

# The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1896

## BERNADOTTE — BEAUHARNAIS.

Dr. George Sigerson, one of the most enthusiastic promoters of the study of Irish literature and nationality is, as his name denotes, of Danish or Norse descent. Lecturing sometime ago on "Irish Literature, its origin, environment and influence," he referred to his Northern ancestors and endeavored to show that, in spite of their evil name, the consequences of their settlement in Ireland were not so injurious as prejudiced tradition would lead one to infer. He spoke of the churches that they built as being no less worthy of remembrance than the shrines that they had destroyed; of the help that they had rendered to Ireland in her need as equally memorable with their fierce raids and sacks of cities. The blood of those Norse warriors was mingled with that of the ancient Irish kings in many a family that bore Irish names, just as Celtic blood was mingled with Norse in the descendants of Harold Sigurdson.

The Norse settlements in Ireland had long become as Irish as the Irish, and much more Irish than some of the Irish. But if the Norse of those distant centuries helped to lay the foundation of the Irish of to-day, it was not to be forgotten that the Irish, who also had their sea-rovers, some of whom were missionaries, had not failed to lay their mark on the destinies of the Norse communities.

Prof. Visfussen, by birth an Icelander, in writing of the old Sagas of his ancestral land, mentions the not infrequent occurrence of Irish names in the heroic age of Iceland, and considers that intercourse with the Celts in those far-off centuries had not a little effect in heightening and coloring the Teutonic imagination and artistic spirit. There is, indeed, nothing more curious than this strange interaction of race on race, and in view of the long and continuous peace in honor of the Anglo-Saxon with which a line of English writers has regaled their sympathetic countrymen, to the neglect of the Celtic Nazareth, it is refreshing to find English, German and Norse scholars, of rare insight and tireless research, bringing to light such a mass of evidence in honor of the Gael.

If Dr. Sigerson turns to the land of his Norse forefathers to-day, he will find a striking instance of that racial assimilation which his own name, descent and Irish patriotism so well illustrate. And combined therewith he will recognize a curious interblending of the element of romance with that irony of fate which may also be a providential nemesis.

No historic fact has been established on fuller evidence than the rejection by Napoleon of his wife Josephine in order to ally himself with the imperial house of Austria. Yet at this moment no Bonaparte sits on a throne, while the descendants of the discarded Josephine are legitimate Sovereigns. The woman whom the triumphant soldier deemed unfit for the honors of his imperial name was the destined ancestress of a line of kings, while the only son of Francis the Second's daughter, Maria Louisa, died in early manhood, with ambitious hopes unfulfilled. The Duke of Reichstadt figures in French imperial history as Napoleon the Second, just as the hapless son of Louis Sixteenth is remembered as Louis the Seventeenth. Louis Napoleon, who succeeded when all the world prophesied failure, and fell miserably after being the dictator of Europe, left a son, who was the hope of his exile, and, after his death, the solace for a time of the wi-

dowed Empress. That son lost his life at the hands of angry savages on the South African *Veldt*, and with him perished (till the unexpected happens once more) the hopes of a Napoleonic Empire.

Far other is the story of the offspring of Josephine. The Vicomte Alexandre de Beauharnais, it may be recalled, was, after holding positions of authority, accused of treason to the National Convention and met the fate of all who incurred the suspicion of a remorseless clique in that time of terror. His widow, Josephine, attracted the attention of Napoleon Bonaparte, who made her his wife. Her son, Eugene, a fine soldier, was adopted by his stepfather, who placed him in high commands, both civil and military. In 1806 Prince Eugene married Augusta, daughter of King Maximilian of Bavaria, and after the fall of the Emperor, he lived at the Bavarian Court till his death in 1824. About a hundred and thirty years ago there was born to a lawyer named Bernadotte, of Pau in Bearn, close to the Pyrenees, a son who was christened Jean Baptiste-Julius, and for this boy great things were in store. Against the wish of his cautious parents, who preferred the law, he chose the profession of arms (serving in the royal marines in his 16th year. He was not long in proving that he had capacity, but it was not until the Revolution had broken down the old class barriers that his merit obtained full recognition. In 1793, at the age of 27, he was made a brigadier-general. While Bonaparte was in Egypt, he became Minister of War, and when the Emperor seated himself on the throne, he made his former rival a marshal. In 1810 the heir to the throne of Sweden having died and left no successor, Marshal Bernadotte was chosen Crown Prince, and on the death of Charles XIII., in 1818, he succeeded to the crown of the United Kingdom of Sweden and Norway. Both as Crown Prince and King he devoted his energies to furthering the interests of his northern realm, and, notwithstanding the discontent of Norway at being forced to unite with the neighboring Kingdom, Charles XIV. (as he was called after his accession) proved an excellent and a popular sovereign. On his death, in 1844, he was succeeded by his only son, Oscar I. This monarch had married Josephine, daughter of Eugene Beauharnais, Duke of Leuchtenberg and grand-daughter of the ex-Empress Josephine and of the King of Bavaria. The offspring of the marriage comprised two sons, the elder of whom reigned from 1859 till 1872. His daughter Louisa became the wife of Frederick, son of Christian IX. of Denmark, thus bringing the families of Bernadotte and Beauharnais into relationship with the royal and imperial houses of Great Britain and Ireland, France, Russia, Greece and, through them, with the entire circle of European royalty. On his death, in 1872, King Carl XV. was succeeded by his brother, Oscar, the actual sovereign. He is said to be a man of great accomplishments, a linguist, a man of science, a poet and an orator. Several of his speeches and addresses have been published and are much admired for their style and vigor of thought. As a statesman, the King has had some opportunities for the display of wisdom and tact. The King has the right to declare war and make peace, but he is expected first to consult his Council of State. He also nominates to the higher offices, civil and military, concludes foreign treaties, and has a right to preside, if he desires it, at the supreme court of justice. The Realm-diet or Parliament has two Houses. The upper appoints the judges of the Supreme Court; the lower, as with us, takes the lead in money bills. Norway has its own Parliament (Storting), which has also two houses. The King can veto laws twice, but if the same bill passes three Storthings, it becomes the law of the land without the sovereign's assent. The great controversy of recent years has been concerned with the Norwegian majority's claims of a distinct consular and diplomatic service. The union was consummated against the wish of the smaller kingdom, which has, however, as much independence as it had under the Dano-Norwegian union. It is hoped by moderate statesmen in both countries that in time a satisfactory understanding will be reached on all the points at issue, such as will place the union on a firm basis. In effecting this desired result King Oscar will find scope for his real and recognized abilities.

As we go to press, we learn that the representatives of the Manitoba government are in Ottawa for the purpose of endeavoring to reach a decision on the School Question. A correspondent of a local paper goes so far as to say that the basis of settlement has been reached and that in a few days the details will be announced. Much as we would wish to have this important matter removed from the arena into which it has been so unfortunately placed, we doubt if a solution can be so easily reached.

The man who is always satisfied with himself is rarely satisfactory to others. A man never realizes how human he is until he has made a big fool of himself.

## ACROSS THE CHANNEL.

The wild enthusiasm that the young Czar of Russia has aroused among the people of France is a phenomenon which, viewed simply *per se*, might puzzle a student of comparative politics. According to the opinions of those who have been brought up under responsible government, the Czar's rule is, as a political system, more than a century behind that of the most advanced nations of our time. It is the only Christian power that has not some form of parliament. Even Turkey may be considered a step before it in that respect, for the Porte at least tried the practicability of a representative assembly, and for a few days there were enthusiasts who dreamed that the Sultan had truly entered on the path of reform. For the instrument of the new constitution gave equal rights to Christians and to Moslem. One thing it proved and that was that, had the Sultan been sincere or bold enough to defy the Sheik-ul-Islam and the traditional prejudices which that functionary represents, there was no lack of ability in the Empire for the formation of such a body.

But it was soon evident that such an innovation, in a land where laws drew all their sanction from the Koran, was nothing but a sham and a pretence. Russia, though an absolute monarchy in name and theory, shows in practice that the Czar's will is tempered and sometimes checked by the operation of a complicated system of delegated authority. Peter the Great, who was a barbarian of genius, did, indeed, make his will the law of the Empire. He made, to suit himself, a rule to the effect that every sovereign should choose his or her successor from among the members of the imperial family, without regard to primogeniture. A hundred years ago this law was annulled in favor of the actual system, which is that of primogeniture with preference of males over females. There are also regular constitutional departments of administration with which the Empire is not supposed to interfere. Even in the appointment of ministers and officials, he must if necessary be guided by advice in general, though in particular cases he may have and exercise his preferences. There are four great councils or colleges of administration, and the marked difference between Russian and western methods is fairly exemplified by the fact that what with us takes precedence—that is, the cabinet or ministry—in Russia comes last. There is first the council of State, consisting of sixty or more members, under a president, all nominated by the Czar. The ministers and six members of the Imperial house have *ex-officio* seats in this body. Occasionally this council meets as a whole, but, in ordinary circumstances, it is divided into three boards, each of which has its own chairman. These boards, which are all consultative, deal, respectively, with legislation, administration, civil and ecclesiastical, and finance. A special committee considers protests or objections addressed to the Emperor against the decisions of the Senate. This is an extraordinary body, consisting of persons of rank and station. It is the high court of justice, being as such divided into nine sections, of which two are counts of cassation. When all meet *in pleno*, the minister of Justice presides. The Senate is not only a court of last resort but a law making body—no law being valid without its sanction. It also supervises the general administration. A committee of seven revises judgments in political offences, and another committee deals with irregularities of crown officials. The third great college, board or council in the Holy Synod, consists of three Metropolitan of St. Petersburg, Moscow, and a number of archbishops and bishops sitting in turn. Every decision must have the Emperor's signature to make it valid. The fourth great council or college is the board of Ministers. Save the first—that of the Imperial house—these ministries are named as in constitutionally governed countries—foreign affairs, war, interior, justice, public instruction, finance, crown lands, public works and railways. There is an additional department of general control, under a controller-general. There are also two private cabinets directly under the Empire—one for imperial charities, the other for the education of girls and special institutions founded by the Empress Maria, mother of Nicholas I. There are also other special cabinets—one for petitions and another, created in 1883, entrusted with certain economies, &c., formerly in the Household Ministry. The local administration of the Empire, dealt with pretty fully in Mackenzie-Wallace's "Russia," comprises some interesting illustrations of popular government—some parochial, some provincial. The administration of Finland, with its national parliament of four states, was provided for by special grant of the Czar Alexander I., renewed by his successors, and, even as modified in recent years, is entirely exceptional. The inhabitants of the Grand Duchy, who are largely Scandinavian, regard themselves as a people apart from the Russians, and have always

been very jealous of their liberties. The Emperor is Grand Duke of Finland.

The essential part assigned to the Emperor in the government of Russia, and the belief in her divine right to exercise supreme authority over his subjects, had a forcible illustration last summer when His Majesty was crowned with a costly elaboration of ceremony that has no parallel in any other part of the modern world and only a partial precedent in the gorgeous coronations of the Byzantine Emperors. Between such an autocracy and the system of republican rule that prevails in France to day there are few points of contact. The sympathy between the two nations—for clearly it is not confined to the governments—having found expression in the cordial reception of the French sailors by the Russians a few years ago, and by the wild acclamations that greeted the Czar at the end of his rough passage across the channel, must be explained, therefore, by considerations that have nothing to do with principles or forms of government. And, of course, there can be no reason for such a warmth of friendship in any family alliance such as that which gave a special significance to the Czar's visit to Queen Victoria. The last time that France tried to add strength to her position by a dynastic marriage was in the reign of Louis Philippe and the attempt did not prove a success. A grandson of Louis Philippe had the misfortune to incur the resentment of the late Czar, so that if the Bourbons still occupied France's throne, the young Czar might even be a *persona ingrata*. As for the Bonapartes, Russia suffered under the last, as well as the first Napoleon. Forty years ago Alexander II. was beginning the reign that ended so tragically with the wounds inflicted by the clever tenant of the Tuilleries still gaping. Times have changed assuredly since France, England and Sardinia joined Turkey in a counter-crusade for the benefit of Christendom and especially for the benefit of Christendom's new dictator. Sadova was still far off; Solferino and Magenta had to come first and the dark days before and after Sedan were hidden from the eyes both of victors and vanquished. Between 1870 and 1878 France showed powers of self-recuperation that astonished the world, to which she owed so little. In spite of cabals and factions, the rivalries of Monarchists and Republicans, Legitimists and Orleanists, moderate Republicans and Radicals, on one point there was no discord—France must recover her strength, her prestige, her place as a great power. The Bonapartes were once on the point of triumphing, but the tide was not taken at the full and the opportunity went by. Then the Legitimists lost their chance through a too conscientious leader. The day was not yet dreamed of when Royalists should join forces with Boulangists. The Republic had just surmounted its first perils when a cloud arose in the East. That cloud rained blood in the Balkans, but it brought refreshing relief to France. At the Congress of Berlin, when Bismarck and Disraeli attained their zeniths, Prince Gortschakoff saw himself worsted by the German Chancellor, who chose to forget old benefits. For Russia had stood by, a watchful second, while the Prussians knocked France senseless and robbed her, thanking God the while. From that day the good intent between St. Petersburg and Berlin was gone. While the Czar lived, he would pay due courtesy to his old friend and kinsman, the German Kaiser, but he could not forget that he had been deceived and humiliated. Prince Bismarck promptly saw what was coming and promptly took protective measures. The year after the Congress the *Dreibund* was a *fait accompli*. Russia was baited. France could only wait the turn of events. She waited, but not idly. Russia inimical to Prussia was France's friend, even if no word were said. The word would come in time, however, in spite of old grudges and other drawbacks. And that France's foresight, patience and tact have been rewarded by the young Czar's visit is striking proof. The *Dreibund* has been matched by the *Zueibund*.

If despatches received in this city from St. Paul, Minn., can be relied upon, the Catholics of that section, instead of being opposed to an expression of opinion coming from an ecclesiastical source regarding political questions of great importance, rather encourage such expressions, as appears by the announcement that a number of leading business men addressed a letter to His Grace Archbishop Ireland for the purpose of obtaining his views upon the main planks in the platforms of the two parties now soliciting the suffrages of the American electorate. His Grace gives his opinion in a manner which puts it beyond any cavil what condition of things may follow the success of the Silverites. He says that the Bryan policy will lead the country to destruction and that social order will be replaced by lawlessness and anarchy.

It is generally the man who has the least to complain of that does the most kicking.

## WANTED A LEADER.

Lord Rosebery's resignation of the leadership of the British Liberals has naturally caused surprise, on account of its suddenness and his omission of the courtesies usual on such occasions. The frame of mind in which he made the resolve and acted on it may be imagined and even understood. It may be taken for granted that, unless the conviction that he was practically without support broke upon him like a flash of lightning, Lord Rosebery must long ago have observed indications of distrust that were not assuring. Mr. Labouchere's House of Lords motion, brought forward deliberately at an unseasonable time—the Nonconformist protests against horse-racing, which he chose to defy—his persistence, in spite of warning, in a foreign policy which was more Tory than Liberal—and, lastly, his known indifference on the question of Home Rule—were surely sufficient to cause uneasiness in any leader's mind. Sometimes, it looked as if Lord Rosebery did not greatly care for the position. He suffered from ill health. His acceptance of office awakened no enthusiasm. By the force of circumstances, moreover, he was obliged to take Mr. Gladstone's place at a most awkward crisis for a member of the House of Lords. If the House of Lords is an antiquated anomaly, it is not surely from one who is a peer himself, and who continues to enjoy all the privileges of the peerage, that the British people could reasonably expect a successful protest. Lord Rosebery's Tory colleagues in the Peers' chamber were not the least afraid of an agitation of which he had the control. Mr. Labouchere, who is also the nephew of a peer, but is known as a consistent, if somewhat eccentric radical, took the earliest occasion to mark his belief that he regarded the agitation, thus led, as a sham.

It must, of course, be borne in mind that the agitation in question was by no means the first Liberal party had inaugurated against the Upper House. But such movements always ended in a number of Liberal Commoners being elevated to the Peerage, where very often they developed into full-blown Tories. Mr. Gladstone has himself shown consistency so far as his personal example is concerned. He might have been Earl of Hawarden twenty years ago, had he desired it, or his wife or heirs desired it. For in matters of this kind a man's conduct cannot always be accepted as the expression solely, or at all, of his own desire or of his estimate of what he has conferred on him. But, on the other hand, can we suppose that, in offering peerages to his political friends and followers, Mr. Gladstone was not fully aware of the value of the gift? It is also too often forgotten that the House of Lords is the original fabric of the English Parliament, the Commons Chamber being of a much later creation; and, although this fact does not make it less out of harmony with popular government, it is a historic claim to consideration. The absurdity of the situation is that, while the Commons branch has undergone modification in keeping with the growth of political ideas, the Lords House has hardly changed at all. But the man that leads a movement for its reform and adaptation to modern opinions and needs must not be a peer, of high rank, in full enjoyment of all the privileges of his order.

As for Lord Rosebery's foreign policy, by colonists and Canadians especially it was deemed one of his claims to respect, for it was combined with regard for our interests and a determination to see them protected. Of his horse racing it may be said that he showed his scorn of middle-class English opinion in clinging to it in spite of so many pious remonstrances. A more prudent and perhaps less honest man would have disguised his boyish delight at being a winner of the Derby. Certainly, his victory on the race-course cost him many a vote at the general elections. To our readers Lord Rosebery's apathy on the Irish question is the worst phase of his leadership. Nevertheless, Irishmen have little reason to rejoice at his retirement. Sir William V. Hartcourt, to whom the succession rightly belongs, is not a popular man. He is a sturdy and obstinate fighter and, although he was once (like his old chief) a bitter opponent of Home Rule, he followed Mr. Gladstone loyally in his battle with the Tory and Unionist coalition and is not likely to desert the cause now. But the choice does not altogether depend on him. Whether he adheres to it or rejects it, it offered the leadership, must depend on the party. As yet, there has been no decisive abandonment of that plank in the Liberal platform, and some of Mr. Gladstone's old colleagues will vigorously combat any attempt to set it aside. There is one proposal, however, that might find favor with a handful of Liberals—an appeal to Mr. Chamberlain to return on his own terms. The chances are against such an appeal and against its acceptance. Nevertheless, unsatisfactory though Lord Rosebery was as a leader of a composite party, and though his advocacy of Home Rule lacked the fervor that he imparted to other subjects in which he was interest-

ed, we are not quite sure that his withdrawal, under all the circumstances and in view of the dearth of fit men for the position, is not to be deplored rather than welcomed. On that point, however, we can only wait patiently for the turn of events.

The shop-keepers in the vicinity of St. Lawrence street are very much agitated over the decision reached by Recorder DeMontigny in the matter of the early closing movement. His Honor in rendering judgement in a number of cases of infraction of the by-law, which were held over for some time, pending a decision of the Superior Court, gave it as his opinion that he yet cherished the belief that the law was unjust, and among other things said:—

"As I wished to have the opinion of a judge of the Superior Court, so I then interested myself to a certain extent in securing such. If the Superior Court recognized the legality either directly or indirectly I would submit myself as I wished a judgment. I submit not my judgment or reason, as I would never bow to an unjust law. There is not a tribunal in the world which would force me to do so."

## THE CENTRAL UNION.

Project Discussed by Delegates of the Various Irish Catholic Societies.

The project to form a Central Union, which would embrace all the Irish Catholic organizations in this city, was discussed at a meeting of delegates last night. After a somewhat lengthy debate the following committee was appointed to draw up a plan of action:

Messrs. S. Cross, St. Patrick's Society; John Power, Irish Catholic Benefit Society; John Kilfeather, St. Ann's Temperance Society; J. McMahon, Young Irishmen's Society; M. Sharkey, St. Patrick's Temperance Society; Dr. J. K. Foran, St. Ann's Young Men's Society; D. Doody, St. Anthony's Y. M. S.; D. McCarthy, William O'Brien Branch of the Land League; Sarsfield Fitzpatrick, T. N. Smith, B. Wall and P. J. Tumilty, Ancient Order of Hibernians. The meeting then adjourned until Tuesday, October 27, when the committee is expected to report.

## RECEPTION TO HON. MR. HACKETT

Final Arrangements made by the C.M.B.A. Representatives.

Ever since the elevation of the Hon. Mr. Hackett to the office of Grand President of the C.M.B.A., the chief officers of the various branches have been actively engaged in promoting the idea of a public reception to their chief. Last night a meeting was held and final arrangements were completed for that purpose.

Chancellor T. J. Finn and Dr. Germain presided as joint chairmen. Among those present were Brothers H. J. Ward, J. J. Costigan, W. J. McLeroy, Thomas Styles, J. P. Gunning, W. Cullen, P. Reynolds, C. Dandelin, J. A. Deniger, Joseph Girard, J. Clement, Dr. Rivet, A. B. Pottvin, P. C. Shannon, U. Racine, A. F. Laviviere, A. T. Martin, F. X. Payette, A. H. Spedding, G. A. Carpenter, T. M. Ireland, F. X. Lenoir, J. Paquette.

The list of the guests to be invited is as follows:—Vicar-General F. Bourgeault, Administrator of this Diocese; His Lordship, Bishop Emard; the reverend pastors of the various parishes, the reverend spiritual advisers of the various branches, His Worship, the Mayor, and aldermen of the City Council, Sir Alexander Lacoste, Chief Justice; Hon. Justices Loranger, Curran, Doherty, Purcell, Gill, Jette, Mathieu, Delormier, Pagnuelo, Quimet, Hon. J. O. Villeneuve, Sir Wm. Hingston, A. Desjardins, L. O. Tourville, J. R. Thibault, J. O'Brien, C. O. Geoffroy, C. Leblanc, J. Nantel, L. O. Taillon, Louis Beaulieu, H. Dupre, M.P.; O. Demarais, M.P.; M. J. Quinn, M.P.; C. Madore, M.P.; C. F. Monk, M.P.; J. Fortin, M.P.; A. Prefontaine, M.P.; R. Lemieux, M.P.; C. Beaulieu, M.P.; O. Guerin, M.L.A.; F. Martineau, M.L.A.; A. Aube, M.L.A.; the professors of Laval University, the Grand President and Grand Deputy of the C.M.B.A. of Quebec, President of the Artisans' Association, President St. Joseph's Union, President Union St. Pierre, President Alliance National and the presidents of other kindred associations. The address to be presented to the Grand President was read and adopted. The date of the reception was fixed for Tuesday, 27th of October.

ST. GABRIEL'S PARISH NOTES.

The ladies of St. Gabriel are at present, and have been for some time past, actively engaged in organizing a grand bazaar, for the benefit of the church. Success has always perched high upon the column of enterprise in the bazaar line at St. Gabriel's. Now, however, it is the desire of all connected with the undertaking to ensure a greater success than any heretofore achieved. True, it is, that times are more or less hard. This fact, however, presents a very appropriate occasion to verify the old adage that "Where there's a will there's a way." That all the English speaking Catholics of Montreal should encourage this grand work at the Point, follows from the fact that St. Gabriel's church, if not the best, is at least one of the best on the island, and consequently a source of pride to all our Catholics of the English tongue in the city, but, in a special manner, to our friends at the Point. There seems to be no fear but that it will prove a grand success, since this bazaar is under the presidency of the highly esteemed pastor himself. That unprecedented success may crown his efforts as well as the earnest desire of all who believe in the triumph, "United we stand, divided we fall."

The bazaar opens on the 9th of November, in the basement of the new church.