

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE. PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE True Witness Printing & Publishing Co. (LIMITED.) 253 St. James Street, Montreal, Canada. P. O. BOX 1138.

MS. and all other communications intended for publication or notice, should be addressed to the Editor, and all business and other communications to the Managing Director, TRUCK WAREHOUSE P. & P. Co., Ltd., P. O. Box 1138.

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.....DECEMBER 25, 1897

CHRISTMAS.

This is Christmas Day. What a host of "sweet affections and fond recollections," of gentle and kindly sentiments, cluster round it. For long ages the recurrence of this great festival has been celebrated with joyfulness and merry-making, with family reunions, and what is better than all, with the practice of charity towards the poor and needy with a view to securing that they, too, shall not lack the wherewithal to share the common sentiment of rejoicing on the anniversary of the birth of the Saviour of mankind. As to this last named point, we have already indicated how this solemn and sacred duty of ours to the poor might best be performed, how this pleasure of making others happy might be enjoyed, how what Goldsmith felicitously terms the "luxury of doing good" might most properly be indulged in.

Christmas well-wishing has been traced back to the song of the angels, "Peace on earth to men of good will!" just as the custom of making Christmas gifts has been traced to the offerings of the Magi. Whatever may have been their origin, both usages have been encouraged by the Church.

Some people are often puzzled as to what sort of Christmas gift they should present to friends and to members of their family. Recently we printed out the form that acceptable gifts motivated by a true spirit of charity might take. As to gifts to members of their family—to wives, or parents, or sisters, especially—perhaps the best form to be adopted would be that of a sheet of fancy note paper in which were written a few good resolutions, particularly one relating to some besetting sin, to be faithfully kept until the following Christmas. This sort of gift would also be very appropriate for New Year's Day.

THAT EDUCATION BILL.

To judge from the newspaper reports of it, the Education Bill introduced in the Legislative Assembly by the Government is a very mild measure, simply replacing the Superintendent of Public Instruction by a Minister of Education and making a few needed minor changes in regard to teachers' diplomas and salaries and to the Government grants to certain school districts, with the object of assisting schools which are too poor at present to furnish proper facilities for the efficient primary education of the children who attend them. In the few remarks he made in moving its first reading the Hon. Mr. Robidoux—who, if the bill should become law, will be the first Minister of Education—said that all it proposed to do was to substitute a cabinet minister for the Superintendent, leaving the Council of Public Instruction as it is at present.

AN INSTALLMENT OF JUSTICE.

We are glad to observe that Mr. H. J. Kavanagh, Q.C., has been appointed by the Court to be one of the three members who constitute the Board of Reviewers. Mr. Kavanagh is one of the ablest and most talented lawyers in Montreal; and it is a matter of congratulation that in his person the claims of the Irish Catholics of the city to adequate representation on such important public boards should have been recognized. In Mr. Kavanagh our Irish fellow-citizens will be worthily represented. It should be mentioned that Mr. Kavanagh and one of his colleagues, Mr. Lucien Huot, were placed in nomination by His Worship Mayor Wilson-Smith, who in this instance has given an additional proof of the high minded sense of justice and fair play by which his actions as a public man have always been prompted.

An exchanger's authority for the statement that Mrs. Jessie Huston, who lives on the Hustonville pike, near Hustonville, Ky., has not until last month spent a day away from home in twenty

three years, not because she couldn't, nor because of any eccentricity, but just because she loves her home and wants to be there to do her work. There is a model for the "new woman" to copy and surely she would be doing better work than crying for the "emancipation of woman and the downfall of man." What do you think?

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Within a week we shall be industriously writing 7's in our letters when we mean 8's.

"Well that's hard luck," exclaimed the Klondike gold seeker as he stubbed his toe against a half round nugget.

A bachelor friend says that man makes the most mistakes, but woman makes the same mistake oftener. Ever noticed that?

Mark Twain says: "Be good and you will be lonely." But just think of all the time that you will have for reflection in your loneliness; therefore, be good.

Within a week we shall be ready for the annual ceremony of "turning over a new leaf." Generally, when a man turns over a new leaf he is not fully satisfied until he has succeeded in blotting the new leaf worse than the first one.

At the last meeting of Shamrock Council, Catholic Benevolent Legion, the president spoke in feeling terms of the death of Comrade Daniel Doyle, which occurred on the 2nd instant. Resolutions of condolence were then passed, and copies forwarded to the widow of the deceased comrade.

A few days ago in Reading, Pa., a County Commissioner resigned his office, saying that the salary was too small and that he could not honestly live on it, and, as he did not wish to be dishonest with the county funds, he thought it better to give up office. Just think of that, wanted to be honest; bah, what did he want in a public office. Honest!

New York is a strange city and therefore a city of strange things. The latest addition to the strange things of the American metropolis is the "ambulance chaser." To explain: the ambulance chaser is a person, either a man or a woman, who watches out for accidents and immediately goes to the assistance of the victim, evidently with only Samaritan instincts, but really as the representative of some firm of lawyers. There has been a large increase in the business of accident insurance, and there has grown up a rapidly increasing number of lawyers who conduct the business on lines which make it possible for insurance companies to settle numbers of claims for amounts much less than claimed by victims of accidents. Then again these people just as often take up the case of the victim and fight the companies.

I, and, doubtless, many other people have often wondered why the British soldier acquired the sobriquet of "Tommy Atkins," by which the private soldier is known the world over. Now it appears that the nickname had an official origin, and was first used in the instructions to non-commissioned officers for purposes of illustration. Sample blank returns were furnished to show sergeants and corporals and recruiting officers how genuine ones should be made out, and Thomas Atkins, private, B company, was the fictitious name always used. Model individual reports were also included in the regulations signed "Thomas Atkins, private, B company," or "Thomas Atkins, corporal, C company," or "Thomas Atkins, X his mark." Hence when a recruit arrived at a garrison the soldiers usually addressed him as Thomas Atkins until they found out his real name. Drunken soldiers reported themselves as Thomas Atkins when they were taken to a police station until the public took it up, and Tommy Atkins became an affectionate synonym for the gallant warriors of Her Majesty's land forces.

After a few readings of the scientific press and some conversation with learned men, I have come to the conclusion that living is a very dangerous thing to do, unless certain conditions are followed. Here is what one doctor says: "Handshaking" is a fearful menace to public health. Most of the known types of bacteria have been found on the normal hand, and the clinical demonstration supporting these conditions is as undeniable as the knowledge of the causative relation between the microbes and disease. For ages mankind has been indulging in handshaking without knowing anything about the frightful risks incurred, the danger of distribution of diphtheria, smallpox and scarlet fever bacilli, but now that the truth has been discovered let the practice be stopped at once. Don't rub elbows with people in a crowd, don't shake hands with people in a crowd, don't shake hands with people in a crowd, don't shake hands with people in a crowd. On greetings, friends who insist on walking by your side, keep a bottle of

carbolic acid between him and yourself. Never lift your hat to a lady; the brim may be covered with bacteria. Be sure your knife and fork are antiseptically treated before eating. Do not walk out of doors; the sole of your boot will become incrustated with microbes, and the air is sure to be full of them. If a stranger addresses you, turn and run; how do you know that he isn't saturated with bacteria? Make it a fixed principle to live in seclusion, with hermetically sealed doors and windows, and keep powerful disinfectants at hand night and day. Just think of it, the race has been going on to destruction in its own way, just for lack of a few simple precautions like these.

The Rev. George Hepworth, D. D., writes in Saturday's Herald what he calls "the story of the loveliest of youths, the childhood of Jesus." The article is smart and catchy, written in the up to date reportorial style considerably affected by Protestant divines with a weakness for the sensational, &c., tinged throughout with what to a Catholic mind can only be mildly described as a spirit of irreverence. Mr. Hepworth rather seems to patronize our Divine Lord and Saviour. He weighs and measures and describes him as he might a Gladstone or an Abraham Lincoln, and one is really at a loss to know whether Mr. Hepworth believes in Our Lord as the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, equal in all things to His Father, or simply as a great reformer—of course the greatest—but still to be put in the same category as conquerors, Buddha, Mahomet, Joe Smith and the latest on the list, General Mrs. Ballington Booth. We leave out Martin Luther and Henry VIII. Not once does he refer to Christ as our Divine Lord or our Divine Saviour, but is very careful to omit the adjectives, and in one paragraph thus describes the home in Nazareth and its influence:—

"The topography of His home must have had a broadening influence on His young mind, for everyone who is not at all receptive is affected by his surroundings. Life in a valley is apt to be narrow. The people who see only small things are apt to be small themselves. If you live in a hollow, you have prejudices."

Does Mr. Hepworth, D. D., wish us to infer that had our Saviour lived in a hollow He might have had prejudices and perhaps never have dreamed of his mission, and that consequently we owe Christianity to the accident of His having passed His early years in a hilly country?

The Ontario Department of Agriculture has just issued a blue book entitled the "Statistics of Ontario." It is a digest of the reports of the Bureau of Industry and contains some very interesting facts. The population of the province, according to the municipal assessors, was 1,972,286, showing a net increase of 3,269 in the 493 townships, an increase of 9,487 in the 99 towns, an increase of 4,719 in the 13 cities, and a decrease of 2,579 in the 136 villages.

The total assessment of the province is \$814,917,633, being a reduction of \$6,548,538, every class above showing a decrease. The taxes imposed were \$193,644 less than in 1895, and were equivalent to \$6.15 per head of population, and 14.88 mills on the dollar.

The debenture debt, which now stands at \$51,895,991, or \$26.51 per head of population, shows an increase of \$2,171,404, notwithstanding that \$2,158,567 was paid on this account during the past year. The "floating" or temporary liabilities, however, shows a decrease of \$885,488. The debenture debt in 1886 was \$29,924,863 for all municipalities.

The interest account showed an expenditure of \$2,578,220, or about 21 per cent. of the taxes imposed. The assets exceeded the liabilities by \$6,958,393.

We gladly give place in our columns to some beautiful and reasonable lines from the pen of Agnes Bart, whose contributions to the TRUE WITNESS have been many, and have always commanded the admiration of its readers.

The annual solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of the deceased Brothers of Branch No. 1, C.M.B.A., of Quebec, was celebrated by Rev. Dr. L. Callaghan in St. Patrick's Church, on Wednesday, 22nd inst.

General Gordon found none but the Roman Catholic who came up to his ideal of the absolute self-devotion of the apostolic missionary.—Canon Taylor, Fortnightly, October, 1888.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The readers of the TRUE WITNESS are respectfully invited to call and inspect my choice assortment of Furs for Ladies and Gentlemen, which consist of Ruffs, Muffs, Capes of all kinds, Collars, Boas, Gaijaplets, Caps, etc.

Our facilities and our 35 years of experience in the Fur business is a guarantee to all who are desirous of having their Fur garments made to order or repaired, unexcelled, at prices not equaled in the city.

A visit to our establishment will convince you our goods and prices are right. ANNE DOW, 1584 Notre Dame Street, Opposite Court House.

CHRISTMAS CASES OF WINES AND LIQUORS. We have been frequently asked by many of our Customers for Assorted Cases of Wines and Spirits. We have the pleasure to announce that we have the following cases for Christmas.

Special Christmas Cases AT SPECIAL PRICES. TO MEET THE WANTS AND PURSES OF ALL. ALL OUR LIQUORS ARE GUARANTEED PURE AND GENUINE. CHRISTMAS CASE No. 1 AT \$6.00. Containing: 2 bottles Pale Sherry Wine, 1 bottle Brandy, 2 bottles Port Wine, 1 bottle Scotch Whisky, 2 bottles Claret Wine, 1 bottle Ginger Wine, 2 bottles Walker's Rye Whisky, 12 bottles in all for \$6.00.

CHRISTMAS CASE No. 2 AT \$9.50. Containing: 1 quart bottle Sparkling Champagne, 2 bottles Walker's V.O. Rye Whisky, 2 bottles Table Sherry, 1 bottle 1578 Brandy, 2 bottles Tawny Port Wine, 1 bottle V.O. Scotch Whisky, 2 bottles Superior Claret Wine, 1 bottle Holland Gin, 12 bottles in all for \$9.50.

CHRISTMAS CASE No. 3 FOR \$12.75. 2 quart bottles Sparkling Champagne Wine, 1 bottle Walker's "Extra Old" Rye, 2 bottles Superior Dinner Sherry (dry or fruity), 1 bottle 1578 Brandy, 2 bottles Very Superior Port Wine, 1 bottle V.O. Scotch Whisky, 2 bottles Superior Claret Wine, 1 bottle Double Berryed Finest Hollands Gin, 12 bottles in all for \$12.75.

In order to meet the wants of Customers in town and country, we will prepay the freight or Express charges to any Station within 300 miles of Montreal on any one or more of the above Special Assorted Cases for the Christmas and New Year's Holidays.

Remit in Cash or by Express Money Order or Post Office Order. FRASER, VIGER & CO. Importers, Family Grocers and Wine Merchants. Italian Warehouse, 207, 209 and 211 St. James Street.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS

There are jewellers that advertise that they are selling 25 p.c., 40 p.c and 50 per cent. cheaper than their competitors.

DO NOT BE DECEIVED.

The Cheapest Place is

Theodore A. Grothe, MANUFACTURING JEWELLER, 95 ST-LAWRENCE MAIN ST.

You will find the greatest selection of: Baby's rings, 50c, 75c, and \$1.00 each. Ladies' rings, 75c, \$1.00, \$2.00 and to \$150.00. Nickel Watches (guaranteed), \$1.75 and \$2.00. Solid silver watches, \$3.25, \$4.50, \$5.00, \$6.00 to \$25.00. Gold Watches, (filled cases), \$6.00, \$10.00, \$13.00 to \$60.00. Gold Watches (solid), \$10.00, \$15.00, \$20.00, \$30.00 to \$150.00. Rilled Gold Chains, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50 to \$10.00. Ladies' and Gents' Gold Chains, from \$10.00 to \$50.00. Choice Pocket Books, 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50 to \$6.00. Match Boxes, Cigarette Cases, B'n B'n Boxes, Glove Boxes, Tooth Brushes, Silver Mounted Curling Tongs and Jewel Boxes of all descriptions. Piano Lamps, Bronze Statues, a great selection of Gilt, Bronze and Porcelain Ornaments. Gold and silver mounted walking sticks. We are manufacturing to order all designs of chains, lockets and seals. Our specialty in this line, the excellence of the setting of stones.

Claret for Boys, Port for Men, and Brandy for Heroes, was a famous saying of Dr. Johnson's. Be that as it may, the fact remains that

GENUINE PORT WINE

Is a drink that no man need be afraid of. It is a generous, high-flavored wine, alike exhilarating and digestive, and unequalled in restorative power. It is also emphatically a Stout and Heavy Wine, one to be relied by those in the full vigor of manhood, and at the same time THE WINE PAR EXCELLENCE FOR INVALIDS.

We offer, in bottle only SILVA & COSENS' AND DOW'S CHOICE PORT WINES.

Table with 4 columns: Name of wine, Price per bottle, Price per dozen, Price per case. Includes items like No. 1 Silva's Light Tawny Port, No. 3 Silva's Heavy Port, etc.

The above Wines, shipped by Messrs. Silva & Cosens, who control the old and famous brand of W. DOW'S PORTS, we propose to carry in bottle only, and we will deliver them in case lots Express or Freight Charges Prepaid, to any station or express office in the Province of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, New Brunswick at the above dozen prices, in case lots of not less than 1 dozen bottles.

FRASER, VIGER & CO.

HERE ARE OUR OLD STANDBYS.

GOOD OLD PORT WINES. In Wood and Bottle. The "Royal Wine" £150, "Particular Oldest", "Old Reserve" £100, "Oldest and Choicest", "Private Stock", Tawny, Very Old Delicate, "Extra Particular Old", "Choice Old", "Choice Old", "No. 10, Very Superior, Rich Old Wine", "No. 4, Fine Fruity Wine", "No. 2, Superior South Young Port", "Tarragona, Genuine Wine", "Peleo Island "Extra Old Port", 1880.

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