

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

ST. PATRICK'S DAY—St. Patrick's Day in Toronto was never more honored than this year. High Masses were sung in the Churches, Hibernia's Saint was extolled from our choirs; the shamrock was everywhere in evidence, and all seemed anxious to claim relationship even if far remote, with the Emerald Isle. Banquets, with the Emerald Isle. Banquets, orations and musical numbers were the programme for the evening, and Erin's children and their descendants felt that the day at least was theirs; tears for the time being were dried, and naught but smiles were everywhere seen. The brighter days of the present Erin and the days of the past Erin were brighter were come of still greater brightness were felt in the spirit which moved hour, and it was with heightened faith and hope in the future that all through all the happenings of the joined in the National hymn, "God Save Ireland."

WITH THE HIBERNIANS.—At Massey Hall a great gathering greeted the Hibernians on St. Patrick's night, when a programme worthy of the great order was presented. The Hall itself was in keeping with the occasion; a background of green across which in letters of gold ran the welcome "Cae'd Mille Fialthe," faced the audience, and on the platform were seated some four hundred of the children of the schools; the girls in white formed the centre and were flanked by the boys in neat dark suits; green flags hung from the pillars, and palms and ferns rested between the footlights and around the boxes. In the centre of the platform a beautiful golden harp stood throughout the evening, and the little shamrock was displayed profusely on the breasts of the audience and in the hands of the artists. Hon. John T. Keating, of Chicago, the orator of the evening, at the end of his address, was presented with a basket of the dainty green leaf. Those who took part in the programme were Miss Madeline Ryan, harpist; Mrs. Annie Hargrave, Miss Teresa Flanagan, Miss Nellie Byrne, Miss Theresa McAvoy, Messrs. J. A. Paul and R. Ruthven McDonald and the children, under the direction and accompanied on the great organ by Miss Agneta Tone Breen.

The entertainers throughout had been chosen on account of their first-class standing, and all came up to what was expected from them. The chorus of children sang with fine spirit, and after "O'Donnell Abu" an encore was demanded. Miss Theresa McAvoy showed ability of a superior order in the management of her instrument—the violin—and Miss Ryan drew from the harp, chords such as only a child of Erin could produce. Mrs. Hargrave simply took her audience by storm when in the "Wearing of the Green" she raised aloft the bunch of shamrocks and in expressive notes told of Erin's past; this lady is a singer who interprets Irish sentiment in a way that touches the hearts of her listeners; Toronto would like to hear her often. Miss Teresa Flanagan, always a favorite, was a welcome songstress, while Miss Nellie Byrne surprised those who had not before heard her by the music and power of her voice. Mons. J. A. Paul sang "Killarney," and "The Minstrel Boy" in a sweet tenor while Mr. Ruthven McDonald shared the honors with Mrs. Hargrave in winning his way into the hearts of his hearers.

The chairman of the evening, Mr. A. T. Hernon, read telegrams of greeting from the Hibernians of Montreal and Cornwall, and after an interesting resume of Ireland's history introduced the orator of the evening, Hon. John T. Keating, of Chicago, Ill., ex-National President, A.O.H. The eloquent address was listened to throughout with the utmost interest, the only regret being that owing to the size of the hall, the voice of the speaker was sometimes lost. Mr. Keating is a speaker from whom the words flow with the utmost ease, and his climaxes are irresistible.

One feature of the entertainment was the absence of the "funny man," who in reality was never funny but simply grotesque. The Hibernians of Toronto have done their part in eliminating this feature from their entertainment. The evening throughout was the finest of the many fine evenings this Association has given the city.

THE CELTIC LEAGUE.—St. Andrew's Hall received its full complement of Irish men and women on St. Patrick's night, when the chair

was taken by Rev. L. Minnehan and an address delivered by Mr. Jas. Conmee, M.P.P., supplemented by an agreeable presentation of song and story. Father Minnehan, in his own happy way, fulfilled the duties of chairman, and Mr. Conmee, in his address, dwelt on the happy days in store for Ireland as foreshadowed in present conditions. Mr. Conmee is one of our representative Irishmen, who has won his way until our Provincial Legislature holds none whose voice and word have more weight, and whose influence for the country's good is greater. On St. Patrick's night he was warmly welcomed and his words cheered to the echo. The musical numbers and elocutionary presentations were appreciated and warmly applauded by the large audience present.

ST. PATRICK'S RECTOR.—Saint Patrick's Day, the Patronal feast of Rev. Father Barrett, C.S.S.R., Rector of St. Patrick's, was made the occasion by the Brothers and boys of the school of an entertainment in every way creditable to all concerned; one, too, of which St. Patrick's Rector might well be proud as evidencing the work being done in the schools of his parish, while at the same time he could not but appreciate the spirit which prompted the exhibition in his honor.

Though given in the afternoon, the popularity of the event brought together an audience that taxed the accommodation of the hall to the utmost; the Redemptorist Fathers, Rev. L. Minnehan, Inspector Prendegast, and trustees of the school were amongst those present.

The pretty stage scenery and the inscription "Vivat Pastor Bonus," in large letters across the platform together with the festoons of greenery decorating the walls and pillars, gave the hall quite a festive air. The programme, though lengthy, was carried out with despatch; it consisted of choruses, solos, part-songs, exhibitions of drill, piano and violin solos and concluded with a little drama entitled "The sign of the Rose." The accompaniments were played by Miss N. Costello. Where all did well, it is hard to specialize; the superior tone of the voices in singing, however, should not go unmarked as evidencing the good work being done by Prof. Donville in this direction amongst the children of our schools.

The part songs, usually difficult for children, were creditably sung in every instance, and one or two voices were of a remarkably sweet tone and quality. The recitation "A Southern Chief's Revenge," was delivered with fine spirit and intelligent interpretation by a boy whose name on the programme looked like S. Meade, though I cannot be sure of this, as it was blurred. The little drama with which the entertainment closed was a surprise in its variety of costume, varied scenery and the admirable manner in which each young actor took the part allotted him. "God Save Ireland" and speeches from gentlemen present closed the afternoon, leaving all loud in congratulations, justly deserved, to the Brothers and boys of the school.

An event which took much from the pleasure of all present was the fact that the one for whom it was all intended was far away; Rev. Father Barrett was called by telegram to the Ledside of his father, then thought to be dying, on the very morning of the feast. The sympathy of all was with the Rev. Rector, even while in compliance with his wishes the festivity went on in his absence.

AN ORDINATION.—On Saturday, the Feast of St. Joseph, the Convent of the Precious Blood was the scene of events much more than ordinary, and held for the members of the community a pleasure and interest long to be remembered.

In the first place it was the feast day of the Rev. Superiress, and it was the day to be marked hereafter as the occasion on which the first ordination in their Chapel took place. The recipient of the Sacrament of Holy Orders was Rev. Joseph F. Dittman, who had just completed his course at St. Michael's College. His Grace Archbishop O'Connor, who ordained the young Levite, was assisted by Very Rev. Father Marjion, C.S.S.B., and Rev. Doctor Teefey, C.S.S.B., while Father Dittman was assisted by Rev. Father Cherrier, C.S.S.B.; there were also in the Sanctuary Rev. Fathers Walsh and Murray, and Rev. Messrs. J. W. Byrne, P. J.

McGrath, Sullivan and Burke, all of St. Basil's. The solemn ceremony was watched with interest by the congregation, which filled the little Chapel to overflowing. The altar was adorned with lilies and lights, and the handsome cluster of red lobes surrounding the Sanctuary lamp made a fitting for the impressive ceremony. At the conclusion of the Mass, the newly ordained priest gave his blessing to all those present. In the afternoon Rev. Father Dittman gave Benediction in the same Chapel, and said his first Mass—the High Mass—at St. Basil's parish Church on the following Sunday.

MISSION AT ST. BASIL'S.—A mission opened at St. Basil's on Sunday and is to continue throughout the week. The missionaries in charge are Rev. Fathers Zimes and Connelly, C.S.S.R., from Pennsylvania. I hope to tell you more of this next week.

THE FORTY HOURS are still going on at St. Patrick's they closed a most successful and beautifully carried out devotion on Sunday; at St. Helen's they are still in progress. Rev. Doctor Teefey, Superior of St. Michael's College, preached the opening sermon on Sunday night; Father Doherty is to preach on Monday and a Redemptorist Father on Tuesday. His Grace the Archbishop will be at the solemn closing on Tuesday morning. Long before the hour of Vespers on Sunday the Church was crowded even into the vestibule, and many had to withdraw for want of room; the altars, as usual, were greatly admired.

QUEBEC LEGISLATURE

Some local daily newspapers, in referring to the Speech from the throne read at the opening of the Quebec Legislature this week, and which we publish below, state that the session will be the last of the present Parliament. The business to be considered by the legislators is varied and includes about 104 private bills.

Following is the Speech from the Throne:

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council: Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly: I am happy to welcome you once more to express my wishes for the success of your labors. I am convinced that I voice your sentiments when I say that I regret the sad and painful event that so suddenly removed the Hon. Mr. Duffy from our midst, while enjoying the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens. The public career of that high-minded gentleman was not a long one, but in the few years during which he presided over two of the most important departments of my government he displayed administrative abilities of the highest order. By his loss the province has been deprived of a public servant possessing broad, sound and just views and endowed with a praiseworthy spirit of conciliation. We have reason to congratulate ourselves on the great prosperity which the province continues to enjoy and the remarkable progress effected in the development of its natural resources during the past few years. My Ministers will, with your assistance, continue still further to promote this development in the interests of the public weal.

The negotiations with the Dominion Government to obtain recognition of our rights over the fisheries in the territorial waters of the province, though not yet ended, lead us to hope for a favorable solution.

My Government, convinced of the importance of the work of colonization, which seems to be the chief factor in our prosperity, and whose success will assuredly decide the role of this province in the confederation, has eagerly sought for means to free it more effectively from the obstacles that actual legislation may offer to its progress. It has not failed, more over, to study the question of the lumbering industry, which for many years to come will constitute one of the most important elements of public and private wealth. The commission appointed to enquire into everything connected with this national question of colonization will

shortly make its report, which will immediately be submitted to you and such legislation as may be rendered necessary by the conclusions of that report will be laid before you for your appreciation within the shortest delay possible.

The development of our mineral resources continues, and the recent discovery of new and valuable minerals, radium amongst others, is a proof of the richness of our province.

The regulations sanctioned by my government and enforced by the Provincial Board of Health for the protection of public health have produced satisfactory results, and the co-operation of the municipal authorities has been effective.

My government has every reason to believe that the importance of the readjustment of the provincial subsidies, the conditions whereof were approved by you last session, is being seriously considered by the Government of Canada.

Several bills of general interest will be submitted to you. I may mention in particular a measure concerning the revision of the statutes passed by this Legislature since 1888, and another respecting accidents incident to labor.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

The public accounts of the past year will shortly be laid before you. I am happy to be able to inform you that there is again a surplus for that year. The estimates for the coming fiscal year will be submitted to you without delay. They have been prepared with all the economy consistent with the efficiency of the public service.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

In conclusion I am happy to say I am convinced that in studying the questions forming the object of your deliberations, you will bring to bear that spirit of concord and harmony wherewith your devotedness to the interests of the province will be sure to inspire you.

THE DIGNITY OF WOMEN.

His Grace the Archbishop of Glasgow refers in his Lenten Pastoral to the celebration of the jubilee of the dogmatic definition of the Immaculate Conception, and in conclusion writes:

Our Lady brings before us the true idea of woman's place in the world. It is most important that this idea should be insisted on in our time and in our surroundings. The example, which comes from many who occupy high places is not of a kind to increase men's reverence for women, or women's respect for themselves. The desire of display, or even of notoriety, has done much to make home life, with moderate social amusements, and entertainment, give way to a round of almost continued excitement. Reasonable expenditure befitting one's condition on dress and housekeeping has been replaced by luxury and extravagance. Eagerness to gain the means required has led some to risky business speculation, and others to social degradation. Not a few women of good position have become hindrances instead of helps to their husbands. Young men, unwilling to face undue burdens, have avoided marriage and have drifted into a dangerous and vicious course of life. In the social intercourse of young people we do not always find the decorum and restraint which make it wholesome and which add to its true rational enjoyment. As a result of a lowered public opinion unhealthy literature has increased, and the stage which might provide innocent amusement and even elevating lessons is often given up to sensuous, or, perhaps, dangerous spectacles.

It is our duty to do our best to keep ourselves and our children free from these evil influences. For this it is necessary to have before us constantly the true ideas of social life and family life, which are founded on purity and self-respect in women. Our young people must be taught to value modesty and self-restraint. While full opportunity is given to them for recreation, they ought to be kept from the dangers of over-familiarity, and rudeness in their manners. Mothers ought to remember that their own chief pleasure should not be found in running from one amusement to another, but in making happy, companionable homes for their husbands and families, in living with their children and supervising, without undue interference, their recreations and companionships. Undesirable friend-

NOTES FROM QUEBEC.

(By our Own Correspondent.)

UP GOES INSURANCE.—Under the pretext that Quebec's fire brigade is disorganized, and the marked danger from conflagration to which our city is subject, the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association has decided to increase the already too high insurance rates. Local agents were informed of this fact in a circular letter from the Secretary of the Association last week. The new rates to be introduced render it practically impossible for a certain class in the community to insure at all. The people were naturally both surprised and indignant when the news was made public.

PRIEST DIES SUDDENLY.—Rev. Father M. Tremblay, parish priest of Les Eboulements, died quite suddenly recently. Father Tremblay, while robing to celebrate Mass, fell to the floor and expired. Deceased was about 50 years of age, and was at one time attached to the Quebec Seminary. For a number of years past he was curate of several parishes in the Diocese of Chicoutimi.

THE MISSION AT ST. JOHN'S.—St. Jean Baptiste Church was crowded for the past week by the men of that parish, attending the mission given by the Jesuit Fathers. The exercises were conducted by Rev. Father Adam, whose sermons on the eternal truths made a deep impression on all who heard him. The mission came to a most successful close on Monday evening, the 21st instant.

EASTER MUSIC.—The different city choirs are practicing for Easter Sunday, when some choice music will be heard. After that date, it is said mixed choirs will be polished and nothing but plain chant by male voices will be rendered.

DEATH OF A SISTER.—The death is announced of Sister Marie Evangeline Dufresne, an auxiliary at the Convent of the Sisters of Charity in this city. Deceased, who was 46 years of age, has spent 27 years of her life as a member of the above religious community.

THE WEATHER.—After one of the most severe winters within the recollection of the oldest residents, fine weather has at last set in, and the snow is beginning to disappear, giving us the hope that we will soon be once more "in the good old summer time." In the rural districts the making of maple sugar has commenced, but unless rain falls in the near future the crop will not be a very plentiful one.

RETREAT FOR YOUNG MEN.—Sunday next will be the closing day of the retreat now being preached to young men in the Jesuit Church. All the services are very largely attended, even standing room being at a premium. A general communion will take place at the 7 o'clock Mass on Sunday next, and at 7.30 in the evening the closing sermon will be preached.

ships are often easily checked at the beginning, and many a danger and even sin can be prevented by a little watchfulness and a word of kindly warning. The family life of the next generation depends on our training; if our young people are allowed to associate without reserve and decorum, and to engage in exciting and unbecoming amusements, we can hardly expect for their future homes the true happiness for which mutual respect is essential.

Many parents fulfil their duties most carefully; the object of what has been said is to increase the number of such parents, and to endeavor to bring into every home the true Christian ideal of social life, the reverence which men should have for women, the respect which women should have for their sex. We have succeeded to a noble heritage from our fathers of the times of persecution, whose morality was as pure as their faith. No doubt they owed much of this to

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH.—The feast of St. Joseph, patron of the Universal Church, was celebrated with unusual pomp and solemnity on Saturday last. There was solemn Grand Mass in the different parish churches and Grand Mass in the Convent chapels. Rev. Father Henning, C.S.S.R., was the celebrant at St. Patrick's, assisted by Rev. Fathers Sterne and Gannon as deacon and sub-deacon respectively.

It being also the feast day of Rev. Father Henning, the pupils of St. Patrick's School took advantage of the occasion to present the esteemed Rector of St. Patrick's with a complimentary address. The event took place in Tara Hall on Sunday afternoon, the hall being crowded to the doors. On this occasion the following programme was carried out, each item being vigorously applauded:

- Overture—Orchestra. Chorus—Choral Union. Recitation—"The Paschal Fire of St. Patrick," Geo. Mulrooney. Song—"Always in the Way," Harry Lecouture. Recitation—Jos. Byrne. Chorus—Choral Union. Recitation—"The Pilot," M. Ward. Cornet Solo—Mr. A. Gingras. Recitation—"The Everlasting Church," J. Walsh. Flute Solo—Mr. L. Dumas. Recitation—"Seminioli's Reply," M. Hanrahan. Dance—Messrs. T. Ryan and J. Connors. Chorus—Choral Union. Address—M. Labbe. Song—"God Save Ireland," Choral Union.

Father Henning's appearance on the stage to reply to the well-worded address was the signal for an outburst of enthusiastic applause, which lasted for a considerable time. Father Henning referred to the interest which he, in common with all priests, especially pastors, took in the education of boys. Education without a good Christian training was useless. It was a matter which interested both priests and parents, as upon the education of youth depended the future welfare of the Church and society. If boys did not receive a good, sound, Christian education, what would become of the Church in the years to come? He complimented Rev. Father Delargy, Director of the school, as well as the good Brothers, on the efficiency which the school had attained, and made their mark in the world who said many young men had already started out with no other recommendation than that they had received their education in St. Patrick's School, Quebec. At the conclusion of his remarks, Father Henning announced that if there was no objection on the part of the boys he would give them a holiday on Monday. This announcement was received with wild cheering by the boys, who filled both galleries of the hall, St. Patrick's School is another monument to the self-sacrificing zeal of the highly esteemed Rector, as it was during his pastorate some 27 years ago that the foundation stone of the school was laid, and ever since has gone on increasing in efficiency and popularity, until to-day it stands as one of the foremost educational institutions of the Ancient Capital. Boys from other parishes and even outside the Church have graduated from the school, all of whom look back with pleasure on the days spent in their Alma Mater.

their devotion to the Virgin Mother. We have the same devotion, and if we are faithful it will bring to us the same results.

Let us, then, during this year of special honor to our Mother, beg for her intercession for ourselves and for our children. Let us renew our good resolutions to walk in the ways of purity and self-control of which Mary is the model. If we have admitted in our own lives, or in the guardianship of our young people, any of the relaxed customs which are so common, let us at once cast them off. So we may, by God's grace, keep ourselves, as Mary did, unspotted from the world, and be the worthy children of an Immaculate Mother.

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