

The True Witness and Catholic Chronicle.

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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. I heartily bless those who encourage this excellent work.

PAUL, Archbishop of Montreal.

SATURDAY.....JANUARY 26, 1901

NOTES OF THE WEEK

REPRESENTATION AT QUEBEC.

Wherefore so much secrecy, why so much silence in regard to the representation of the Irish Catholic element in our Provincial Cabinet? We are very anxious to get at the facts, and the right facts, in connection with this matter. A few we know already; but they are of a general kind, and do not afford us any information whereon we could base a calculation for the future. What we already know amounts to about this: The Irish element has always had representation in the Quebec Cabinet, until the Marchand Government came in; the Parent Government has not, as yet, given any signs of rectifying the omission of its predecessor; that a minister, without a portfolio, in the present Cabinet, is an Irish Catholic representative; that he possesses the necessary qualifications cannot be denied. Some weeks ago, an influential body of Irish Catholics waited on Premier Parent to ask that Hon. Dr. Guerin be given a portfolio; that the Premier made answer that "he would comply with their request at the earliest possible opportunity." So far nothing has been done in the matter.

THE HOLY YEAR.—It will be remembered that a couple of weeks ago we found it necessary to treat in language somewhat severe, the publication of a certain despatch from Rome, in the "Star," to the effect that the Pope intended extending the Holy Year Jubilee for six months, in order to reap the pecuniary benefits of so many pilgrimages. It is with pleasure that we now publish the following despatch, which appeared in the same organ a few days ago:—

"New York, Jan. 14.—It is said here that a despatch from Rome, which originally appeared in the "Sun," stating that the Holy Year had been extended for the purpose of increasing the Papal revenue, is unauthorized and incorrect. The Holy Year was extended for six months for the sole purpose of allowing pilgrims from distant lands to make the journey to Rome and obtain the spiritual indulgences granted during the jubilee. The question of revenue had nothing to do with the extension."

ST. PATRICK'S CHIMES.—We have heard it suggested that in view of the entire renovation of St. Patrick's Church, the magnificence of its internal decorations, the richness of its paintings, its windows, its altars, its organ, and all its varied appointments, it would be in accord with the whole sacred edifice, to have a complete chime of bells in its tower. There is no question that the idea is a timely, important and, in every sense, good one. Needless to dwell upon the functions of the Church bell; it rings for our baptism, it peals forth at our marriage, it tells for our funeral. It is the one great and universally understood tongue, which proclaims its summons in ringing notes, and challenges the attention of a dis-

tracted world. It invites us to pray; it announces the hours of Mass and Vespers; it has its share in almost every action of our lives, from the cradle to the tomb. The true value of the bell is only recognized when its presence is missed, as, for example, when on Good Friday its voice is hushed.

If, then, the bell is of such vital importance to a Church, what would not be a chime of well-tuned bells? Their first very canticle of joy on the occasion of their blessing could be heard all over the city. Men and women who never think of God are awakened to a sense of their neglected duties the moment the Church bell announces some special hour of prayer. Up there in the cold they swing, and they offer up an unceasing hymn of devotion to God. What tender memories such a chime would stir into life: what bright hopes for the future in its silvery sounds! But what is the use to moralize, let us first get the bells and then we can all rejoice in the sounds—at morning, at noon, and at eve. Volumes could be written on this subject, but, for this issue, we will simply repeat that the suggestion is a splendid one, and we hope to hear the Glorias of next Christmas played upon the chimes of St. Patrick's.

YOUNG MARTYRS.—We have long been accustomed to certain historical pictures, which years ago served to convey to our young minds an idea of the horrible treatment of Catholic children by the Chinese. We always had a feeling that these pictures were somewhat exaggerated, and merely created for the purpose of illustrating the barbarism of China's paganism. But the following account of recent events within the Celestial Empire would tend to make us believe in the truthfulness of such pictures:—

"Many terrible reports have come from China of late, but perhaps none containing such fearful details as those set forth in the latter of a Sister of Charity with regard to the massacre of the innocents at Wantung. She tells how about a hundred little boys had taken refuge there when the place was attacked and fired. The children with two Brothers sought a high terrace, and there defended themselves for several hours, at the same time witnessing the horrible massacre of between three and four hundred Christians. The church was set on fire and as the boys were being roasted, they were to descend from the terrace. Nearly all were killed, but a few broke through, and, led by a Brother, escaped to the orphanage outside the city at Sha-La. There they begged for help from the Legations, but none could be sent, and all were killed, the place being burnt a couple of days later. The little fellows behaved heroically, refusing to apostatize, despite all threats. This noble conduct on the part of the young recalls the fidelity shown amidst tortures by the early martyrs of the Church."

ENGLISH TEA-DRINKERS.—Statistics regarding the habits of a people, the customs of a country, or the amounts expended yearly in any particular branch, are generally interesting; decidedly the following are so:—

"To-day, when dozens of hard working men are dying in the North of England from the horrible effects of beer poisoning, it is interesting,

especially for total abstainers, to learn that during the year 1900 the enormous quantity of 259,000,000 lbs. of tea was consumed in the United Kingdom. In the first year of the nineteenth century our people used only 23,000,000 lbs. This argues well for the charms of the "cup which cheers but not inebriates." It is, however, very sad to learn that owing to the increase of the duty on tea during the last year a vast amount of coarse, bad stuff has been bought by the people of the poorer classes, so true it is that whatever is imposed upon us by way of extra burden falls heaviest upon the shoulders of the poor man. Circumstances render it almost impossible for him to obtain even a cup of pure tea."

What is here said of England is equally applicable in Canada.

ABOUT OUR PARISHES.

ST. GABRIEL'S PARISH.—The good natured and earnest pastor of this large parish, Rev. Father O'Meara, is much amused at the manner in which he has been besieged, of late, with inquiries about unclaimed fortunes which are now waiting owners in the neighboring republic and in England. We have published two communications in this connection during the past month.

LATE FATHER O'DONNELL.—The boys of St. Mary's parish tendered a beautiful tribute to the memory of their late pastor, Rev. P. F. O'Donnell, in the parish Church, when they assisted at and rendered the musical portion of the solemn Requiem Mass, which was held on Thursday. The service was the offering of the fathers and boys of the parish school. It was most imposing and attracted a large attendance of the parishioners.

A NORTHERN IRISH PARISH.—Now and again we hear the remark that are long our fellow-countrymen in the Northeastern portion of the city will make a request that a new parish be organized. There is no doubt that, during the past five or six years our people have been moving in that direction, and that at present they may be counted by the hundreds while previous to that period they represented only a corporal's guard.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.—This estimable organization is doing good work in a most unostentatious manner in our midst. From time to time little whispers of their generous and practical endeavors on behalf of their members reach us. A feature of the organization, and a most acceptable one, is the choral section organized by Prof. Shea, organist and director of St. Ann's choir.

FATHER LECLAIR.—In connection with the recent Catholic High School entertainment, a most interesting speech was delivered by Rev. Father Leclair. For nearly twenty years Father Leclair has been president of the Canadian College, in Rome. Prior to his appointment to that high post of honor, he had been connected with St. Patrick's. It is a remarkable fact that there has always been a French-Canadian priest whom the summons at any hour found ready, exercising the functions of his holy ministry on behalf of the Irish Catholic people of St. Patrick's.

ST. ANTHONY'S CHOIR.—The able and efficient director of this choir, Mr. E. F. Casey, a former conductor of the choir of the parent Irish Church, St. Patrick's, has succeeded in successfully organizing a band of vocalists which it would be most difficult to surpass. On a recent Sunday we saw the pleasure of assisting at High Mass, and were much impressed by the artistic manner in which a well known work of a distinguished master was interpreted. Miss Donovan, the clever organist, also renders good service. Besides her, she is an enthusiastic worker. St. Anthony's has reason to be proud of its choir.

AT ST. ANN'S.—The Young Men's Society of this parish are now preparing for their annual election of officers with all their usual enthusiasm and vigor. This organization has done good work in the past in keeping alive the flame of Irish patriotism. Following up its usual custom of staging a sterling Irish drama on the occasion of the celebration of Ireland's national festival, the dramatic section will put on the boards at the Monument National, one of Mr. Jas. Martin's sterling Irish dramas "The Pride of Kilarney." It is said that this is one of the best productions from the pen of this talented author.

JUNIOR TEMPERANCE SENTINELS.—The work of organization of boys in St. Patrick's parish in the cause of total abstinence is progressing in a manner which must have good results. Already about 100 boys have enrolled themselves, under the name of the St. Patrick's Junior Total Abstinence Society. At an entertainment given this week, under the direction of the enthusiastic director of the society, Rev. Father McGrath, abundant testimony was given to show that the boys are much interested in the undertaking. Mr. C. A. McDonnell assisted at the entertainment, and, at the request of the director of the Society, delivered a brief address, in which he pointed

out the many advantages which boys who practised total abstinence enjoyed in every walk of life.

THE EUCHE PARTY.—The second progressive euche party, held under the auspices of the Ladies of Charity of St. Patrick's parish, was a magnificent success. At the fifty tables, which were artistically arranged in St. Patrick's Hall, were seated the representatives of a large number of families, and the scene from the stage was most picturesque. The ladies' committee were evidently well pleased, that so many of the parishioners responded to their call. Refreshments were served during the evening.

The successful players who captured the handsome prizes were:—Ladies: First prize, Miss A. Reynolds; second prize, Miss Ledetour; consolation Mrs. McGillivray. Gentlemen: First prize, Mr. J. H. Kelly; second prize, Mr. H. Ryan; consolation, Mr. Bernard.

THE DUKE OF NORFOLK.

We had intended accompanying our Roman note on the Duke of Norfolk with certain comments in editorial form, the bright and spicy Catholic organ, the "Universe," gives us exactly what we had purposed writing. Consequently, we borrow the following statements from that publication:—

"For some months past unstinted praise has been bestowed by all sections of the English press upon the Duke of Norfolk, the lay head of the Catholics of England. Slowly but surely the character of this truly great man is being apprehended by his fellow-countrymen. The mists of bigotry and prejudice have long blinded the majority of non-Catholics in England to the real worth of the Duke of Norfolk."

"It may be that there are even some Catholics who do not appraise sufficiently highly one of the most remarkable and loyal—one of the most devoted and sincere members of our Church produced by England in the nineteenth century. Political views and convictions are, no doubt, responsible for this defect of judgment. 'The Universe,' however, is now regarding the Earl Marshal simply as a Catholic and not as a politician. More than once we have felt ourselves compelled to differ widely from His Grace on political questions—as, for instance, upon the granting of Home Rule to Ireland; a question which seems clear to us of vital importance to the future of our empire. But no matter how extensive our political differences we have always entertained the conviction that in the person of the Duke of Norfolk the Catholics of England possess a member and a leader of whom any duty might justly feel proud."

"At the call of duty His Grace has ever shown himself ready to make any sacrifice which the good of his country demanded. When other men, younger and more robust, preferred the comfort of their clubs to the hardship of the veil, the Duke set a fine example of pure patriotism when he resigned his position as Postmaster-General—an office, by the way, in which he had been a signal success—and made his way with all possible expedition to the front."

"We hear much in these opening days of the twentieth century of the danger incident to the spread of luxury among our people. No doubt this evil is gaining ground. But why? Because the leaders of society have failed in the performance of their obvious duty—to wit, that of putting before us an example of pure living and moderate comfort to be imitated by their inferiors. In this connection the example of the Duke of Norfolk has been invariably before us. He has never allowed himself to be swayed by the temptations of the world, either in dress or living, departed from the golden path of strict moderation; a simplicity almost Spanish in its severity would seem to have been the dominant feature of his life. Self-contained and reserved in public, His Grace has borne in his private life the trials which God has been pleased to send him in the humblest submission to the Divine will."

"As we write these lines the Duke of Norfolk is in Rome, in company with our Cardinal Archbishop, many of our bishops, and a numerous band of pilgrims from the ranks of the devoted laity. For days past our great English dailies have drawn public attention to the numerous private Sovereigns accorded the Duke by the Sovereigns of Europe. Those conversations His Grace has been before His Holiness the true state of Catholicism in this country and its future prospects. He has also, without doubt, given Leo XIII. much valuable information as to the lamentable war in South Africa, and the nature of the causes which led up to it. For these services the whole English nation is His Grace's debtor. The Catholic body in England is not less beholden to him."

"In fact, it seems clear to the 'Universe' that the time has now arrived for the Catholics of England to give some tangible expression to their feelings of gratitude and respect for the Duke of Norfolk. We mention this matter with the full conviction that there are thousands ready to act upon it in every part of the country."

AN ANTI-CLERICAL SOARE.

Anti-clerical soars seem to be the order of the day in France; some of them are important, others are like that which is described in the following paragraph—are contemptible. The policeman story connected with this latest vicious anti-clerical move is too good to be lost. The story runs thus:—

"The latest anti-clerical scare is an edict put forth by certain small

mayors forbidding in their respective localities the wearing of ecclesiastical costume in the streets. The priests attached to the parishes of these localities, as a matter of necessity, escape the consequences of these most stupid edicts. But if an ecclesiastic of a neighboring town or village is seen in cassock in any of those places where the cassock in the street is under an interdiction, he is liable to be the prey of the first policeman he meets. The other day a Paris journalist connected with the newspaper, the "Matin," conceived the idea of dressing himself as a priest and of going to Kremlin-Bicetre in order to get M. Thomas' edict put in execution on himself. For this purpose he hired an ecclesiastical costume for the price of sixteen francs, which in itself was not difficult. It was less easy to get rid of his moustaches, but this too he managed to do. Thus equipped, he went to Kremlin-Bicetre. He wandered about there a whole afternoon, and came in the way of as many police agents as possible, but without being able to attract the notice of any."

His last almost in despair of cause he attacked two at a street corner and said: 'Be good enough to tell me whether the edict of the mayor of this commune concerning the wearing of ecclesiastical costume is still in force?' 'Yes, Monsieur le Cure,' was the reply. 'Why do you ask?' 'Because for the last two hours I have been walking about here in priest's dress and have not met with the slightest molestation.' 'I was hoping,' said the pseudo priest to himself, 'that one of the two would say: To be sure, but this too, you know, Monsieur le Cure, come with me at once to the police station.' Instead, the agents simply replied: 'It is not because our mayor is an idiot that we should be idiots too.' 'The journalist of the "Matin" in priest's dress shook hands with the honest policemen and went away saying: 'There are still honest men at Kremlin-Bicetre.'"

A SCENE AT MONTMARTRE

We have had several very interesting accounts of the manner in which the passing of the nineteenth and the birth of the twentieth century were celebrated, in various important centres of Catholic devotion, but none of them are more graphic and touching than the following pen-picture of that memorable mid-night scene in the Basilica of Montmartre, Paris:—

"As a rule it is only in the Basilica of Montmartre and the Church of Notre Dame des Victoires that people assemble to watch, or rather to pray, the old year out and the new in. But on this last 31st December at midnight every church and almost every chapel in Paris was alight and full of people. At the beautiful Jesuit Chapel of the Gesu, in the Rue de Sevres, the affluence was considerable. At certain of the churches in rich fashionable quarters, as the Madeleine and St. Augustine, fashion and worldly elegance were the order of the day. Not so in the great church on the Paris hill in the Basilica on the Mount of Martyrs. There no mundane element made its way. There at half-past ten every available place was taken. Short allocutions, invocations, and the singing of psalms and anthems filled the time till about half-past eleven, when the nave became suddenly illuminated with countless lights. This was when the night adorers and the members of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament were lighting their tapers preparatory to the great procession which was to wind round the church."

This great procession wound round the building twice to the singing of the Litany of the Sacred Heart, to the effect that the "Misereere Nobis" seemed the great refrain echoing through the great vaults during the last hour of the year 1900. Mgr. Montaguini di Mirabello, the Papal Nuncio's secretary, carried the Blessed Sacrament. The cortege was headed by General de Charette, carrying his now historic banner of the Sacred Heart, still stained with the blood of the patriots of 1870. Mgr. Leroy, Bishop of Orléans and Superior-General of the Fathers of the Holy Ghost, brought up the rear. The procession was over and the Blessed Sacrament was again on its throne of light over the high altar, and the Father, Pere Lemius, Superior of the Chaplains, had just time to say a word or two appropriate to the moment when the great clock began striking twelve. As it struck, all knees were bowed; the movement of prostration was profound; complete silence reigned. When the prostrate multitude had risen, another year and another century had begun. Shortly afterwards Mgr. Montaguini and three other priests were celebrating Mass at different altars. Each had at least half-an-hour's work at the altar-rails in distributing Holy Communion to the faithful. This fact in itself speaks eloquently."

CATHOLICITY IN ENGLAND.

We take the following article from the "Pall Mall Gazette":—

The Roman Catholics of Great Britain have made for ever memorable in the chronicles of their Church the closing of the nineteenth century by the completion, at the cost of nearly \$700,000, of the shell of the great cathedral at Westminster, without doubt their most stupendous material creation since the days of the Reformation.

The dawn of the century brought with it but little prospect of promise of so propitious a close. True, Bishop Douglass, who was Vicar-Apostolic of the London district from 1790 to 1812, describing the effect of the Relief Act of 1791, wrote: "The Catholic religion is now beginning to flourish, and as public sermons and services in the churches are now

permitted, many conversions are the result." The cheerful view of things was due, doubtless, in no little measure, not only to the passing of the Relief Act in question, but to the presence in the country of some 10,000 emigrant priests driven out of France by the French Revolution, and towards whose support a sum of £41,000 was collected in the Protestant churches throughout England.

Bishop Poynter, who succeeded Bishop Douglass, in a report sent to the Holy See about the year 1815, concerning the position of Catholics in England and Wales, estimated the total number of the clergy at 88, and that of the Catholic population at 69,000. At that time England and Wales had been parcelled out by the Holy See into four dioceses—the London, Western, Midland, and Northern—each of which was appointed a Vicar-Apostolic. Of colleges and middle schools at the beginning of the century there were certainly not more than ten, and of State-recognized primary schools not one. In Scotland the outlook was not rosy. That country was divided into two districts—the Highlands and the Lowlands—each ruled each by a Vicar-Apostolic. There were forty priests, about a dozen chapels, two small seminaries, and a Catholic population of some 30,000 souls. In 1850 there came about the re-establishment of the Hierarchy in England. The number of Catholic churches and chapels was then 587. The number of recognized primary schools had increased to 166. In 1900 the number of churches and chapels is 1,536, that of the clergy 2,887; the number of certified elementary schools is some 1,400, with a roll call of over 300,000 children.

Taking the number of children in the schools in proportion to the whole population, the proportion must be, according to the average generally in force, six times more than enrolled in the schools; this would then give the Roman Catholic population of England and Wales as 1,800,050. The increase of Roman Catholicism has been most notable in Lancashire and Glasgow. In the whole of Lancashire in 1804 the Catholic population was estimated at 50,000; it now exceeds 600,000. A century ago it might almost have been said that there were no Catholics in Glasgow; there was but one priest, and a poor little disused building in the Calton for a chapel. Now there are 110 churches and chapels, 228 priests, and a Roman Catholic population of 180,000.

In these statistics there is no mention of the almost bewildering number and variety of religious communities of women engaged in educational and charitable pursuits. In England alone there are at least sixty different communities numbering some 2,000 nuns. Of Roman Catholic charitable institutions in England for the destitute and homeless, sick and infirm, young and old, there are over 200, wholly supported by voluntary contributions, the total number of inmates of which certainly exceeds 15,000.

Turning to British North America, including Newfoundland, the progress is even more remarkable. In 1800 there were one Bishop, sixty priests, fifty primary schools, and a Roman Catholic population of 137,000. To-day there are seven archbishops, nineteen bishops, 2,400 priests, twenty seminaries, with 2,400 students; the university, with 600 students; 5,079 other educational establishments, with a roll-call of about 280,000 children, and a Roman Catholic population of 2,385,000.

A D'SASTROUS FIRE.

One of the most disastrous fires which has occurred in Montreal for many years took place on Wednesday evening. It is said that it started in the

of M. Saxe & Sons, wholesale clothing manufacturers, corner of St. Peter and Lemoine streets. The loss is roughly estimated at from \$2,000,000 to \$2,500,000, before it was gotten under control Thursday morning.

The block bounded by St. Sacrament, St. Peter, St. Paul and St. Nicholas streets was swept clean. Included in this block was the splendid Board of Trade building, erected in 1894, at a cost, building and site, of \$605,000.

St. Peter street, between Lemoine and St. Paul streets, was swept clean. The flames jumped across St. Paul street and burned a hole through to Commissioners street.

It was a particularly difficult fire to fight. Outside of the Board of Trade building all the structures burned were of antiquated construction, added to this were the narrow streets and immense crowds of people which greatly hampered the work of the firemen.

The fire spread with lightning-like rapidity, aided by the intense heat of the nature of the stocks contained in the premises burned.

At present it is impossible to give any reliable details regarding the losses sustained by the large number of merchants who occupied buildings in this busy centre of trade. Hundreds of clerks, the out of employment, and business has been practically suspended for the time in this quarter of Montreal.

Board of Trade building, we are informed, is insured for \$400,000. Board of Trade building, tenants' losses estimated at \$100,000, fairly well covered by insurance.

YOUNG IRISHMEN.

The Young Irishmen's L. and B. Association held one of their delightful mid-winter socials at their hall, on Friday evening. Mr. M. A. Phelan, the talented young president, presided, and delivered a neat, opening address. Songs, recitations and instrumental music were indulged in, in which the members of the association, for the most part, were prominent. Everybody present was delighted.

QUEEN

On Tuesday's hourly expected land's great sorrowfully lamented dead. Thousands with their accursedly giving up to the important transpiring at the news of the not event reached bishop gave order until five in the of all the Catholic toll a solemn knoll'clock the first "Bourdon" went winter air to bells to join in bote. As the mighty waves of the booming of sea," the ation busy was arrested rapidly all eyes picture that the dead Queen. the bell that the thousands he all that was taken tongue proclaim understood by the race, the sad ne-

At this moment Queen Victoria the throne of God sovereign; in the ents, very probable. We must generations—to ber their years b to find those who her predecessors for sixty odd years, occupied a of the realm will the money of the on that of the "Victoria Dei Gen. Every fact that we hourly a out ever dreaming on represented— become a "change" that cannot but tive of some won greatest sovereignty with the century marvellous reign. Of all the trib memory of the d mind, none was grander, than the Pontiff, who dinal Rampa. England was dea how we could m memorate such all-absorbing ever following the str by the Holy Fa in our columns so portant episcopal tributes the Catholic thought paid to the mon Queen.

tion of her wor her personal char reign, as daught ther, we would r the entire history century. Such w the impossibility circumstances, con confine ourselves of those that hav principal members archy, and the le zens of Canada.

ARCHBISHOP learning of the de Mgr. Bégis, Arch before the following Governor-General: "The Archbishop His Excellency, the transmit to the expressat of wh with that of all the faithful on the occasion of the Very Gracious Ma toria, who shed li throne by all her sorrow and mother. Her memory will in the hearts of a lacts."

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And now she is soon to write her speak her eulogy; can say, that she ple of public and d an age when the f spiciously practiced is too often forgot While her position public, her personal domestic.

"Naturally Victo youthful days some of her time. To her not increase or har ing years. They are most disappeared. E time ago, to Ireland