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EPISCOPAL APPROBATION.

If the English speaking Catholics of Montreal and of this Province consult 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.

WEDNESDAY.....NOVEMBER 17, 1897

GOOD TIDINGS

It has been authoritatively announced that the Government of Great Britain will introduce, at the next session of Parliament, a measure of local government for Ireland. This is, indeed, good news. It is not to be supposed for an instant that the friends of Ireland will jubilate much over the prospect of what the bill will contain, or the scope of the measure after it shall have run the gauntlet of the committee of the whole House. But, however meagre may be the measure, it must be productive of good results and pave the way for the first triumph of Irish aspirations. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain announced, some time ago, that Home Rule is a dead issue. No doubt, the wish was father to the thought. Never was statesman more astray in his diagnosis of a case. Man proposes, but God disposes. That is as true to day as when the words were first penned. Mr. Chamberlain and his colleagues may imagine that they can dish their opponents by substituting a measure of local government for the heart's desire of the Irish race at home and abroad, but the carrying out of their idea will simply hasten the hour when the representatives of the people will meet in College Green to legislate for the wants of the nation. Anticipating the measure now promised, Mr. John E. Redmond, in the October number of the Nineteenth Century Review, deals with what such a measure should comprise. He points out the glaring defects of the present Grand Jury system, the inefficiency of the Board of Poor Law Guardians, and the lack of popular representation, in the true sense of the word, in the machinery now existing, for the administration of local government affairs in Ireland. He dwells upon what should be done to correct the abuses of the present system, and concludes his able article as follows: "But all this is saying, in other words, that Home Rule, or national self-government, will be the necessary complement of local self-government. And that is the simple truth. All roads, it is said, lead to Rome. Whatever is done in Irish affairs, or if nothing be done, and stagnation is the order of the day, the government of Ireland, by means of a National Parliament, and an executive responsible to it, becomes equally the inevitable solution of the Irish question." The position could not be more clearly or truthfully stated. It is not likely, all the same, that stagnation will be allowed to take place; certain it is, that some attempt will be made to place Irish local self-government upon a basis approaching the present condition of things in England. Apart altogether from the benefit such a measure must, of necessity, confer upon the people in giving them a direct voice in the management of their local matters, the councils will be so many training schools for the representatives of the people. Then they will learn the duties and responsibilities of office, and be prepared to discharge the functions of parliamentary representation, when the proper time comes, that will call many of them to Dublin; there to legislate for the whole island. In one of the last speeches delivered in England by the then Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Hon. Sir John Macdonald, he

stated that the Government of Canada had filled the offices of Wardens, etc., and had learned in that school the first lessons in the working of governmental machinery, enabling them to become useful members of our local legislatures and not unfrequently to shine in the larger arena of the Dominion Parliament.

Such will be the case in the Old Land. With local self-government, an impetus will be given to the Home Rule movement that no British Ministry can resist, and the final triumph of the cause cannot be long delayed, since the working of a local government act shall have proved the ability of the people when once trusted, even in a limited degree, to work out the salvation of their country. The first effect of a local government measure, will be to wipe out the differences that still exist, but are happily now disappearing, amongst the different sections of the Home Rule party. Those differences have been the greatest menace to the popular cause. Home Rule is not dead, Mr. Chamberlain and his associates well know that, and Home Rule can only die through the apathy of Ireland's friends abroad. The contending parties in Ireland did much, not to kill the aspiration for Irish national government in the breasts of Irishmen in foreign lands, but they chilled the warm sympathies and dried up the sources of financial revenues, necessary to keep the movement in active operation. Those who wish to see the triumph of the cause in the early future must not give aid and comfort to the enemy by apathy or lack of generosity.

Today an appeal is being made by Hon. Edward Blake, on behalf of the Parliamentary Party. Already the movement is in a fair way to be most successful. In answer to the appeal of our Irish Canadian champion in the Parliament of Great Britain, Toronto has made a good showing at the first meeting in the following figures:—

His Grace the Archbp. of Toronto	\$ 300
Sir Frank Smith	1,000
Hon. Edward Blake	1,000
Hugh Ryan	1,000
Eugene O'Keefe	500
Thomas Long and Brother	500
Vicar-General McCann	100
Rev. F. Ryan	100
Rev. J. L. Hand	100
Very Rev. Dean Harris, LL.D.	100
James J. Foy, Q.C.	100
M. J. Haney	200
John Ryan	200

That is a good beginning. Soon the other cities of Canada will be heard from, and in the good old cause, for which Irishmen in this city have done so much in the past, they will not doubt be found in the front rank once more testifying their devotion to the land of their forefathers, giving evidence of their faith in the final triumph of right, and showing that as citizens of this land they appreciate, as it so fully deserves, the generous devotion of the gentleman who has severed every tie here to be at the post of duty in the hour of Ireland's need.

THE CATHOLIC PRESS AUXILIARY.

It is not the custom of newspapers to notice the communications of anonymous correspondents, but, occasionally, it may be well to advert to the subject of such. Last week someone signing himself "A Reader" addressed us a letter in which he states:—

"I was more than surprised at not seeing in the True Witness of this week the great sermon preached by Rev. Father Pardon, S.J., at the Jesuits, Sunday evening, 7th Nov., on the Catholic Church before the Tribunal of Reason. I read it both in the Star and Gazette of Monday, and expected the True Witness—the Catholic Paper—would at least have given it some prominence; at least the best part of the sermon, if not all."

It is better to be perfectly frank in dealing with such matters. Needless to say, our columns are always open to the utterances of such worthy and eminent divines as the Reverend Father Pardon. Indeed it will afford this paper the greatest pleasure to publish sermons from the pulpits of any of our numerous English-speaking Catholic churches. But we are not in a position to pay competent stenographers to give reports that may be relied upon for exactness, which is essential, especially when the sermon of a Catholic preacher appears in the columns of a paper claiming to be Catholic. The secular press is provided with a staff commensurate with the requirements of daily papers, but frequently the synopsis of a sermon on matters of doctrine is inaccurate. A Catholic paper cannot run the risk of using such resumes. If a preacher, or any one of the faithful who has heard his sermon, deem it important that it should get circulation amongst Catholic readers, it is surely not too much to ask that a faithful report shall be furnished to the Catholic organ, when it will be printed and published as a matter of duty as well as of pleasure, thus advancing the cause of religion on sure lines. The only safe course is to be found in the furnishing of the manuscript or handing in a synopsis made by a competent dealer

in the paper. If the writer is a Catholic, he will find himself in a position to do so, and thus afford, and surely no one can complain.

Whilst on this subject, it may be well to revert once more to a matter we have referred to more than once. Nothing is more important than that Catholics should be informed of the progress of the Church, in the different sections of the community. For the readers of the True Witness, in particular, the various movements that are going on in the neighboring Catholic centres of the Archdiocese, as well as in the Dominion generally. Now, if the pastors of different parishes would kindly send us, if not weekly, at least every now and again, brief accounts of what is going on in their parishes, invaluable information would be gathered not only interesting to the readers of to-day but valuable for the chronicler of the future. It is the mission of the True Witness to devote its pages to the cause of Catholicity, and to be a mine from which those who may of some future day undertake to write of the rise and progress of our co-religionists, of their joys and their sorrows, their trials and triumphs, in this section of the American continent, may fill many an instructive page. It is to be hoped that despite the cares and labors of their ministry, many of our clergy may find time to do something in answer to this appeal, thus rendering a valuable service to the Church and its adherents, in places far distant, in many instances, from the scenes of their sacerdotal functions.

THE SECULAR PRESS AND CATHOLIC NEWS.

Too much stress cannot be laid upon the fact that when Catholics want to read authentic news on Catholic subjects it is to the Catholic and not the secular press that they should go.

Out of the numberless instances which could be cited in support of this contention one of more than ordinary prominence has recently occurred. The secular press in Canada as well as in the United States, ever on the look out for something sensational, no matter how solemn or sacred, or how degraded and immoral the subject may be, published under flaring headlines a long article purporting to be the translation of the official report of Pontius Pilate to Emperor Tiberius of the Crucifixion of the Saviour and the events leading up to it. It was claimed that the document had just been discovered in the Vatican library; and the alleged translation of it was written with all the "smart" marshalling of details which mark the sensational articles by means of which the secular press works up its large circulation.

The document, it is needless to state, was a forgery, and it had not even the merit of novelty. It had already done duty on two different occasions—sufficient time having elapsed between the dates of their publication to serve the purpose of retracing the fabrication and printing it again as a "newly discovered" manuscript in the Vatican, of extraordinary value, and so forth. The custodian of the Vatican archives has been interrogated on the subject from various sources, and his reply has been the same as those of his predecessors when questioned on the same subject—the document alleged to have been found is a fabrication and forgery; the report of Pontius Pilate has never been found.

Our readers may rest assured that, if such an important document had been found in the Vatican library, it would be brought to the knowledge of the public, not through the columns of the sensation-hunting secular press, but through those of duly accredited Catholic newspapers.

It is to the Catholic Press, as we have said, that Catholics must look for authentic information on such important matters. Is it not time that this fact were realized by our people?

THE "STAR" UNMASKS ITSELF.

Notwithstanding the big headlines, the double column, the fancy border, and the extra large type in which the Montreal Star publishes a cablegram from its London correspondent to the effect that "the Pope's utterance on the Manitoba School settlement will be promulgated on Wednesday of this week," we state, for the benefit of our readers, that nothing of the kind will happen. The Holy Father's decision in the Manitoba School case will only be published through the ordinary channel—the Catholic pulpit—and not through the columns of the Montreal Star or any secular medium.

We are glad to notice that in its editorial on the cablegram in question the Montreal Star comes out in its true anti-Catholic colors. It says:—

That there is any probability whatever of Roman Catholic schools being re-established in Manitoba at the public expense may be regarded as hopeless. The great majority of the Canadian electorate is Protestant, and while many Canadian Protestants have shown themselves disposed to recognize the full constitutional rights of their Roman Catholic fellow countrymen, we doubt if they will be disposed to recognize the right of any foreign potentate, however

powerful, to interfere with the education of the children of this country.

Those who have read the A. P. A. and the P. P. A. speeches which have appeared in the newspapers from time to time will recognize in this "appellation" "foreign potentate," as applied to the Pope, a familiar designation. The passage quoted will have the effect of showing Catholics the real sentiments which the Montreal Star entertains in their regard. The revelation has not come too soon.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

JAMES R. SOVEREIGN, late Grand Master Workman, is not the first Sovereign who has been deposed.

An observer says that all young men think old men fools, but old men know that all young men are fools.

The song of the football player:
Snow, snow, beautiful snow,
Oh! how I wish elsewhere you'd go.

A FRIEND wants to know if there is any danger of the Klondike bursting. It is—those who go there.

NANSEW may be a very clever man, but, unlike the North Pole that he has been in search of, he can be reached.

ACCORDING to an authoritative English statement, there is danger of a bread famine in Europe before the next wheat crop is available.

WHAT about the Catholic High School? Is it not about time that something should be done in that important matter? Let us hear from some one on the subject.

"This is a pretty cool reception to receive," grumbled the visitor as he ascended the front steps in time to stop a fall of ice from the roof.

Now that we have been fully satisfied with stories of crimes why don't the daily papers give us some information about the harbor improvements?

NEW YORKERS do not seem to take kindly to the idea of an underground railway. To the uninitiated the thought of travelling through miles of tunnel is certainly not inviting.

THE English press are silent over Sir Wilfrid Laurier's mission to Washington. Like a whole lot of people nearer home, they are at a loss to decide what our versatile Premier is at.

THERE is a big cattle boom in Texas. It is said that, recently, five days sales aggregated \$2,000,000. This is explained by the scarcity of cattle in other States.

OTTAWA COLLEGE beat Montreal last Saturday at football in a gentlemanly game, and it looks as though the "Varsity" would carry off the honors in the Quebec Union for '97 as in '96.

THE news comes from London, Eng., that the struggle for the control of London's School Board is raging fiercely, and is growing more intense as the time for the elections approaches.

THE German Government have been defeated in ten consecutive bye-elections. This is ascribed to the growing unpopularity of the Emperor. The "fatherland" is becoming more democratic every day.

SOME ghoul has stolen bodies from the Chicago morgue, and this causes the Philadelphia Times to remark that Chicago is a town that no person "wants to be found dead in." The worm has turned at last.

It is stated that a Frenchman is prepared to abolish the silk worm and make a superior quality of silk by an artificial process. A cynic might remark that this is the age of the artificial, but the silk-worm is not yet dead.

THE rumor that the S.A.A.A. meditates asking the city for the lower half of Victoria Square as a site for a club house is unfounded. From actual measurement it is found that the pond would be too small for bathing purposes.

Now the weary householder sighs as he hunts out his dust-covered shovel, fishes his rubbers out of some corner, nails the thermometer on the parlor window and then resigns himself to a perusal of his coal bill, a truly pleasant contemplation.

By the way, is that prissight to come off? From the silence of the promoters it may be presumed that Canada will not be favored by the presence of the "scrappers," and it may be safely assumed that their absence will be a blessing.

THE proposal to build cinder paths for cyclists on the island highways is a good one and should be carried out. It will surely receive the support of the wheelmen and ought to receive the support of home owners. By taking the

road, the cyclist will find a most comfortable and healthy mode of travel. The possibility of finding down the winding roads who are passing on the country roads. As the wheelmen are to be charged toll the taxpayer need not fear that any extra burden will be placed on his shoulders.

An exchange, whose religious principles are not known to the world at large, remarks that unpleasant Sunday weather is an excellent excuse for non-attendance at church, but on a small figure for week day theatre engagements. How does he know?

THE effects of "yellow journalism" were apparent in Montreal one day last week when one of the evening papers brought in a verdict of guilty in the Rawdon murder case, when, as a matter of fact, the enquiry had been postponed. Evidently some people consider reliability an undesirable thing.

HENRY A. HICKS, of New York, elected Grand Master Workman, in succession to J. R. Sovereign, at Louisville, Ky., is a representative of the conservative element of the Order. He is a native American, forty-five years of age, married, and has had a connection of sixteen years with the organization.

Just before going to press a letter has reached us from Principal Robins, of the McGill Normal School, in which he takes exception to the comments made by the True Witness last week upon his recent speech in Toronto on educational matters in the province of Quebec. We shall attend to you, Mr. Principal, in our next issue.

EVERY admirer of political and moral questions, of consistent service in the cause of the welfare of the people, and every sympathizer with Home Rule for Ireland, will regret to hear that the health of Mr. Gladstone is at last breaking down. The veteran Liberal is the greatest statesman of the century.

THE falling snow further strengthened Montreal's position as the chief mudflat of the Dominion and is clearly reminiscent to any one who has ever been in Chicago. If the Ancient Mariner had ever set eyes on our city his wail might have been this instead of the original:
Mud, Mud, everywhere;
And not a place to step on.

THE Quebec Rugby Union is to be congratulated on their action in making a stand for clean football contests, by suspending the Ottawa City Football Club. It was a severe punishment, but it was well deserved, and ought to prove a wholesome lesson. The purpose of football is recreation not the extinction of the human race.

THE spectacle of our City Fathers making announcement that they intend to ask for further borrowing powers from the Legislature is a dismal one to the ratepayer. A correspondent suggests the opening of a municipal pawnshop where the city could hypothecate its goods and chattels at will and save the trouble of bothering the Legislature, whose members hardly feel any interest in money matters.

WHERE are the ambitious Irish-Catholics who are anxious to represent their wards in the City Council? It must be said that they are keeping remarkably quiet about their intentions. Hurry up! Let's hear from you! The time is propitious for your appearance. Don't wait until it's too late. The story of the hare and the tortoise makes good reading, but that kind of a race is not always a winning one to run.

THE Mayor of Ottawa deserves credit for the stand he has taken against indecent and objectionable posters. It would seem that in Ottawa, at least, such matters are better regulated than they are in Montreal. The civic world of the commercial metropolis of Canada looks with jaundiced eye while Montreal youth of both sexes are being corrupted under the plea that the vileness is licensed.

THE recent announcement, says an American exchange, of the establishment of a system of universal compulsory education in Russia proves to have been unfounded, and the great empire will remain in mental darkness. It is a frightful fact that not more than 3 or 4 per cent of the people of Russia can read or write, and that not 1 per cent can be reckoned educated in the ordinary meaning of that word.

As the reading of good literature improves and elevates the mind, the perusal of what is low and base degrades it. The newspapers of to-day cater to the taste of the majority of the people, and it is a sad commentary on the conditions of the public mind to notice what space is given in the daily press of Canada and the United States to sensationalism and the records of deeds, imaginary and real, which appeal to the animal nature in man. The fouler and more unnatural the act, the greater are the details pub-

lished. The more the mind is degraded, the more the low murders and other crimes will be described. On the contrary, to arouse curiosity and interest in such things and people may do immense harm. Evil will abound whilst the world exists, and there is no necessity of the press of the day aiding in its propagation.

If we were to judge by the report of the British Commissioners on Lunacy, just issued, it would appear that the whole world is going mad. The year ending with January 1 saw the population of the asylums in England and Wales increased by 2,919 over that of the year before, and the total is now 96,446, or 31.88 out of every 10,000 inhabitants, against 18.67 in 10,000 at the end of 1896.

UNDER the caption "Romanism in the Navy," the Herald and Presbyter, a San Francisco religious sheet, stated, on the authority of a minister of unquestioned standing, "that on Good Friday Catholic services were conducted on the USS. Oregon by a priest; that an order was issued forbidding the eating of meat on that day, and that thirty-four officers and men were punished for refusing to salute the priest as he left the ship." What a fearful crime! You shuddered when you read of it, didn't you? Terrible people, these Catholics! Wouldn't eat meat on Friday! Think of it! Ugh! Captain Barker, commander of the Oregon, in a letter to the Secretary of the Navy, denied emphatically that any officers had been punished for refusal to salute a priest and hinted that it would be a good plan for some people to attend to their own affairs.

The suggestion that the upper portion of Victoria Square should be given to the Grand Trunk Railway System as a site for general offices is not gaining anything in popular favor. A drawback which many of the principal cities on this continent have of recent years had to contend with is the congested state of their older sections. We have heard of no one who says that Montreal is suffering from a superabundance of breathing space down town, and it would not only be a mistake to block up what little there is, but such an act would be a public shame and an infringement on the rights of the poorer classes, who are unable to take advantage of suburban residences to secure fresh air. From a business point of view, the location of the G. T. R. head offices in a central district would, no doubt, prove beneficial and convenient. Their removal from Point St. Charles would be correspondingly harmful to the interest of that part of the city.

However, if a change is to be made, and the city, upon whom the Grand Trunk has some material claim, is called upon to donate a site, there is one available and suitable in the property of the Corporation lying on the western side of McGill street, between St. Paul and William streets. This site would meet all the requirements of the case; it is central, and at present is paying the city a revenue not at all proportionate to its area and value.

Another piece of land with which the people might part with equanimity is the "park" (so-called) immediately east of the Hay Market, and directly west of the other property.

Either of these sites would be convenient to the business section of the community.

In the event of the latter being chosen, the present Hay Market could be removed to some locality more convenient to the farmer, and the ground it now occupies converted into a park, or, what is better, a play-ground.

"ITALY THE FREE," it would appear, is not quite so prosperous as a certain class would wish the world to suppose. The Pall Mall Gazette in a recent issue has been telling some ugly truths about the condition of taxation in "Free Italy." It says:—

"They pay in taxation 20 per cent of their incomes, while Greece paid before the war only 14 per cent. Of the other countries considered heavily taxed, Holland and Portugal pay 13 per cent, France, Austria and Roumania 12, Spain 11, and Germany and Russia 10. Among the countries with light taxes are Great Britain, the people of which pay 6 per cent, the United States 5, and Canada 4. The seriousness of the Italian financial situation is increased by the poverty of the people. It has been computed that the average capital of each Italian is £100. This is a smaller amount than that owned by the people of any other country except Portugal and Roumania, where the average is £90, and Russia, which goes down to £60. England heads the list at £390, being followed by France at £250, and by the United States and Denmark at £230. Taxation in Italy has reached such a point that it is a common saying there that 'there is nothing untaxed except the air we breathe.' When the people are suffering under such a real and pressing grievance, to attempt to divert their attention by raising the religious question is mere childishness, not statesmanship."

This is the boasted freedom. The Italians are paying dearly for it. It is stated that the pay-roll of Greater New York will contain over 600,000 names, and yet, we venture the remark, there will be several right Democrats still looking