



EDITORIAL NOTES.

ALTHOUGH THE TRUE WITNESS has weathered the storm which recently menaced its very existence, still we almost feel as if we were now in the midst of our greatest crisis. In fact to pull through all the difficulties that filled the past three months careful engineering and determined efforts were required; but now comes the period of most importance. The time of transition has passed; that of starting on our upgrade has commenced. We frankly admit that unless we are given the aid of every helping hand available we do not see how we are ever going to get under way. We require, and most absolutely, all the encouragement of a substantial nature that can be given. Many of our subscribers have done well their parts during the past few weeks; there are others from whom we are anxious to hear. But the subscribers must not be expected to bear all the load; we want the friends of the paper to come forward with advertising and printing, in order to set the wheels in motion. The start is the most difficult part of the work. We, therefore, repeat that unless generous and spontaneous assistance be forthcoming—and at once—we do not see exactly what the consequences are to be. It is now, not a year hence, that THE TRUE WITNESS requires every helping hand; and we hope that each one who is anxious to have a solid Catholic organ will contribute—in one way or another—his mite. We cannot emphasize these remarks too strongly.

THE Daily Witness of Saturday publishes a four column and a half letter, written by Chiniquy and addressed to the "Minerve." The Witness claims that it is simply because the writer of that letter asks its publication as an act of justice that the "only religious daily" gives it space. More masking! Only too glad is the Witness to flaunt the evil-inspired communication before the eyes of thousands. Be it remarked that the so-called "ex-priest" does not deny the accusations of immorality brought against him by the Minerve; rather does he accept them, glory in them and admit their truth. He goes even as far as to tell the world that he was a bad man and that it was the Church's fault if he were the victim of his passions. We are strongly of opinion, however, that the affording Chiniquy an opportunity of belying the dead and insulting the living, of making abominable charges against imaginary individuals for the purpose of bespattering the fair fame and good names of thousands of pure and noble people is, to say the least, a bad policy. The Protestant as well as the Catholic world knows his history; the raking up of its details only give him an excuse to add fresh brands to the fire that must inevitably prove his destruction, and an excuse to the Witness for claiming in the name of justice the right to publish the most nauseating insults to Catholic sentiment and even

common Christian delicacy. Because he, himself, was not what he should be, Chiniquy concludes that all priests and nuns must be branded as criminals and reprobates. What would our Protestant friends think of a convert to Rome who would proclaim every minister to be a hypocrite, an immoral character and a reprobate? Or who would accuse—without distinction—every Protestant woman, who enters upon her Christian mission, a bad character? Just reverse the medal and look at it from that side. No honest Protestant, howsoever he may differ from the tenets of our creed, has either faith or belief in the wholesale accusations of a self-confessed abuser of the most sacred vows. It is really appalling to contemplate a man, upon the verge of eternity, and preparing to face that future with the heavy load of sacerdotal responsibility on his shoulders, yet exulting in what he *knows* to be the deeds that imperil him.

LAST SUNDAY, at the Archbishop's chapel, Rev. Canon Bruchesi read extracts from a pastoral letter of the united Archbishops and Bishops of the Province on the subject of elections. He pointed out two great evils that generally crop up in times of political contests: the one is intemperance and the other bribery. Be it well understood, that in as far as Catholics are concerned, these two are reserved cases, the absolution for which can only be given by the Archbishop, or his Vicar-General. In order that the ecclesiastical regulations may be the better understood, we will inform our readers that during the three days before the election, on the day of voting, and during the three succeeding days, any person who gives, sells, procures for or in any way causes to be furnished intoxicating liquor, for election purposes, is guilty of the grave offence above mentioned, and can only receive absolution from the head of the archdiocese or his Vicar-General. The same stands good in the case of any person who bribes, offers bribes, or in any way for any consideration of an undue nature causes or induces an elector to vote one way or the other. Consequently, all Catholics can see at once the importance of avoiding both of these infractions of the law.

ARTHUR J. BALFOUR, leader of the Unionists in the House of Commons, says that England should be upon her guard. He thinks that any nation, or combination of nations, which can wrest from Great Britain her supremacy of the seas could bring her to her knees without landing a soldier in England. He does not see any prospect of a continued peace. He is under the impression that the French and Russian Governments are pushing forward the work in their dockyards, with the prospect of a war in the near future. He calls upon the electors to encourage their representatives to advocate a strengthening of Great Britain's naval forces. He even goes so far as to pledge that the Opposition will co-operate with the Govern-

ment in any efforts it may make to increase the military and naval power of England. These remarks and opinions of Mr. Balfour are very significant at this particular juncture. Europe is certainly over a slumbering volcano, and the signs of the times indicate a possible eruption at any hour. Leading politicians and men who hold the governments of the nations in their hands generally send out a few "feelers," in the way of warning notes, whenever they see the probability of a crisis. Evidently both France and Russia are of Mr. Balfour's opinion regarding England's strength.

WE speak somewhat strongly this week of that Ontario organization which has been the cause of so much ill-feeling and religious rancor during the past year. Since our editorial was written we have learned more about that society, and we find that certain branches thereof, fearing the enmity its principles must create, or perhaps being ashamed of its tactics, were anxious to spread abroad the idea that the most objectionable clauses affecting Catholics have been amended; but from delegates, themselves, comes the statement that such amendment was defeated by the Convention. It remains then as dangerous, as disloyal and as ungenerous as ever.

It was a great day for old Bismarck when he found himself once more the guest of the Emperor and the object of an ovation from the people of Berlin. However, it is not probable that any marked change in the destinies of the Empire will result from the act of royal courtesy. The days of the "Iron Chancellor's" triumphs are over; the spell of his influence has long since been broken; his hand is no longer upon the helm of state; any spasmodic outburst of enthusiasm that the memories of the past may now create, is merely an expression of popular pleasure on seeing the form of the great man once more—and perhaps for a last time—amidst the scenes long familiar to him. Europe does not depend any longer upon one man's will, nor, in fact, upon the will of any one nation.

"GREEN GRAVES" is the title of a volume that the firm of Murphy & Co. will soon give to the world and which is the result of many a day's work on the part of the author, "Walter Lecky." The admirable sketches from the pen of this gifted and original writer, which have appeared in the TRUE WITNESS, have caused much favorable comment in the higher literary circles, and have been recognized by the press of America to a flattering degree. At present the same author is publishing a series of "Adirondack Sketches" in the New York Catholic World; the first of these has been much quoted from by reviewers, and they promise to be as interesting and instructive as anything that comes from the fluent pen of that writer. His "Green Graves" is a work that has more

merit than we could well mention in an editorial note. The pages are now in the publisher's hands and when the volume appears we shall give our readers an idea of its contents. At present all we can say is that an important and valuable addition to the growing literature of America will be recognized in Walter Lecky's "Green Graves."

TO-MORROW is an important day for this city. As yet it is almost impossible to say which way the tide may run. Were we to believe the representatives of the different candidates there will be no result at all; for each party claims a certain majority. But some side must win, and nothing is more uncertain than municipal politics. Before the last and all important struggle at the polls commences, we would advise the advocates of reformed civic government to be careful of the means employed to secure election. It would be too bad if interested parties preached one thing and practised another.

WE notice that some days ago the Bishop of Three Rivers blessed the offices and workshops of a local paper. The ceremony was an imposing one and all who participated therein felt that it was an important move. In this we see the hand of the Church raised to sanction the grand "apostolate of the press." Well is it for the publication that deserves such a mark of approval and great must be the benedictions such a paper will bring to the homes of its subscribers. It is not every Catholic (?) newspaper office in our province that the members of the hierarchy could enter to bless. Were the services of a dignitary of the Church required in certain offices, we fear it would be for the purpose of exorcism.

A MEETING of the gentlemen composing the new TRUE WITNESS Printing and Publishing Company was held last evening and a regular organization was the result. While awaiting the legal incorporation of the company a board of provisional directors was elected. The following gentlemen were chosen: Hon. Edward Murphy, and Messrs. P. Wright, Michael Burke, T. J. Quinlan and C. A. McDonnell. The new board meet to-day at three o'clock to elect a president and managing director. Now that a complete organization has been attained, it is to be hoped that all the assistance possible will be generously given by the public in order to place on a basis, worthy the English-speaking Catholics of this Province, the oldest and now only organ that they possess. There are bright prospects ahead, and it only requires some push and a certain amount of good-will; with these requisites the day is not distant when the English-speaking Catholics of this Province, and of Montreal in particular, may enjoy the proud privilege of possessing one of the best religious newspapers on the continent. Already is the name of THE TRUE WITNESS most favorably known abroad; and the future certainly will add to its grand reputation.