

A SPLENDID INSTITUTION.

THE GREY NUNS CONVENT ON QUY STREET.

A Magnificent Building—A Home of Industry and Benevolence—A Sketch of the Work Done by the Sisters for the Benefit of Our Catholic Community.

Right in the middle of the finest residential portion of the city, with its grounds having a frontage on St. Catherine, Guy and Dorchester streets, stands the Convent of the Grey Nunnery, one of the largest, and certainly one of the handsomest from an architectural standpoint, in America. The Convent is built of grey stone and stands in its own beautiful grounds amid bright green trees and cultivated garden plants.

The Order of the Grey Nuns was founded in 1747, with the object of assisting the poor, and ever since the time when the Convent was an incommensurable building near the river side, the good Sisters have been gradually increasing in numbers, until now there are some seven or eight hundred, and the good they are doing in the city every day is incalculable.

The number of inmates in the Convent now is nearly 900, of whom over 400 are nuns, always busy, always bright and cheerful, and devoting all the best fruits of their labors to the benefit of the poor for the love of God.

The kind and cheerful Sister who conducted us over the building, first showed us the pharmacy of the Convent, a bright, neat room, better supplied with bottles of drugs and other appliances incident to medical practice than is a druggist shop or the laboratory of an outside doctor. As there are little less than a thousand persons altogether in the Convent, and a good number of these are in a declining old age, and others are but a few weeks old and consequently subject to all the many ills of infancy, the doctor and the good Sisters, therefore, are almost continually employed attending to cases of slight indisposition, but every remedy for serious cases may be supplied from the stores in the Convent when occasion requires. In the medical department is a Sister who is a qualified dentist, and can crown, fill, bore and extract teeth as well as a male dentist. The Sisters, say the patients, would rather the Sister extract their teeth than an ordinary dentist, for she has more sympathy for them, and is at greater trouble not to give them pain.

Leaving the medical department, we proceed to the repository of devotional articles. Here are rosaries, scapulars, crosses and other articles, all made either by sick nuns or poor inmates, who are too feeble to do heavier work. In addition to the above, the Sisters make relic cases and stands; some of these cases are beautifully and very gorgeously decorated with gold filigree work and bright silk plushes. In this room also are several nuns highly skilled in the manufacture of mementoes from the hair of dead relatives or friends; the mementoes take many forms, such as hair watch charms, rings, and other articles for personal wear. The process by which hair is made into these varied articles is extremely slow and tedious, and can only be executed by a very skilled person of strong artistic tastes. The shortest lengths of hair can be used; on one card was hair of a dark brown color, some of the single pieces of which were not more than a quarter of an inch in length when handed to the Sister; yet all of them were utilised and converted into a beautiful floral design, which was a real work of art. In a glass case was a wreath of flowers, all made of human hair; the flowers were raised and looked most natural and attractive. The hair of which the wreath was made was of three generations of a family. Here was the grey hair of the grand-parents, the two shades of brown hair of the parents and the bright yellow locks of the little children, all harmonizing in color and woven together into a valuable and uncommon personal memento which could be kept and treasured in the family for years and years.

In a room a little further along the corridor is being carried on the work of making the lovely wax figures of the Infant Jesus, which brighten the Crib in the churches at Christmas time. These images are moulded entirely of good quality wax and are tinted and have

their eyes inserted afterwards by nuns who devote their time especially to this work. The work of chiselling the features of the images into definite form is entrusted to another Sister. The favorite mould used by the Sisters in making these figures was presented to them nearly one hundred years ago, by the Jesuit Fathers, and they have kept it ever since.

Walking further along the same corridor, we enter the store room, where all the trunks of the Sisters who are going out on missions are placed after being packed, and previous to removal to the railway depot; through this room also pass all supplies of eatables, medicines, etc., that are to be sent to the North-West missions.

In another room along the same corridor six or seven Sisters are busy making vestments. The methods of working are just the same as were followed hundreds and hundreds of years ago in the convents of the old world. Very few innovations have crept into this beautiful task which enables the good Sisters to employ their highest artistic abilities for the immediate glory of God. In this room there were being decorated some exquisitely beautiful and costly vestments set with valuable stones and heavy with filigree gold. The Sisters love their allotted work and take great pride in showing it to a visitor.

In a room across the corridor from this were a number of lay Sisters engaged in making the Host for the Blessed Sacra-

ment. Nothing but the very finest and the very purest flour is used in the manufacture. A gas machine is used for making the wafer into sheets about ten inches by twelve in size, and then a cutting machine shapes them. In this room also are made the wax candles for use on the altar.

After visiting all the manufacturing parts of the house, we proceeded to the educational portion. The Sister who was conducting us said: "We admit persons here of all ages, from babies a week old to the oldest men and women, poverty is the only qualification."

The Sisters of the Grey Nuns, most of whom are of good family, spend their whole lives and vow themselves to poverty, so that they may be the better able to understand and care for the poor for whom they do so much. In the institution are 400 poor persons who are supported and clothed by the efforts of the nuns. These people have no claim upon their generous benefactors except the claim of poverty, and this claim to the good Sisters is more powerful than any other that could be put forward.

In one long airy room were 145 old women contentedly knitting and sewing and otherwise occupying their time usefully; those who were too feeble to work sat in big easy chairs and chatted pleasantly to one another, probably of their young days. Several old men were sitting around in another room. There are ninety-five old men in the institution, but in the summer time most of them prefer to go out pottering about in the garden. One large plot in the garden has been generously given by the Mother Superior especially for the production of tobacco for the old men, so that they may enjoy their smoke as if

they had remained prosperous in the world.

Up in a bright nursery, on one of the higher flats, are 40 little swinging cots, in which babies from a week old are reposing. It is an arduous task to manage so many little infants, but the good Sisters accomplish it, and the little tots are almost as tenderly cared for as they would be under the care of a loving mother. When the children grow to be five or six years of age they are transferred to another department among children of their own age, and at the age of seven or so they are put to school, where they remain for about six years, and are then placed out to earn their own living.

One little girl in the school is an Indian, and for our pleasure danced a native dance to the singing of her classmates; the Sisters say the dancing is quite natural in her, and although she is only nine or ten years of age she could dance as well as now when she first entered the school.

After visiting the numerous other departments in the building, including the kitchen, laundry, bootmakers and printers' shops, stocking making rooms, weaving rooms, the Sisters' dormitories, the children's dormitories, etc., we went to the Chapel, which is a magnificent structure, and owes much of its beauty to the generosity of the late Mrs. Tiffin, who donated the beautiful pictures on its walls and the costly jewelled Tabernacle as well as many other beautiful statues. Mrs. Tiffin was an inmate of the Convent.



MADAME d'YOUVILLE.

Foundress of the Order of the Sisters of Charity, Ville Marie; born 1701, died 1771.

for ten years in the capacity of boarder, and the many acts of her generosity to the Church, her exemplary life and love of the poor, endeared her to all who knew her; especially was she loved by the Sisters with whom she had been for so long. The Sisters are weighed down with sorrow at her death, which occurred on Tuesday last, and say that in 200 years such a benefactress to their Order was never known.

The poor in charge of the Sisters of the Grey Nunnery are cared for well; their life is made as happy as possible, and employment suited to their powers is given them, so that time passes pleasantly; and if they are old when they come to die, they are surrounded by every bodily comfort, and by the care of the good nuns and the good chaplain; every office for their spiritual welfare is performed.

The foundress of the Order of Grey Nuns was M^{re}. d'Youville, a lady of noble family. This saintly lady, when in the prime of her life, gave up the pleasures of this world and devoted herself to the arduous task of establishing a home which should be a shelter for the destitute. Her efforts to carry out this good work were met with the most violent and undeserved opposition and persecution, her own family being as bigoted as the rest.

OBITUARY.

THE LATE MR. DANIEL SHEA.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of one of the oldest and most highly respected inhabitants of St. Ann's ward, in the person of the late Mr. Daniel Shea. The sad event took place on the sixth instant. Some two years

ago Mrs. Shea—the deceased's beloved wife—a lady of most generous and kindly disposition, went to her eternal reward. Two sons and one daughter are left to lament the loss of both those good and model parents. The late Mr. Shea was widely known for his liberality and generosity in the donations he ever made to all Irish Catholic objects, as well as in the case of every charitable cause that appealed to his ever warm heart and open hand. The funeral, which took place on Sunday afternoon last, was one of the largest seen for years in the parish wherein he had made his home. It was attended by a great number of Montreal's leading citizens, as well as by hundreds of the deceased's particular friends. The chief mourners were Messrs. Michael and Patrick Shea (sons of the deceased), D. Phelan (son-in-law), and the following relatives: Messrs. M. McMahon, E. M. Mahon, P. Brennan, W. J. Brennan, Jos. Brennan, M. Brennan and J. Sullivan. Among others present were noticed Hon. J. J. Curran, Hon. J. McShane, Ald. Kennedy, Ald. Nolan, ex-Ald. Cunningham, ex-Ald. Tansey, ex-Ald. Conroy, ex-Ald. Donovan, T. Bowes, P. Carroll, B. Tausey, J. Power, A. Finn, T. O'Connor, T. J. Quinlan, P. Kenny, Jos. Johnston, John Kane, D. Kiely, W. E. Finn, T. More, J. Slattery, P. O'Rourke, Jas. Griffin, P. O'Reilly, Jos. Phelan, M. Casey, W. J. McCaffrey, J. Murray, D. Gallery, J. Gallery, P. Kenehan, Dr. E. J. C. Kennedy, Rev. J. D. McGee of St. Laurent College, etc.

On Monday morning, at 8 o'clock, a solemn Requiem Mass was offered up in St. Patrick's Church for the repose of the soul of the deceased, at which Rev. Father Quinlan officiated, assisted by Rev. Fathers McCallen and Fahey. The choir was largely augmented for the occasion, there being representatives in attendance from all the choirs of the Irish Catholic churches in the city, as a mark of respect to the son of the deceased, Mr. P. Shea, who is the organist of St. Ann's Church.

The funeral arrangements were in charge of Mr. Wm. Tracey, undertaker, of Inspector street.

To the members of Mr. Shea's family, and to his many warm friends, we extend the humble tribute of our deep and sincere sympathy; and we feel that in expressing this heart-felt regret we are merely voicing the sentiments of hundreds of our readers. With the Church that he loved so well, we add, "May his soul rest in peace."

FRANKIE LOUGHMAN.

We desire to convey our sincere and deep-felt sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Loughman, on the sad bereavement that has come to them in the loss of their only son, a bright and promising little boy. The death took place at 180 Versailles street, in this city, on the 3rd instant. Frankie, the hope and joy of his parents, has gone before to prepare the way for those who loved him. We can heartily sympathize with Mr. and Mrs. Loughman, as do all their many friends in Montreal.

Lines written on the death of Frankie Loughman, who died July 3rd, 1894:

Dear playful babe, sweet innocent,
By thy Creator kindly lent
A little while to ease the smart
Of her who loved thee in her heart.

Why fly, my boy, her longing arms?
Why hide in death's embrace thy charms?
My love, I fear this world for thee
Was fraught too full of misery.

Thou could'st not bear thy pouting lip
Should of the cup of sorrow sip;
Nor thy dear bosom bear the blast
Which, cold and cheerless, whirled past.
This dreary world disgusted then,
You turned aside from danger's den
And closed thine artless, mild, blue eyes,
To open them in thy native skies.

'Tis true, or thou would'st ne'er resign
Thy mother's love, sweet baby mine.

But 'tis thy Maker's just decree,
To snatch thee hence away from me.
His will be done, farewell, my boy,
Thy father's hope, thy mother's joy.
All claim on thee I now resign,
Ascend to God, sweet baby mine.

A cathedral is being built in honor of St. Vincent de Paul at Tunis, on the very spot where the saint was sold as a slave in 1605.

Dr. French-Mullen, owing to ill health, has declined to stand as Redmondite candidate for South Dublin. Haviland Burke has been selected in his place.

Cheap Sale of a Bankrupt Stock of Furniture going on just now at F. Lapointe's, 1551 St. Catherine Street. Open every evening. Tell your Friends about it. Street Cars pass the Door.