



EDITORIAL NOTES.

LAST week we referred to one of our agents, Mr. James Martin, who has undertaken to push the interests of the TRUE WITNESS in certain sections of the city. We would also desire to solicit the kind patronage of our friends and well wishers for Mr. F. McCabe, an energetic, able and conscientious worker, who is doing yeoman service in the cause of our Catholic organ. Mr. McCabe has already visited a great number of our fellow-citizens and has met with great encouragement. He purposes calling upon many others, in different parts of Montreal, and we trust that he will meet with a success equal to that which has already attended upon his efforts. We do not intend to remain idle, and we are bound to so augment the circulation of the TRUE WITNESS that we may soon have a guarantee in starting a daily paper on its basis. We have also Mr. P. M. Rielly, who is acting agent for us and for whom we ask the kind patronage of our English-speaking Catholic citizens. If our people are not provided with a thorough Catholic organ, independent of all political or other influence, it will not be the fault of the management, for no stone is being left unturned to attain complete success.

WE NOTICE that our friend Walter Lecky attended one of the receptions at the d'Youville Convent in Plattsburgh, during the third week of the present session of the Catholic Summer School. He was invited to read one of his "Adirondack sketches," which he did to the great delight and appreciation of all present. It is Walter's intention to prepare and publish a series of articles on the principal promoters and lecturers of the Catholic Summer School. Judging from his past successful efforts in that line, the Catholic reading public may look forward to a series of real treats when those sketches are given to the press. Walter Lecky is a master in the art of analysis, criticism and description, and, better than all, underlying his quaint, striking and elegant pages, may be found that true spirit of the Catholic writer, which alone serves to mark out the few prominent authors of this generation and to distinguish them from the great mass of pen-wielders who follow in the steps of the thoughtless and soulless distributors of light and dangerous literature.

THERE is to be a gala time at the Iroquois House, St. Hilaire, on Saturday evening next, at 8.30. The famous and popular Signor Rubini purposes giving a musical entertainment, in which several prominent vocalists—pupils of that able master—will take part. It is unusual for us to refer editorially to any such entertainments, as it savors somewhat of advertising and of being paid for so doing; but there are exceptions to every rule, and Signor Rubini is most decidedly one of the exceptions. In a young country like this, where so much energy is being

expended in pioneer work and commercial progress, we need to encourage every worthy exponent of the arts and sciences. Men like Signor Rubini diffuse a spirit around them that tends to elevate and to embellish—consequently to such do the people of our Dominion owe a debt of gratitude. We trust that the Signor's concert will be a grand success.

GREAT is the freedom that Italy accords to Catholicity! Of the Bishops appointed by Leo XIII., two who were named to their sees in 1891, twenty one, who were consecrated in 1893, and nine who have been chosen in 1894, are prevented by King Humbert's government from drawing their official salaries, or discharging their religious duties. The Free-Mason power that rules the ruler has proclaimed in favor of "a free Church in a free State," and this is a sample of the freedom that the State accords to the Church. If ever there existed a farce it is this attempt of the Italian government to play at "Liberty."

NUMEROUS are the pilgrimages to the shrine of Ste. Anne de Beaupre which have taken place this summer. Now and again we hear of certain miraculous cures that take place through the intercession of the good saint; but all who go there do not receive favorable answers to their requests. Of course the disposition in which the pilgrim presents himself at the shrine must be taken into consideration. Countless are the spiritual blessings that are obtained, but the temporal favors are only in accordance with the object of the one seeking them. Unless it be for the greater glory of God, a person cannot expect that invariably St. Ann will manifest her power. The following certificate, however, will tell the story of one of the Hotel Dieu Sisters, who has recently been cured at the shrine:

HOTEL DIEU, Montreal, July 31.
"I hereby certify that I have had under my care for a long time Sister Marie Chapleau, of Hotel Dieu. She was suffering from an apparent incurable disease of the tibia which rendered walking difficult and painful. Medicine proved of no avail, and for two years she had no rest. Following a pilgrimage to Ste. Anne all these symptoms disappeared and on examination I found that all inflammation and pain had gone. I have no hesitation in saying that this sudden cure was not one according to the laws of nature."
"L. D. MIRAULT, M.D."

Sister Chapleau left her crutch and cane at the shrine.

TWO GREAT PILGRIMAGES have gone from America to Lourdes; one from Brooklyn and the other from Canada. It has been stated that the Brooklyn pilgrimage is the first from this continent to the shrine of Lourdes. However, this is not exact. In 1874 over one hundred persons went to Lourdes and Rome on a pilgrimage from New York, organized by the well-known editor, James A. McMaster, and led by Bishops Duverger and Father Dealy, S.J. Also in 1877, a pilgrimage of Irish Catholics went from Montreal under the direction of the late lamented Father Dowd, former parish priest of St. Patrick's. But, as in the case of Ste. Anne de Beaupre, it is only after some years that the idea

of extensive pilgrimages to the shrine of Lourdes took hold on the trans-Atlantic faithful. The day is not distant, we hope, when yearly pilgrimages from America to Lourdes will be organized.

WE LEARN that the Pope has acceded to the request of the Catholics, the hierarchy and laity, of Hungary, and has sanctioned a form of prayer appealing to the Blessed Virgin and to St. Stephen, the patron Saint of Hungary, to save the country from the enemies of the Church. The prayer will be said daily in the Hungarian Churches. Three hundred days indulgence have also been granted, on the usual conditions. The prayer has been printed and thousands of copies are being spread throughout the country. Decidedly, Hungary is in great need of potent prayers at this period of her political and anti-religious course.

AT Petersfield, England, there is a local Burial Board; and we are under the impression that its policy is a very poor plank in the Protestant platform. About a year ago a Catholic pastor died and the Board refused to allow the erection of a headstone over his grave. The reason given is that the inscription carved upon the slab proved too offensive. It read thus:

"Jesus, Mercy! Mary, help! Pray for the soul of the Rev. Father Larive, Catholic Priest of Petersfield, who died 28th May, 1893, aged 74. R. I. P. It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins. (II. Mach. xii., 46.)"

Is it possible that the Board so fears for the stability of Protestantism that an inscription on a Priest's tomb may shake the whole structure? How mean and poor a thing bigotry is!

THE Rev. Mr. Madill, whom the Herald calls "Canada's champion bigot," has been making threats of what will be done by the P.P.A. if political parties do not correspond with his ideas. We are under the impression that, since the last election in Ontario, neither one party nor the other need care very much what Mr. Madill and his P.P.A.ists purpose doing. The fate of the Dominion does not seem to depend upon their action. It is a pity that they cannot "see the selves as others see them." However, Mr. Madill is not to blame; the man is looking for notoriety, and he is so insignificant in his ideas and efforts that, were it not for the God-send of such an organization, no person would ever have heard of him. He is using it "for all it is worth"—and that is very little. Had he not this opportunity of causing himself to be talked about he might, like one described in Scott,

"Go down to the dull earth from which he sprung,
Unwept, unhonored and unsung."

WE LEARN, with deep regret, that Hon. Mr. Mercier is dangerously ill at his residence, St. Denis Street. It appears that the malady which has seized upon him is of a most serious nature. It is

true that Mr. Mercier has of late dropped out, to a great degree, from the public affairs of this Province, and that his name, which was upon every lip so recently, is seldom mentioned in the political world; but he has occupied a most prominent place in public life, while in private life he has had a large circle of admiring friends who learned to appreciate his many fine qualities. That he should be stricken down by the rod of illness, and above all, that grave fears are entertained regarding his recovery, causes a deep feeling of regret to sweep over the whole community, and, irrespective of politics or of any other temporary divisions, the people of this Province, in general, and of Montreal in particular, lament the sad position in which the ex-Premier is placed and hope sincerely that the darkest forebodings concerning him will not be realized. His wife and family have our deepest sympathy, and to one whose name will long remain upon the page of our Provincial history we extend our sincere expression of regret at his serious illness and of hope in his ultimate recovery.

A GRAND and solemn celebration will shortly be held in Leige, Belgium, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the existence of the Confraternity of the Holy Family. One week will be for the celebration by the ladies and the other for the men. There will be a large concourse of persons present, and among them will be special delegates from Germany, Holland, Great Britain, France and other countries. Among the officiating clergy will be: V. R. F. Van Oterbelsaer, Provincial of Belgians; V. R. F. Spoo, of Germany; Meeuwissen, of Holland; His Lordship Wm. Wulfingh, Missionary Bishop of Suriname, Dutch Guyana.

TWELVE Franciscan Fathers labor for the salvation of souls in Alexandria, Egypt. On every Sunday and holidays they deliver sermons to the faithful in six different languages.

THE Ave Maria is authority for the statement that a nephew of Professor Huxley, the great skeptical writer, has been received into the Church at Buenos Ayres, by Father Constantine, O.P.

AMERICAN Catholics answer the charge that the Church loves darkness and fosters ignorance by supporting two universities, 100 colleges, 700 academies and 3,500 parochial schools.

MME. DE SARTORIUS has been elected at Paris mother-general of the Nuns of the Sacred Heart, the place left vacant by the death of Mme. Lehon. Mme. De Sartorius for years has been one of the assistant mother-generals. She is the fourth to occupy this position and is the last connecting link between the present members and Mme. Barat, the foundress, from whom she was the last to receive the ring and cross of the professed nun.