

The clergy and the Sisterhoods gave upon this occasion a sublime illustration of zeal and devoteness, even the humblest country priest standing forth, as it were a hero. Such examples are being forever given and remain forever disregarded by the unbelieving world, which coldly passes on the other side of the streets, affecting to believe that nothing good comes out of Nazareth. A bond of charity and of mutual good will, which should have remained indissoluble, was formed between the two chief sections of the Catholic community.

"I would wish to place on record," says a contemporary writer," the tender charity where with the French Canadian people dwelling on the shores of the St. Lawrence, at the suggestion of their beloved pastors, adopted the thousands of poor orphans left in their midst by the terrible ocean-plague, receiving them as gifts from heaven and cherishing them as their own flesh and blood—thus bringing them up in the faith of their martyred fathers, an act of charity never to be forgotten."*

It is likewise worthy of note that besides many instances of true courage and generous devotedness on the part of non-Catholics, the workmen engaged upon the Grand Trunk bridge, a dozen years later, raised a monument to the six thousands exiles, who lie in forgotten graves at Point St. Charles. Many of these men, were Englishmen and Protestants, but the stone they erected still bears the touching inscription:

"To preserve from desecration the remains of Poor Emigrants, who died of Ship-Fever, A. D., 1847-8, this stone is erected by the workmen of Messrs. Peld, Brassey and Betes, employed in the construction of the Victoria Bridge A. D. 1859.

Such acts of kindness make the whole world indeed akin, and atone for the senseless howl which is occasionally raised by a blind fanaticism.

More than half a century has passed since those tragic happenings, when the noblest qualities of human nature shone resplendent amid the darkness. A brighter day has dawned for Ireland, prefigured by that sun bursting forth upon her banner of gold and the voice of the sea-divided Gael once more speaks with power in the councils of the nation. Ireland, "the Israel of the West", shall per chance in the coming years gather together her children on her own