand that one or more of the parties engaged in this scandalous occupation claim to be brothers or members of some religious order in the United States. We do not believe this, as the members of a religious order would scarcely be allowed by their superiors to engage in such disreputable means to carry on a trade, but if any religious order is really encouraging its members to do this, good Catholics should unhesitatingly bring them to a sense of propriety by showing these itinerant Brothers or pseudo Brothers the door when they make known their occupation."

"We hope our readers will not allow themselves to be duped by such 'pious' or rather impious frauds. It may be safely supposed that persons who will make use of such pretences are not authorized by any Bishop or priest to promulgate the daily Mass, and that their blessed objects and indulged prayers are fraudulent. We have not copies of the prayers used by the itinerants in the present instance, but there are a number of such prayers which profess to be of wonderful efficacy, but which have been condemned by the authorities of the Church as frauds and forgeries, and it may be presumed that those used by the traffickers in things sacred are of the same kind."

Needless to say that we are in perfect harmony with our Catholic contemporary on this subject. We know that in and around Montreal, from time to time, individuals of the class above mentioned have succeeded wonderfully in duping benevolent and pious citizens, and have secured money for worthless prayers and for masses that were never said and never to be said.

While on this subject we may as well state plainly what we think about many of those who are so duped. We have no pity for them, as a rule; they deserve the losses they sustain. There are certainly exceptions in this as in every case; but the vast majority of those Catholics, who are so ready to subscribe to everything that has the appearance of an honest, religious object, are the very persons who neglect their positive duties at home. They grumble about the priest's fee, about the prices of pews, about the donations asked for local work of charity, and for the educational purposes inside the limits of their parish. Yet they do not hesitate to hand out their good, solid money to the first itinerant religious beggar that comes the way, without ever making the slightest attempt to discover his authority, or right to make such collections. "Charity begins at home," and, if any of our readers, is desirous of "learn the luxury of doing good," we would advise him to firstly look around him and learn if there be not some certain and worthy object of benevolence at his very door.

THANKS TO OUR BLESSED LADY.

Card of thanks to Our Blessed Lady for favor obtained through her powerful intercession after novena during the month of May.—J. J. Montreal, 13th June, 1900.

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