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THE STALWARTS OF ST. ANN'S

Hold Their Annual Meeting and Tell the Story of a Successful Year.

A Page of Canadian History, Which Records the Work of Enthusiastic Young Irish Catholics in Montreal.

The Installation of Officers for the Coming Year.

A largely attended, interesting and enthusiastic annual meeting of St. Ann's Young Men's Society was held in their hall last week.

The year of 1896, according to the figures submitted by the Treasurer, was one of the most satisfactory since the foundation of the society—satisfactory from the knowledge that, notwithstanding the unusual and extraordinary expenditures which the society encountered during the year, among which were the facing and painting of the ball-alley, the renovation and waistering of the hall, the purchase of material and cost of painting new scenery, there remains a good balance in the treasury.

We take the following extract from the treasurer's report, which reflected very great credit upon Mr. Joseph Johnston, who occupies that office: Receipts, \$2173.32; expenditure, \$1936.24. Cash on hand, \$237.08.

The meeting listened to the report submitted by the committee appointed to ascertain the winner of the beautiful gold watch which had been placed six months ago in the hands of the treasurer as a prize for the qualified members who would at the end of the year have introduced the greatest number of members to the society, "the number of members introduced to exceed ten."

The reading of this report disclosed the fact that Mr. Andrew Thompson, the industrious and energetic collecting treasurer of the society, had won the much coveted prize. The competition was the means of stimulating a greater interest in the society, and of augmenting its ranks to the number of 40. There are at present 180 qualified members in the society.

Mr. J. J. Whitty, the recording secretary, then read his report. It was a very lengthy one and contained important details of the work done during the year.

Mr. Whitty enjoys the reputation of being a zealous and enthusiastic officer, who exercises scrupulous care in the preparation of his reports, as well as in generally promoting the prosperity of the organization.

The report of the president, Mr. Ed. Quinn, was then submitted. It referred to the principal events which had taken place during the term. Among these being, the celebration of the eleventh anniversary of the foundation of the society by receiving Holy Communion in a body, and in the evening by Mr. Chas. Fitzpatrick, M.P., delivering an address on the "Constitution of Our Country," followed by a three-act comedy entitled, "The Rogues of Scapin."

On March 17th, 1896, the dramatic section of the Society produced the "Pride of Killarney," a drama written by Mr. James Martin, a member of the society. This proved both an artistic and financial success.

Easter Monday evening the dramatic section reproduced the "Pride of Killarney" for the benefit of St. Vincent De Paul Society. On Aug. 13 the Society's annual excursion to Lake St. Peter was a decided financial success.

On Nov. 17 the Society produced the three-act drama "Sir Thomas More," before a large and appreciative audience. On May 17 the Society received Holy Communion in a body in honor of the Blessed Virgin, and on Tuesday, Nov. 8, for the repose of the souls of deceased members.

Mr. Quinn, at the close of the reading of his report, delivered an eloquent and stirring address, during the course of which he dwelt upon the importance and necessity of young men associating themselves with the organization over which he had the honor to preside during the past twelve months. He paid a high tribute to the priests of St. Ann's, and particularly referred to Rev. Father Strubbe, whom he eulogized for the splendid zeal he had evinced in the work of their organization and in the welfare of the young men of St. Ann's parish. He was, said the speaker, the friend of the young men.

In closing, Mr. Quinn thanked the members for the kindly manner in which they supported him during the year, and said that it was in a great measure due to the co-operation accorded to him that he now could say that the year just closed was a fruitful one for the society. During 1896 death took from the ranks of St. Ann's Young Men's Society two of its most energetic workers in the persons of E. F. England and Mr. Thom. Keough;

the latter was an actor and talented member of the choral section and his death is keenly felt by its members.

The installation of officers was then proceeded with in the following order:—President, P. T. O'Brien; 1st vice-president, R. Byrne; 2nd vice-president, M. Mullarkey; treasurer, Joseph Johnston; collecting treasurer, Andrew Thompson; ass.-col. treasurer, James Walsh; recording secretary, J. Whitty; asst. recording secretary, T. McArthur; librarian, M. Farrell; marshal, M. Bain; asst. marshal, J. Hughes. Council:—T. Dillon, J. Savage, M. Casey, T. O'Connell, J. Morgan, J. Gettings, J. Shanahan, P. J. Shea.

CHILDREN PERISH.

SIXTEEN BURNED IN A TEXAN ORPHAN ASYLUM FIRE.

DALLAS, Texas, January 16.—Fire completely destroyed the Buckler Orphan Home near here early this morning. Sixteen children were cremated and nine injured, three of them fatally. The dead are:—

Bertie Britton, 10 years old; Martin and Milton Britton, 10 years old; Carlos Jones, 6 years old; Willie Richards, 9 years old; Grover Cleveland Yarborough, 12 years old; Wm. Miller, 7 years old; Virgie Nelson, 9 years old; Eugene Black, 9 years old; Richard Marks, 9 years old; Arthur W. Edward, 10 years old; Oscar Coward, 7 years old; Ray King, 6 years old; Chas. O. Arbanon, 3 years old. Injured:—Dick Richards, 10 years old, fatally; Dannie Gray, 6 years old, fatally; Chas. Friend, 10 years old, fatally; Sadie Britton, 18 years old; Bennie Ware, 8 years old; Samuel Henderson, 11 years old; Early Doodle, 7 years old; James Scott, 8 years old; Frank Chaffin, 7 years old.

All the dead except one were buried last evening in the cemetery of the Home. The farmers of the vicinity turned out and assisted in making coffins, digging graves and burying the victims. There were 147 boys and more than 100 girls in the Home, but all are accounted for. The fire was discovered about midnight by Mrs. Britton, the boys' matron. The attacks were hastily aroused, and sent in all directions to rouse the children. Such were Mrs. Britton's anxiety for the safety of the inmates that she forgot her own children, and despite her frantic efforts to rescue they were burned to death.

The fire is believed to have originated in the room under that occupied by Mrs. Britton, and was caused by hot coals falling from a stove on the floor. The fire spread with incredible rapidity. The children were hastily aroused and hurried out of the building wrapped in their night clothes and bed quilts. All were badly frightened, and when the shrieks of those who were being cremated in the roaring mass of flames reached their ears, they became almost unmanageable, and were with difficulty prevented from rushing into the fire in an effort to rescue. The building was soon destroyed, and at daylight the work of searching the ruins was taken up. All the children were accounted for. The Home is ten miles from Dallas and it would have been impossible to get aid in time had it been requested.

C. O. F.

ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. LAWRENCE COURT.

At the annual meeting of St. Lawrence Court, 263, C. O. F., held in their hall, 662 1/2 Craig street, last week, the installation of officers took place, and resulted as follows:—M. J. Flanagan, chief ranger; P. Howard, vice chief ranger; A. Pilon, financial secretary; Jas. O'Shaughnessy, treasurer; M. Scanlan, W. P. Meagher, and P. Quillen, trustees; Dr. Chas. O'Connor, medical examiner; J. Rice, sr. conductor; M. Burke, jr. conductor; J. Cooney, inside sentinel; P. McCarthy, outside sentinel; J. Scanlan, past chief ranger; M. Larocque, marshal; J. F. Quinn and M. Duggan, sick visiting committee.

John Davis, deputy High Chief Ranger, was the installing officer. There were 19 new members initiated and about 100 members present. Afterwards a pleasant evening was spent in songs and speeches, the meeting closed about midnight.

AFTER AMERICAN CONSUMERS.

TWO UNOFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF CANADA ASCERTAINING THE VIEWS OF AMERICAN LEGISLATORS REGARDING A COMMERCIAL TREATY.

A despatch from Washington says: "When the first Liberal party came to power at the recent elections in Canada it was a part of their declared purpose to secure more intimate trade relations with the United States. To accomplish this result a treaty with Great Britain must first be negotiated, and to learn the sentiment of the national lawmakers of this country respecting such an arrangement is the purpose of Messrs. Charlton and Farrar, two Liberal members of the Canadian Parliament, who reached Washington yesterday. Both gentlemen modestly announced that they come in an unofficial capacity, and simply to talk with public men to learn how far their co-operation may be secured in the negotiation of a

commercial treaty between Canada and the United States. Yesterday Mr. Farrar spoke with Mr. Dingley, of Maine, the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and during the day he talked with several other members of the committee. Mr. Farrar and Mr. Charlton continued their missionary work, but so far as can be learned the results have not been satisfactory.

JOHN REDMOND, M.P.

Delivers His Lecture on "Fifteen Years in the British Parliament," at the Windsor Hall.

Mr. John E. Redmond, M.P., arrived in this city on Tuesday, and yesterday evening delivered his lecture on "Fifteen years in the British Parliament," before a fairly good sized audience at the Windsor Hall. Had the talented young Irish Nationalist come to Montreal as the representative of a united Irish party, there is no doubt whatever that at an early hour the sign, "standing room only," would have been hung up at the entrance. The attendance demonstrated most plainly that if the Irish party desire to achieve any measure of success in regard to retaining the confidence of Irish Canadians, it must settle the question of the differences existing between the several factions and fight the cause of the Old Land beneath the banner of a United Party.

Some time ago an effort was made to induce some of our national literary or temperance organizations to invite Mr. Redmond to deliver his lecture under their auspices, but the leaders in these organizations did not want to undertake the task in view of the divisions in the ranks of the Irish Party. Within the past few weeks a number of leading Irish Catholic merchants, and personal friends of Mr. Redmond, took the matter up and they were very careful to announce in the press, both in the advertising and news columns, that the subject of Mr. Redmond's deliverance would be "Strictly non-political, non-controversial."

Mr. Justice C. J. Doherty presided, and in opening the proceedings briefly referred to the visit of the distinguished young Irish Nationalist, whose name, he said, was in itself an ample introduction.

Mr. Redmond, in rising to address the assembly, was greeted with enthusiasm. He is the possessor of a splendid voice, which penetrated every part of the hall, and spoke with ease and fluency.

After having indulged in a few preliminaries, Mr. Redmond launched forth into an interesting and eloquent portrayal of the striking and stirring features of the entrance of Parnell upon the leadership of the party.

For nearly one hour Mr. Redmond dwelt upon the great achievements of Parnell, whom he characterized as one, if not the most striking figure of the century.

His eulogies on Gladstone, Bright and other English statesmen were very fine. A vote of thanks, moved by Mr. M. J. F. Quinn, and seconded by Dr. Guerin, was tendered to Mr. Redmond, and after a few eloquent remarks from the Chairman the proceedings closed.

MONTREAL FREE LIBRARY.

SECOND LITERARY LECTURE OF THE WINTER COURSE.

St. Mary's College Hall, Bleury St., was crowded on Friday night by a very appreciative audience who listened with both profit and pleasure to a lecture by Mr. J. F. Waters, M.A., of Ottawa, the distinguished poet and essayist, on that New England master of good fiction, the somewhat mystic author of the "Scarlet Letter," "The House with the Seven Gables," and other works which have now become classics—Nathaniel Hawthorne. Sir William Hingston presided.

Mr. Waters is an ideal lecturer. The singular character of this Puritan genius, his love of solitude and self communion, his strong spirituality, his keen appreciation of the beauties of nature and his reverent thankfulness to Him who had made all things so fair, the elevating and ennobling influence of his writings—all these were discoursed upon by one with the enthusiasm of a hero-worshipper.

C.M.B.A.

At the regular monthly meeting of Branch No. 9 of the C.M.B.A. Grand Council of Quebec, the following officers were installed for 1897 by Grand Deputy Bro. Jas. Meek and Chancellor Bro. P. Flannery:—President, Bro. Jno. Halpin; 1st Vice President, R. F. Walsh; Recording Sec., Bro. M. F. Johnson; Assistant Rec. Sec., Bro. M. Shea; Treas., Bro. M. J. O'Shaughnessy; Marshal, Bro. Jas. Shaw; Guard, Bro. E. Farlot; Trustees, Bros. P. Flannery, A. Farrel and Geo. De-Rouch. Delegate Grand Council, Past Chancellor Bro. Henry Butler; Alternate, President Bro. Jno. Halpin.

CAMPANINI'S LAST WORDS.

"I hope I die a good Catholic" was the last sentence of the famous tenor to his wife and the attendants at his bedside, and repeating the "Ave Maria," he passed away as if to sleep. He was the best in his day, and his heart as tender as his song was sweet.

OUR IRISH LETTER

BRINGS CHEERING TIDINGS OF UNITY.

THE ENTHUSIASM AROUSED IN CONNECTION WITH THE QUESTION OF THE FINANCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ENGLAND AND IRELAND—THE PROGRESS OF THE DEMAND FOR AN IRISH UNIVERSITY AND OTHER MATTERS.

DUBLIN, January 8th, 1897.—It is difficult to convey an idea of the intensity of the feeling which exists at present in Ireland upon the financial relations of this country with England.

The question has been seriously taken up by the different Irish political parties, and they are as a unit in favor of agitation until the injustices under which Ireland labors are removed.

The Government will find it impossible to follow the easily given advice of the London Times "to put the question firmly aside."

A United Ireland has decided that the question is not to be cast into the shadow, but on the contrary, that it will be pushed forward into a place of prominence among the paramount questions of the day, and will monopolize no small portion of the time of the next session of Parliament.

That any measure for redress will meet with a hostile reception from the Ministerial benches is certain; and it is stated, that, realizing the fact that the question cannot be "put firmly aside" but must be met as *dis-appeal* of the Chancellor of the Exchequer is already "loading up" with figures and statistics which he hopes to manipulate and juggle in his own inimitable way to the confusion of the Irish members.

The latter, however, will not enter into the fray unprepared for a hot fight. Nationalists and Irish Unionists vie with one another in the study of the question in all its bearings, and by the time that Parliament convenes anything that the Irish representatives do not know on the question of Financial Relations will not be worth knowing.

This country to-day presents a political aspect unparalleled for a century, and the people, with their leaders, are unanimously determined that Ireland must be relieved of the unjust and inequitable burden of taxation which she has been compelled to carry.

Lord Ferrer has written a logical, matter-of-fact letter to the Times, bristling with arguments and statistics, which the "Thunderer" but faintly attempts to refute.

Sir Charles Clarke's speech at Plymouth, in which the admission is unequivocally made that Ireland is over-taxed, coming, as it does, from an un-compromising English Unionist, carries great weight with the Unionist party in this country.

All the Nationalist leaders are outspoken in their demands for immediate redress, and the astute remarks of Lord Castletown's at Cork, in reference to a "Bismarck party" as an alternative were constitutional means to fail, are generally canvassed and endorsed.

Doubtless, the next session of Parliament will mark an epoch in Ireland's history.

The installation of the Irish provincial mayors took place on New Year's Day, and generally passed off without any interesting incident.

Mr. Michael Cusack, who has been re-elected mayor of Limerick, calls attention to the fact that this year will mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Limerick Corporation and suggests that the event should be suitably celebrated.

The Irish Industrial League have under consideration a project for the holding of an exhibition of Irish manufactures in this city during the current year. It is probable that the scheme will take definite shape during the next week or so.

Handsome subscriptions towards the National Fund are reported from different parts of the country. Amongst the latest is a subscription of £150 from the Nationalists of Belfast.

The business of the old Brill Company was wound up on the 4th instant, being purchased by the Hooley syndicate for the modest sum of £2,000,000 sterling! The directors of the old company get a free gift of £30,000 from Mr. Hooley, and a sum equal to five pence per acre is to be divided amongst the employees.

Amnesty meetings being held throughout the country are marked by great enthusiasm.

Reports of the scene of the Kerry disaster record stories of the heroism of the people on that dreadful occasion and of their present dire distress. A relief fund, which has been started for the benefit of the sufferers, is meeting with generous response.

ment of university education, honors, monuments, etc., and renews the demand made in 1870 for a change in the existing system. The declaration was endorsed by thirteen Protestant members of Parliament who sit for Irish constituencies.

The National Fund has reached the sum of £2,000,000 and is increasing daily. One hundred and eighty acres of land in the centre of the best grazing and fattening section of Roscommon Co. were recently sold at an average of under £50 per acre.

The steamship State of California, which has been purchased by the Allans, will commence her sailing from Derry to New York about March 15.

It is not improbable that Mr. Edward Blake, M.P. (late of Canada), will be agreed upon by the Irish parties as the mover of an amendment to the Queen's speech dealing with the Financial Relations question.

Mr. Blake is gaining a strong hold on the affections of the Irish people by his great ability as a statesman and an orator, and by his undoubted sincerity.

The Redmondites held a meeting on Wednesday, 4th instant, in the National Club, Rutland Square, from which the press was excluded.

Civil Court Judge Curran was presented with a pair of white kid gloves recently at Birr, there being no criminal cases for trial.

The weather here is mild, and business is dull, the reaction after the holiday season having set in.

THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS.

A TEACHING INSTITUTE WHICH EMBRACES ALMOST EVERY NATION.

INSTRUCTING THE YOUTH IN THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO—THE ELECTION OF A NEW SUPERIOR-GENERAL.

The death of the Rev. Brother Joseph, Superior-General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, which we announced last week, directs attention, naturally, to the noble work in which this teaching institute is engaged.

The lasting value of the primary education they impart is well known and thoroughly appreciated in Montreal, where many of the citizens who occupy leading positions in all walks of life owe their solid early Catholic education and training to the Christian Brothers.

An idea of the great importance of their work may be gleaned from the fact that to-day the number of pupils under their instruction is 400,000—scattered all over the world—in Canada, the United States, Ireland, England, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Egypt, Turkey, Algiers, and Madagascar.

A general chapter, or congress of the Christian Brothers throughout the world, will soon be called to Paris to elect a successor to the deceased General. Delegates from each of the countries named, France, Germany, Austria, Spain, Italy, Belgium, England, Ireland, the United States, Canada, Turkey, Egypt, Algiers, India and Madagascar, will be elected by the possessed members of the order—one delegate being allowed to every one hundred professed members.

A secret ballot is taken and two-thirds majority decides the choice. Prominent among the candidates are Bro. Louis of Poissy, present Assistant-General, who has distinguished himself among the literati of France, Germany and Italy by his Summa of St. Thomas Aquinas; Bro. Reticus, another Assistant-General, formerly provincial of Canada, and for several years Visitor of the Baltimore District, stands second among the probable successors; Brother Clementine, the Assistant-General for America, while admitted by all to be one of the best equipped among the advisors of the Superior General, may be the choice, though in the natural order of things it is quite improbable, the number of French delegates exceeding all others by a very large majority.

The Order of the Christian Brothers numbers nearly twenty thousand members, scattered throughout Christendom, more than one half of whom are professed religious, or religious bound by vow for life to the Christian education of young men and boys.

CATHOLIC BOOKS.

In these days when so much trash is offered to the unwary reader, it is of some consequence to be directed into a safe path whether for fiction or graver literature. The name of Benziger Brothers, 36 and 38 Barclay Street, New York, and also Cincinnati and Chicago, is well known as that of a firm of publishers and booksellers entirely to be relied upon. Their lists contain works of merit, bright with the sparkle of genius and free from moral drawback. Their Round Table of representative Catholic novelists includes tales by Eleanor C. Donnelly, Anna Hanson Dorey, Walter Lecky, Anna T. Sadler, John Talbot Smith, Charles Warren Stoddard, Christian Reid, Frances J. Finn, Maurice F. Egan, and Ella L. Dorey. Other authors in their recent catalogues are Anthony Yorke, Cardinal Wiseman, whose "Faniola" is always fresh, Lady Gertrude Douglas, Rosa Mulholland, Radul de Navery, and Mrs. M. W. Berthold. One of their greatest successes was obtained with "A Woman of Fortune" (Christain Reid), "The Vacation of Edward Conway" (Maurice Egan), "Fading Shadows" (Anthony Yorke), and "Mr. Billy Buttons" (Walter Lecky), of which, as well as of "A Round Table" second editions were called for within three months.

THE MOST VALUABLE KNOWLEDGE

What knowledge is of most worth? The uniform reply is—science. This is the verdict on all counts. For direct self-preservation, or the maintenance of life and health, the all-important knowledge is—science. For that indirect self-preservation, which we call gaining a livelihood, the knowledge of greatest value is—science. For the due discharge of parental functions, the proper guidance is to be found only in—science. For that interpretation of national life, past and present, without which the citizen cannot rightly regulate his conduct, the indisputable key is—science. Alike for the most perfect production and present enjoyment of art in all its forms, the needful preparation is still science;—intellectual, moral, religious—the most efficient study is, once more, science.—Herbert Spencer.

WORDS OF FAREWELL.

Rev. Dr. Conaty Addresses Them to the Parishioners of the Church of the Sacred Heart, Worcester, Mass.

The Progress of Nearly Two Decades Dwelt Upon in a Sympathetic and Eloquent Manner.

Last week Rev. Dr. Conaty, recently appointed to the rectorship of the Catholic University of America, delivered his farewell sermon to the parishioners of the Church of the Sacred Heart, Worcester, Mass., where he has been pastor for a period of nearly two decades. The sacred edifice was crowded to excess and over 2,000 people were unable to effect an entrance. Many non-Catholics were present. He said in part:—

"It was seventeen years ago that we met as pastor and people. Today that bond is severed. The relation is much like that of father and son. We have never tired of that companionship. Not by choice, but by the urgent call of duty we part, even now. Our days have not been wholly cloudless, but there have never been differences in our views and affections. We strove to realize our lofty ideals.

"Seventeen years ago you were a parish of 1,400 souls, and you worshipped on the earthen floor within bare walls and subjected yourselves to every inclemency of the weather. To-day you have a church to be proud of, and a property in keeping with the church, while your numbers have increased to 4,000. A generation has grown up about us since this parish was organized, and we see the boys and girls of those early years the men and women of to-day.

"Our first Sunday School in the unfinished basement numbered 250 scholars with fifty-seven teachers. Last Sunday there were 943 children registered with 120 teachers, and an organization that is doing splendid work. A firm believer in the necessity of organized societies to do the work contemplated in this parish, your pastor has aimed to bring to the aid of religion those splendid means which properly organized bodies of men and women will place within one's reach. Our sodalities, our charitable and temperance societies reach out to every want of the parish and bring their salutary influence to the people.

"Your church property has over \$30,000 invested in it, while your funded debt is but a trifle over \$40,000, with outstanding notes on the Moran property, which we purchased a few years ago and which is now the home of our young men's lyceum.

"You have a splendid organization in your Church Debt Society, which will in a few years wipe out your funded debt. The temperance thought has taken strong hold and wide root here and a community with an unswerving devotion to total abstinence is a protection by mankind.

"It is not an easy matter to leave so happy a family as this parish has been or to leave such a pleasant home as your generosity has provided, and not even higher honors can efface the affections which seventeen years have made. I go not of my choice or your choice, but by the call of the Vicar of Christ, and I must obey.

"Be good Catholics, staunch, every-day Catholics; Catholics everywhere, always showing to the world the blessings of the faith of Christ, which is the source of all true life. Be not satisfied with a little Catholicity, be not veneered Catholics, but Catholics to the core. Be Catholics of the altar, Catholics of the sacraments, Catholics because of the faith you have received. Stand by the principle of temperance and sobriety, which I have been proud to teach you by word and example. Be men and women worthy of the love of the Sacred Heart."

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