

The True Witness

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 1896

A WORD TO OUR READERS.—Readers will help THE TRUE WITNESS materially by dealing with those who advertise in its columns. The Catholic population of Montreal should patronize those who tend aid in building up the business of their favorite paper.

The Fete Dieu Procession.

The Blessed Sacrament will leave the French Church at 9 o'clock sharp. As a consequence of this arrangement, the people of St. Patrick's parish, who immediately precede those of Notre Dame, will require to be at the French Church not later than 8.45. It will therefore be necessary to start from St. Patrick's immediately after the eight o'clock Mass, which will be the last Mass in that church on Procession Sunday.

HONOR TO AN IRISH-CANADIAN ARCHBISHOP.

The Royal Society of Canada, before bringing its last annual meeting to a close, elected the following officers: President, the Most Rev. Cornelius O'Brien, L.D., Archbishop of Halifax; vice-president, the Hon. Felix G. Marchand, M.L.A.; treasurer (re-elected), Mr. James Fletcher, F.L.S., etc., and Dr. J. G. Bourinot, C.M.G. His Grace the Archbishop of Halifax is not the first churchman chosen by his colleagues to this high position.

It may be well to mention that to gain admission to the Royal Society of Canada there has never been anything like the personal canvass which is usual in seeking entrance to some illustrious old world societies. On the contrary, the announcement of his election has generally been a surprise to the new member.

be, a reaffirmation of the society. In the case of Archbishop O'Brien the election was unanimous, the mover and seconder being Protestants. Apart from what His Grace has written as a divine, his services as a man of letters may be divided into three classes: poetry, history and philosophy. As a divine, the Archbishop's work embraces homiletics (sermons, funeral orations, etc.), church history (including biography) and ecclesiastical polity.

The Pastoral Letters, from 1883 onward, are not unworthy to succeed the apostolic epistles of Archbishop Connolly, one of the greatest clergymen of his time, a man of statesmanlike breadth of view and the warm friend of the great Irish-Canadian orator, Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee. A sermon of Archbishop O'Brien's—"The Hierarchy of the Church"—is of special interest and not without importance, having been delivered in connection with the silver jubilee celebration of Bishop McIntyre and Rogers.

Meanwhile, all that we wished to do was to impress on the Irish and Catholic readers of THE TRUE WITNESS a truth which they will doubtless by this time have sufficiently recognized. Irish patriotism, Irish learning, Irish devotion to the faith handed down from past ages, need no paucity. Nor is it our purpose to praise anything or any person simply because he or it is Irish.

The appalling proportions which the divorce business in the United States has assumed is well illustrated by the record of Judge Maynard of the Suffolk (Boston) Superior Court. During a session of six hours on May 7th, the judge dissolved the

marriage relations existing between fifty dissatisfied couples. The average time consumed in hearing evidence and rendering judgment of civil separation was seven minutes and twelve seconds.

HANDS OFF.

Montreal is not rich in public statues to the great characters of our country or empire. We have on Victoria square a not unworthy monument to Her Majesty, Nelson has stood in our midst for many years, but it appears to be nobody's business to keep the monument in repair, and in consequence it is rapidly falling into ruin.

THE WORK-HOUSE.

There is no item in the press of Ireland more sad than that concerning the work-house. The institution is the living tomb of most of its inmates. At the present time there are in Ireland not less than 400 work-houses. At a recent meeting of influential personages the question, not of the existence of the workhouse, the result of misgovernment, but of their actual condition, was under consideration.

THE CZARS OF RUSSIA.

The coronation of the young Czar of all the Russias suggests a retrospect which comprises one of the strangest series of events with which any historian has been called to deal. That retrospect must be taken piecemeal, whether we start from the present and go back by stages, or fix upon some date in the vague past and try to struggle back through legend and saga and doubtful chronicle till we touch the terra firma of modern history.

On Yaroslaff's death, in 1054, a dreary period began, called the period of the apogees, when the country was broken up into a number of petty principalities. The most striking figures of this interval, which lasted till 1238, are Vladimir Monomakh and Andrew Bogolubski, his grandson—the former a polite prince, under whom his subjects were fairly prosperous; the latter a man of iron will, a diplomat and a soldier.

A few years ago the Scottish Home Rule Association published a book of considerable historical and political interest, not to Scotchmen only, but also to Irishmen. It was written by a member of the Legislative Council of Victoria, Australia, the Hon. T. D. WANLISS, and was first printed in 1885, as a protest against certain English statesmen, historians and journalists, who, by their habitual use of the words "England" and "English," to designate the British Isles, and sometimes even the whole British Empire, by implication reduced Scotland and Ireland to the condition of mere provinces and correspondingly belittled what we have become accustomed to call Greater Britain.

eventful in many ways, but his life, though not without fascinations, is hardly edifying to read of. Englishmen, who resided at his court, have left some curious details of his reign. By one of them he sent a friendly message to Queen Elizabeth, whose help he coveted in his wars, while she thought mostly of trade. Demetrius is supposed to have died in 1500, eight years before the close of his brother Theodore's reign.

THE QUESTION OF WORDS AND DEEDS.

But, if we use "British" to denote the unity of the three sections of the population of the larger island, by what single term shall we take in the whole United Kingdom as constituted by the ultimate Union Act. The precise ceremonial form—"the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland"—is too long for ordinary use and especially (save in legal documents) for ordinary intercourse.

sacrifice, they urged, the Scotch people could not make and ought never to be asked to make. On the other hand, England was still England, and those who were born in that portion of the United Kingdom were English, just as those born North of the Tweed were Scotch. But, when it was a question of designating the whole of the new realm, the sectional forms were to be considered obsolete and only "Great Britain" and "British" were to be employed.

The salon drinking habit in the United States costs about twenty-three millions of dollars per week. The office lay in the fact that this concentration of all thought of national greatness on England alone had become so habitual that the speaker was utterly unaware of the anomaly of emphasizing it in the ears of cultured Scotchmen.