

THE TRUE WITNESS AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

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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.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

COURAGE AND DEATH.—A contemporary says:—

"There is no more admirable trait of character than courage. It requires courage to live, and all respect those who possess it, but how much more do we admire the courage to face death unflinchingly and even cheerfully! The whole world has had a grand object lesson of this character during the mortal illness of the Pope. Leo XIII. must be added to the roll of distinguished men who have shown how simple it is to face the end calmly and bravely, when fortified by a consciousness of having performed their duty."

There is an entire sermon in this brief paragraph. It needs courage to live and courage to die. If Faith gives us courage to live, it is also the virtue which imparts to us the necessary courage to die. The writer of the passage above quoted has selected a noble example, in Leo XIII., and he has given us the finest possible illustration of the true Christian's courage in the face of the inevitable.

IRISH PHYSIQUE.—The Irish race has ever been considered a hardy and well-developed one. Not long since, in speaking of the famous American athletes, the London "Saturday Review" said:—

"We have often been struck by the astonishing number of Irishmen to be found among American athletes. It is scarcely too much to say that the greatest weight putters, hammer throwers and jumpers in Britain or the States have all been Irish or of Irish extraction. The success of the Americans in the Palma competition at Bisley, though due in the main to the perfection, we may say the excessive perfection, of their weapon, may be claimed as an Irish victory. The first three names were all Irish, surely an extraordinary instance of the way in which Irishmen come to the front as soon as they leave their own country."

This last remark is the most striking of all. Not only is it in the line of athletics that the Irish come to the front as soon as they have left their own country, but also in every other branch of human acquirement. As statesmen as well as warriors, as business men as well as professional men, they have left their mark on every page of each country's history. Then why could they not do as much at home? Is it the climate that is unfavorable to such development?

If we look facts honestly in the face we will find that at home, although it be not known to the world, Irishmen have done as great things as abroad. In the field of athletics they have excelled in all times; and the feats of statesmanship performed by them, under most adverse circumstances, and with a lack of results through no fault of theirs, would have sufficed, in any other land, and under other observation, to render them immortal. Imagine an O'Connell, in a free land, displaying all the qualities and gifts that he exhibited in Ireland; he would have become the monarch of that country. It was never a lack of the bone and sinew, the talent and the genius that made the sons of Ireland fail at home under circumstances that would be crowned with triumph in other countries. It was the misgovernment and the disabilities under which they suffered that kept them down. But, thank God, their day of bondage is at an end.

LINCOLNSHIRE PRIZES.—The Lincolnshire Agricultural Society has been holding an exhibition at Lincoln, in England, and the officers thereof conceived the idea of adding most interesting prizes to their list. They gave rewards to those laborers who had brought up and placed out the greater number of children. The report says that:—
 "The first prize went to Thomas Vought, of Tealby, Market Rasen, for nineteen children born, seventeen brought up, and twelve placed out."

The second prize winner had fifteen children, thirteen brought up, and all placed out, while other competitors had sixteen, fourteen, thirteen, and twelve, there being ten entries for the prizes offered.

"Prizes were also awarded for length of service in one situation. The winners had records ranging from forty-one to fifty-seven years."

As far as this latter prize is concerned we fear it would have but slight application in our country. The days of the "old, faithful servants" has gone past. We know a family that had a nurse, a sewing-maid and a hired man for over a generation. The nurse was in the family thirty years, and died at sixty-eight; the sewing-maid entered the service at twenty-five, and died at seventy; and the man was thirty-two years with the family, and died at sixty-five. Now the entire three of them sleep side by side each with an appropriate monument, in the family lot. The master sleeps beside them, and some day the mistress will follow them and go take her place on the other side of the three servants. That was fidelity and honesty, labor and gratitude. As to the multiplication of the children it seems to us that the best country for examples in this line is Ireland, and next the Province of Quebec. The largest families are to be found in the most moral lands; and the most moral lands are those in which the precepts of the Catholic Church are accepted and adhered to by the people. It is an infallible proof of moral strength and purity of habits to find families increased in the number of their offspring. We are proud to find that in Lincolnshire such very striking examples can be given. But we repeat that what is there an exception in Ireland is a customary rule.

CHINESE REIGN OF TERROR.—Again China is the throws of a political agitation and one that has assumed the proportions of a Reign of Terror. Like in the Boxer movement there have been reformers arising to stir up internal strife in the Celestial Empire. Friendliness towards strangers seems to be a policy unacceptable in court circles in that land. The Dowager Empress sought to stamp out any tendency towards a more liberal spirit, and she has succeeded in striking fear into the hearts of all reformers, by the sudden arrest, trial and execution of Shen Chien a leading reform journalist. It seems that while this execution is the topic that occupies almost all minds, no Chinaman will attempt to speak of it, or even hint at it to his nearest friend. The officials would not dare think on the subject fearing the Dowager Empress might read their thoughts, and Prince Su, the most liberal of the Manchu princes, is in danger of losing his office on account of having opposed the execution of the journalist.

It had been reported that Shen Chien was beheaded, but no such dignified or easy death was accorded him. He was beaten to death by instructions of the Dowager Empress as an example for other journalists. He was beaten for two hours, so the despatches state, with a bamboo rod, and then, in case, he might come to life he was strangled with a rope. The account given is most horrible, and recalls the barbarisms practised during the massacres of 1900. It appears that the evidence against the journalist was so slight that he would have escaped had he not boasted of having organized a rebellion at Hankow in 1900.

Since this execution seven Chinese editors have been arrested at Shanghai. The Associated Press tells of this latter event in these words:—

"We earnestly hope that the authorities of the civilized nations will give a timely warning to this Government, which seems to be preparing a bastille for the true lovers of China."

"It would be discouraging to progressive Chinese if the seven reformers under arrest at Shanghai should be turned over to the Chinese Government, and beheaded. Their writings are, of course, offensive and seditious, yet they should be punished as though they had spoken in a like manner against the American or British Governments, which exist for the welfare of the people. But the Government of this land has become so corrupt, and has proved such a curse to the people that reformers deserve the sympathies of all enlightened men who can perceive in what a miserable state these men are kept."

It is clear that China is a land of barbarism and there is no doubt that Christianity alone can ever make the country free and its people prosperous and happy.

THE COMET'S TAILS.—Borelli's Comet is on his way to the sun, and is sailing along at the rate of many million miles per day. It has to pass near the earth in its journey, but is not likely to strike our orb, for by "near" we mean within a few million miles of our planet. It was declared a wonder because it had two tails, but now the men of Yale have discovered, from their University Observatory, that it has four tails. Comets have been known to have had six or more tails. Still it does not matter much how many it possesses as long as it keeps out of our road. Oliver Wendell Holmes' comet had "Ten million cubic miles of head, ten billion miles of tail."

MGR. BRUCHESI'S JUBILEE.—This day, the 8th August, Mgr. Bruchesi, Archbishop of Montreal, commemorates the sixth anniversary of his episcopal consecration. There was a High Mass—a Pontifical Mass—at eight o'clock this morning at the Cathedral. As the clergy of the diocese has been called together on two occasions within a month, the annual reunion of the priests is postponed till next December, when His Grace will celebrate the 25th anniversary of his sacerdotal ordination. Still a number of the priests, who are within easy distance of the city and who can absent themselves from their parishes for a brief space have been invited, as well as the members of the religious communities and the faithful, to attend the ceremonies of to-day. It will be an occasion for general jubilation and congratulation when, next December, the beloved Archbishop commemorates that important event in his life—his priestly ordination. We trust that the faithful will join with the clergy in doing due honor to him on that occasion and in making his heart rejoice in the evidence of the affection and veneration in which he is held.

RETREATS FOR CLERGY.—The second pastoral retreat commences on Sunday evening, the 23rd August; the first retreat begins to-morrow evening, Sunday, 9th August.

CHATHAM CATHEDRAL.—The building of the new Chatham Cathedral will be commenced at once. The contract has been given to Mr. J. B. Dagenais, of Montreal. Some two years ago, at Bathurst, Mr. Dagenais and Mr. Meloche completed the interior of the Church there for the then pastor Mr. J. F. Barry; and His Lordship has given the new task to the same contractor.

S. T. PATRICK'S T. A. AND B. SOCIETY.

The annual excursion of the above-named Society was held on Monday, and from every standpoint was a great success. More than six hundred persons patronized the parent temperance association, and during the whole trip the good steamer Berthier was a scene of much animation.

The euchre contest created much curiosity, and brought out some of the most expert players in Irish ranks. The result was as follows:—
 Ladies: 1st prize, Miss O'Malley; 2nd prize, Miss Jordan. Gentlemen: 1st prize, Mr. J. Delaney; 2nd prize, Mr. Patrick Reynolds, the hero of many a similar contest.

The "Bean Guess," which aroused much interest and occasioned no little commotion, and for which a valuable prize was offered, was captured by the veteran, Mr. J. J. Bolster. The number of beans which the jar contained was 954; Mr. Bolster figured out that it should contain 955. Prof. Casey and his orchestra furnished the music for the occasion, and needless to add under the direction of such a leader, the music was Irish to the core.

The committee is to be congratulated upon its successful management of its annual outing.

OUR OTTAWA LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Ottawa, Aug. 4.

A PILGRIMAGE.—On Tuesday morning last ten passenger cars filled with pilgrims for Ste. Anne de Beaupre left Ottawa. Among the pilgrims was Rev. Father Groulx, of the Basilica, who has been suffering for the past two years with an affection of the bones of the right knee. His case has been given up by all the physicians whom he has consulted. Eleven cars also left the Union Depot for the same destination. This train went by the North Shore and picked up pilgrims all along the way. Very Rev. Canon Campeau, of the Basilica, and Rev. Father J. U. Forget, of Embrun, were in charge of this immense pilgrimage.

PEW RENTS.—Rev. Father Whelan announced at the 7.30 and 10.30 o'clock Masses in St. Patrick's Church Sunday morning, that he was a loser to the extent of \$400 on account of pew-holders neglecting to pay up the rent due their pews. He had made up his report for the year, and expecting to receive all the pew rent, had marked the accounts paid, before receiving the money, and now that the delinquents have not paid up he is out the above amount. He says it will not occur again.

CIVIC HOLIDAY.—On Sunday and Monday last Ottawa was actually "en fete." The French-Canadian national day, which is celebrated on the 24th June, was honored in the Capital on the 3rd and 4th of August. Monday was the civic holiday, and with the exception of the Parliament, every place was closed. In fact, it was most religiously kept by all classes, store-keepers, merchants, traders, working people, civic employees. The Garde Champain of Ottawa entertained Gardes of Hull and Quebec, as well as Papal Zouaves from the Ancient Capital to the number of three hundred. They arrived on Saturday, and went into camp on Lansdowne Park, preparatory to Sunday's and Monday's parades. The St. Jean Baptiste Societies of Ottawa and Hull turned out five hundred strong.

At eleven o'clock on Sunday the societies led by Garde Leo XIII. of Hull, under Major J. O. Deslauriers, Garde Champain of Quebec, under Major Hamel, and Garde Champain of Ottawa, under Capt. Beauregard, moved away from Cartier Square, and proceeded by way of Elgin, Wellington, Rideau, Dalhousie and St. Patrick to the Basilica. St. Patrick street was elaborately decorated from Dalhousie to Sussex with large Union Jacks. The interior of the Church was similarly dressed for this special occasion. Before the worshippers arrived the doors were locked so that the people were not allowed to crowd in. Once they were seated the public were admitted to hear Mass, which was celebrated by Rev. Father Myrand. Archbishop Duhamel assisted at the throne, and was attended by Revs. Canons Bouillon and Plantin. At the Mass the guard of honor was furnished by La Garde Leon XIII. of Hull. The scattering of these neatly uniformed men throughout the Church lent greatly to the scene which, with the clerical robes and the intermingling uniforms, swords and trappings, was decidedly novel and picturesque.

Rev. Father Corbell preached the sermon in French. In his discourse the Rev. Father eulogized the motives of the members of these organizations. He praised them for their bearing and neatness and told them their duties as soldiers of the Almighty during both peace and war.

At 9.30 on Monday morning, they marched to the residence of the Apostolic Delegate, Mgr. Sbarretti, on the Driveway at the canal, and paid their respects to him by drawing up and presenting arms in front of his door. His Excellency appeared, and greeted them, expressing his appreciation of the honor they had done him.

Then having paid their respects to the Mayor, they proceeded to Rideau Hall to be reviewed by His Excellency the Governor-General.

Lord Minto in addressing them said that he was very pleased to welcome them to Ottawa, and to have an opportunity of reviewing such a body of men. "I understand," he said, "that the object of

the organization is not in any way a military one, and that you have no particular desire for glory on the field of battle. But your motive is a commendable one, and the discipline which you gain by socially meeting and drilling together will do a great deal to mould strong characters among you and be conducive to your success in life. You are also doing much to maintain Canadian history, and when I hear that such names as Champlain and Salaberry are being perpetuated by you I trust they will never be forgotten. I sincerely hope that while you are in the city you will have an enjoyable time, and take away with you a good impression of the Capital of the Dominion."

As soon as His Excellency had concluded the Mayor led three hearty cheers for the Gardes, and the Gardes led by their commandant responded with a hearty cheer.

After the parade had been dismissed, which was after two o'clock, the officers and their friends took the cars to Hotel Victoria, Aylmer, where a sumptuous banquet had been prepared. This banquet was cut considerably shorter than was the original intention, however, as the hour at which the guests arrived was late. The usual after dinner speeches were all dispensed with. About 150 guests sat down and they were a merry lot.

The evening entertainment was also cut rather short, as the Zouaves of Quebec who were booked to put on some fancy drills had to leave for home on the six o'clock train. This was rather a disappointment as about 2,000 people went to Lansdowne Park to see the performance. They were not, however, entirely disappointed, as they saw a very fine display of fireworks, and listened to some excellent music furnished by the bands of the Garde Champain of both Quebec and Ottawa. The fireworks display consisted of the usual scenes of fancy figures and rockets, while a feature of the musical programme was the rendering of several French selections which were warmly applauded. There was much enthusiasm throughout the day and evening.

Col. Lorge, who represented the Garde de Salaberry in the parade, is a veteran of the United States army, and wears several decorations won under that flag. He is now a Canadian citizen, and one of the leading and most popular merchants of Montreal.

IN PARLIAMENTARY circles a considerable amount of excitement is being kept up. At this writing none of the great debates expected have commenced, but before the paper is issued the matter of the Grand Trunk Pacific will be on the tapis. The Committee of Privileges and Elections has just declared Mr. Loy, M.P., for Beauharnois, innocent of the charge that was brought against him of having sold property to the Government, knowing it was to the Government and for a site for a post office. Still one section of the committee is to bring in a minority report that may cause the matter to be argued in the House again.

The Hon. Minister of Justice is introducing a Bill to amend the Dominion Election Act of 1900, and this Bill combined with the aforementioned Act will, when passed, be known as "The Dominion Election Act, of 1903." One clause of the Bill has for object to cause any franchised voter, who without good reasons declines to vote at an election, to be disqualified from voting at the next election. It also provides that the elector may go before a Justice of the Peace, and having given good reasons why he did not vote, obtain a certificate which will entitle him to his franchise at any coming election. But the reasons must be valid, such as absence from the country (provided it be not for the purpose of avoiding voting), illness, incapacity to reach a poll, or the like. The Act will specially apply in cities and large centers. There are many other provisions in it that concern bribery. Of these we might mention one: very heavy penalties are imposed on employers who, by payment of wages, granting privileges, or by threats, or otherwise seek to influence the votes of their employees. There is also a strict clause regarding the expenses of an election campaign. For example, a candidate may employ five speakers in a city, and three in a county, whose expenses may be paid, but not more. In a word, it is a general revision of the election law of the Dominion with a tendency to make it more strict.

A DIVORCE CASE.—An English judge of the Privy Council has declared that South Dakota divorces are no good. That State has a divorce law which legalizes legal separation if the party applying for divorce resides for six months in that

State. It is easy to guess the abuses that this law may cause. The "Evening Journal," of Ottawa, a Protestant organ, has an admirable editorial on the subject, and as it is one that deeply interests Catholics, I will send you an extract from it. The "Evening Journal," having stated the case, proceeds:—

"Such a condition of things, it need hardly be said, destroys the sanctity of the marriage tie and imperils the sacredness of family relationship. The results of the South Dakota divorce law have become a widespread scandal in the neighboring republic, and are being denounced by the Christian ministers of all denominations."

"The Lord of the Privy Council, Sir Francis Jeune, before whom the case was argued declared the South Dakota Divorce Law a 'fraud on civilized jurisprudence,' and our Chicago contemporary cites two United States cases in which similar decisions were given by the Supreme Court at Washington—one from a Massachusetts Court, the other from an Oklahoma Court. The court decided, five to three, that a temporary 'legal bona fide residence in such sense as to strip the applicant for divorce of his citizenship in some other state and make him properly a citizen of South Dakota, and that consequently the South Dakota decree of divorce had no more binding authority in other states than if it had been rendered on the application of persons who had not even a pretense to citizenship."

"This decision seems to be exactly in line with the decision given by Lord Jeune in London, when he described a South Dakota divorce as a 'fraud on civilized jurisprudence.'"

"It is to be hoped that these deliverances, backed up by an aroused public opinion in the United States, will lead to a drastic revision of the divorce laws of some of the states, for South Dakota is not the only State which has divorce laws which are a 'fraud on civilized jurisprudence.' Canadians who meditate divorce through the South Dakota method—and we hear that there are such—would do well to note the decisions referred to above before they embark on such an enterprise. If they have married in haste it will do them good to repent at leisure, and learn that wedlock is too serious and sacred a matter to be made the by-play of every passing whim of those who regard matrimony as little better than a joke or at best a commercial problem."

Mr. Devlin in Parliament

During the past couple of weeks, Mr. C. R. Devlin, M.P., for Galway, in the Imperial Parliament, and former member of the Canadian House of Commons, has been delivering a few very excellent speeches. It is with pleasure that we note the success of a young Irish Canadian, and especially so when we consider the utility of the example for those who are still younger, and who filled with legitimate ambition and passing native talent, are anxious to advance in life. An important matter brought up by Mr. Devlin, in what the Galway "Observer" calls "an admirable speech," was that of the Congested Districts. The report of the House says:—

"Mr. Charles Devlin (Galway), who rose amid cries of 'agreed'—said he rose because he had pledged himself to his constituents to bring this particular subject before the Committee, and when he made a pledge he did his best to carry it out. He hoped the right hon. gentleman would take into consideration the condition of the district which extended five miles right round the city of Galway. He did not know whether the right hon. gentleman knew that district, but he questioned whether in the whole world there were spots where there was greater misery, poverty, or distress owing to the congestion that existed there than at Barna, Castlegar, and other points. They had been told that if the Government bought up the magnificent grazing lands there the people would not migrate to them, but the one outlet for these people was emigration, and if they would emigrate surely they would migrate. His constituents had wondered why the Congested Districts Board, which had done so much good for other parts, did nothing for them. But the answer was quite simple. This particular district was outside the scope of that body. He asked the Chief Secretary to take this district into special consideration and have it scheduled as a congested district."

Do not be classed among delinquent subscribers to the "True Witness."

Irish Residents In Rome

From the Irish Ecclesiastical

The latest news from Rome, the almost general collapse of proselytizing centres, and the statement that "Mrs. Fara is now uniting made for the Italian." However, widely open, the adorned pulpit, the solemn cheerless conventional poor substitutes for the ceremonial and gorgeous outline of the Italian. It is noteworthy that more boys, and still more girls, who have been brought to the institutions return of accord, when free, to the Church. The proselytizing, have not all profit; but, if left unmolested, cut their vile traffic, may eventually be lost to the Irishman, Mr. William Christmas, largely took part in the rescue work, as he was ably assisted by Rev. Mgr. Stoner, Arc. Trebizonde. The Archbishop agreed to become president of a little association inaugurated for this purpose, which happily extended its benevolence as his enthusiasm, has come such a mighty power. This association is still in existence and the Holy Father, stated and, as far as circumscribed, endowed a Catholic Association whereby the Italian is afforded an opportunity of learning such branches, languages, as may be necessary success afterwards in life, same time supplied with shelter when willing to abstain from proselytizing institutions, eventually, it must be said, is necessary. . . .

To Irish readers the name William Osborne Christmas may be unfamiliar. Mr. Christmas has been residing in Rome for twelve years, and most of his life has been devoted to some other of charity. He is a very important honorary member of the Vatican, being private secretary to the Pope, and on days of Papal audiences and pilgrimages he is one of the officers on duty. English-speaking visitors who much in request, and when a question of seeing the Pope or an audience, he is always ready to render every assistance. Christmas is a native of Wexford, but there seems to be little of his future residence in Ireland. He is little beyond the prime of life, buoyant, overflowing with energy, and is only happy when he is rendering whatever favor may be in his power. The entire family is in Rome, and I cannot speak of Miss Grace V. C. the gifted authoress, whose writings are so often to be found in the leading periodicals of this country and America. Her story, "The Conversion of Enderby" is entertaining and instructive. More than once been offered some very lucrative engagements, but as he is not quite harmonious with the views of his mind, she has been obliged to decline them. . . .

There are various residences in Rome who, though not born in Ireland, are of Irish descent, and deeply interested in the Irish cause. Among these may be mentioned Valentine Patrick Marbury Sweney. The Marquess was born in 1871, and is son of the late Patrick MacSweeney, of County Cork, where the ruins of the old family residence. His mother was Polish Countess Konarska, and it is not improbable that his origin is traceable to his rare for languages. He is said to speak eight modern languages with accuracy. It is certain that he speaks English, French and with the ease of a native. His mastery of languages is of valuable service in his relations with the Vatican, where he was appointed chamberlain in 1895, and a little of marquis in 1896. He has also been in the diplomatic service of the