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The True



Witness

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1906

PRICE FIVE CENTS

St. Phillip's Parish of Richmond, Ont.

Father O'Connell 1846 --- Father Brownrigg 1906.

(For the True Witness.)

Recently a number of changes of considerable importance have been made in the diocese of Ottawa. The resignation of Father Newman in Richmond parish necessitated a change for the filling of that important place. Richmond is one of the oldest parishes in this part of Ontario. In fact it was the mother church of nearly all the surrounding churches in Carleton County, and a number of other border counties.

Old Richmond has much in its history that is quite interesting; but a number of personages of more than passing importance who made this quiet country village, in this eastern part of our province, their place of residence in their sojourn through life, have added very considerably to the interest to be found in the history of the locality.

Far back beyond the middle of the last century a young levite, Father O'Connell, from the Green Isle of suffering and sorrow, (then a resident in Montreal about ten years) was sent to this part to see after the spiritual welfare of his countrymen.

It was a time when youthful vigor, truly Christian zeal, and devotedness were necessary on the part of the one who undertook the charge, for these were trying times indeed. The majority of the fathers and mothers of the Irish people, now here resident, both Catholics and Protestant, came to this country about that time.

Anyone familiar with the history of events then happening in Ireland will easily perceive the connection between the coming of these Irish exiles here at that time and the terrible famine and fever then making havoc in the old land. Old Ireland was dying, so her enemies said, and the Celt on the banks of the Shannon would soon be as scarce as the red man on the banks of the St. Lawrence. But the Thunderer of that day spoke falsely, as it has often done since, and the Celt is to-day on both the banks of the Shannon and those of the St. Lawrence, and in all likelihood will continue to be in both places long after the last vile spokesman of the bloodthirsty Sassanach has ceased to utter falsehood to the world around him, and even after his last unfortunate offspring has perished in the plague of rabe suille.

Harry and Cromwell and good Queen Bess failed in their projected extermination of the Gael, and notwithstanding their well-thought plans, so did the Georges, of unhallowed memory, and the pious advisers of that benign lady who sat in their royal place after them. They nevertheless succeeded in scattering the children of the Celt into other lands, and this locality was one of the places to gain through that sad and serious loss to old Erin.

When these exiles came they brought with them that dreaded disease, fever, a plague invented by Irish landlordism and English law, and direful were the consequences that everywhere followed it. As in many of the periods of the sad history of his fathers in the past, so when on these shores did the dying Irish exile find his last hope and consolation in his own Soggarth Aroon, as he affectionately called his good priest who attended him. Well might he turn back to that rich vocabulary of his father's tongue for terms to express his appreciation of the one who bestowed that heroic attention and devotion upon him. And the good old Soggarth of Richmond, in those long-gone days, was among the most heroic and devoted. So extraordinary were the risks he ran, and so great and unbounded the charity he exercised, that he became an object of reverence and affection for all. In fact forty-four years later, when he bade adieu to

the people of Richmond village, and retired from active duties on account of advanced age, he was presented with an address by the Protestant people, and in that address this heroism of his earlier days was recalled and held up to the admiration of the generation now living. This grand old character, then, very naturally left his mark on the history of Richmond parish. He himself was born a year after the last century commenced, and died a year before that century was completed. The souls that once tenanted the bones and earth now scattered on every side of his narrow resting-place, claimed the affection of his noble bosom and the solicitude of his great priestly soul for well nigh half a century. He had fashioned and formed himself, in his child-like simplicity, after the pattern of the great Divine Model, and unconsciously, he became the centrepiece of the history of this old place in the nineteenth century. He left Richmond in 1890, and was succeeded by Rev. Father Dunn, who ministered to the spiritual wants of the parish for six years, and then was removed to Gloucester. Father Dunn was succeeded by Father McGovern, who was, finally, succeeded by Father Newman nearly five years ago. Father Brownrigg, who now takes this important charge upon his shoulders, is a young man, and St. Isidore's of South March was his first charge. His labors there have, however, been blessed with such marked success that the Archbishop has thought well to ask him to accept this promotion. Needless to say that the announcement of this change brought great sorrow to the hearts of the good folk of South March. Sunday evening, October 28th, was fixed for leave-taking between pastor and people, and though the weather was nearly as bad as could well be expected on a wet October evening, a large crowd assembled for benediction service at seven o'clock. Father Cavanagh, the new pastor in charge, was present, but the usual service of the evening was conducted by the reverend young priest, who was about to say farewell. At the close of the service the following address, accompanied by a well-filled purse, was ably read by Miss Gertrude Bink:

Very Beloved Father,—With hearts bowed down with sorrow we assemble here this evening to say a parting farewell to you. Our words cannot adequately express our sentiments on this occasion, and it was only with the announcement of your departure that we began to in some way realize how great was the loss we were about to sustain. We now very naturally look back over the last seven years and recall the great work you have done. Ah, now, we cannot and do not see that work as it really is, for although the outward and immediately visible part of the work accomplished through your ministry in our midst is amply evident to all in its completeness and vast proportions, yet greater by far has been the silent and outwardly imperceptible movement wrought by you in matters spiritual for the welfare of our immortal souls. Your constant vigilance, your unbounded zeal and unselfish devotedness in our highest and holiest interests endeared you to us beyond anything we find ourselves competent to express. Our own consciousness of our unworthiness of the great care and attention you bestowed on every one of us and our too frequent ingratitude for the same, even from the best disposed among us, make us now feel it a duty to hasten to join with heartfelt expressions of sorrow and humble solicitations for your paternal forgiveness by all such shortcomings on our part. You came amongst

us, dear Father, when our community was first raised to the dignity of a parish. Its present prosperous standing, then, may well be almost entirely attributed to your untiring zeal and devotion. The salutary truths of our holy faith and the wholesome discipline of the one true fold you have successfully preached, practiced and instilled into the hearts of your flock.

From these it will be a consolation for you to know we hope never to depart, and we ask of you, dear Father, to pray for our perseverance. You are going in obedience to the call of the first pastor of the diocese to take a new and heavier charge, and we humbly submit to his will in this hour of trial, fully conscious of the fact that our loss is another's gain. We beg of you to accept a little offering we now make as a mark of our love and respect for you. Not the intrinsic value of the offering, but the sentiments of our hearts in making it do we desire you to take into consideration. Permit us to ask the privilege of an occasional remembrance by you in your new home when at the altar of God you offer up that clean oblation in the morning sacrifice. As our first parish priest, our faithful friend, our great benefactor and good father, we shall always remember you in our prayers, and more particularly on Sunday morning when we are assembled around this holy altar where you so often offered the holy Mass with us and for us. We shall fondly recall you and from our hearts beseech the Almighty Father to bless and protect you and to render us all one day worthy to meet you in the happy home beyond, where no farewells are ever spoken.

Humbly requesting your paternal blessing, we bid you a heartfelt adieu.

Signed on behalf of the parish of South March by

JOHN NASH,
JOHN SCOISSONS,
JAMES KELLY,
LACEY CHARLEBOIS.

After the address and presentation Father Brownrigg responded in touching terms to the kindly sentiments thus given expression to. He reminded his hearers of the great salient points of the duties of the faithful souls and promised to always remember them, and expressed the hope that the good work that had gone on through his humble instrumentality by the grace of God might ultimately be crowned by their mutual triumph over all adversities and eternal union in Heaven.

SHON O'FARRELL.

DONAHOE'S FOR NOVEMBER.

The Rev. A. A. Notebaert is the author of a very timely paper on "Actual Conditions in the Congo Free State," published in the November number of Donahoe's Magazine. The beginning of the Belgian interest in Central Africa, the expansion of the colony, the character of the native tribes, the work of the missionary priests, the desire of England to encroach, the misrepresentations of the press, and the policy of the Belgian king—all are taken up with clearness and convincing candor.

The Pope and England.

The following is a translation of the letter received by the Archbishop of Westminster in reply to one His Grace wrote on behalf of those present at the annual Conference in Brighton of the Catholic Truth Society:

"My Lord—The dutiful letter recently addressed by your Grace to the Holy Father in the name of the Bishops, clergy, and faithful met together in Brighton for the annual conference of the Catholic Truth Society, has been most acceptable to His Holiness. The Holy Father was pleased not only with the determination expressed to share with him his afflictions and sorrows, but also especially with the resolution to draw profit from the instructions given by him to the French nation. This resolution will help to bring the faithful into closer union with the Head of the Church, and thus to facilitate the realization of his desires in his spiritual government of the world. His Holiness would, indeed, have wished that the difficulties to which you refer, and with which Catholics in England have now to contend, did not exist. Yet, in making the anxieties of the Bishops his own, he exhorts them not to lose courage, knowing that Our Lord assists with special graces those who strive to consolidate or to extend his Kingdom. In token of these special graces, his Holiness, with paternal affection, grants to your Grace, to the prelates, and to the clergy and faithful whose sentiments you have expressed, his Apostolic Benediction. I am happy to convey this to you, and at the same time to sign myself, with feelings of great esteem,

Your faithful servant,
R. CARD. MERRY DEL VAL,
Mgr. Francis Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster, London."

Mr. Devlin's Retirement.

The Galway Observer has the following article in a recent issue: "As the public are now aware, Mr. C. R. Devlin, our borough member, has definitely decided to sever his Parliamentary connection with Galway. It may be remembered that in these columns we gave a hint of his retiring on the eve of his departure for Canada in August last. At the same time we had hopes, even up to the last moment, that he might still be induced to hold on for another session of Parliament, seeing that a Home Rule bill is about to be brought into the House of Commons, and that it might come to his turn to do something in the way of moulding the bill that might perchance retrieve or safeguard the fortunes or promote the interests of Galway as a commercial port. Mr. Devlin might be said to have an eye for international progress, but in the passage of a Home Rule bill through Parliament, his keen insight into the affairs of Galway and his knowledge of Irish Canadian and Irish American affairs was almost certain to make his presence of much value to Galway.

"We take it that the step he has taken is irrevocable, and we may look back upon his career as member for Galway. It may have been noticed that he left nothing undone that he was asked to do by his constituents. In that respect he was an ideal member of Parliament. It might, in fact, be said of him that he took Galway to himself and left not a grievance that we complained of but he brought up and exposed, and exposed and brought up again and again, when he saw the necessity. He thus showed himself to be one of our best Parliamentary representatives, and the chances are he would exert himself with still more success if he got sufficient backing up from his constituency.

"Another thing may be remembered to him is that, when he was sent by the Irish party to address his countrymen in England and Scotland he carried the name of Galway before the world with credit to Galway and to himself. Probably few people in Galway know that their

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of purgative medicine is ruinous to health causing sooner or later a chronic dilatation of the bowels. Abbey's Salt has no such effect but by gentle action causes a natural movement, effective and painless.—All Druggists, 25c. and 60c. bottle.

city and county has a good name and a great name in many Irish centres in Great Britain and America. Mr. Devlin was the man that revived and perpetuated our good name wherever he went. Mr. Devlin, in fact, was one of the most enthusiastic members of the party in furthering the cause of Ireland, and while Parliament was sitting he was continually thinking how best he could serve his constituents. May we hope we may look upon his like again."

The Pope Sent Blessing to Canada.

Archbishop Langevin has just returned from Rome accompanied by the Rev. F. Beliveau. His Grace went to Rome as a delegate to the general convention of the Oblates, and, speaking of the general effect, he said: "The election of Rev. F. Laverdiere as superior-general causes me much satisfaction. The choice seems to have been a divine inspiration. The new general is a very distinguished man and very influential."

Of Pope Pius X. His Grace says: "He is truly a Pope, that is, one inspired by the Holy Ghost. I was received by him with fraternal kindness, and he deigned to bless our works, and our young and growing country. When I assured His Holiness that we were entirely devoted to him, the Pope smiled kindly and said it was a great consolation to his heart, so sorely afflicted as he is by events in other parts of the world."

Something More Than a Purgative—To purge is the only effect of many pills now on the market. Parmentier's Vegetable Pills are more than a purgative. They strengthen the stomach where other pills weaken it. They cleanse the blood by regulating the liver and kidneys, and they stimulate where other pill compounds depress. Nothing of an injurious nature, used for merely purgative purposes, enters into their composition.

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Read A Catholic Paper.

In these hysterical days of journalism, "false standards," "yellow kid pictures and abominable comic supplements, it is well to read a Catholic paper.

The Very Rev. T. Garland, S.J., addressing a large congregation in St. Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane, said: "The becoming a subscriber to a Catholic paper is of no less importance than joining a confraternity. Every home should have one. By taking a Catholic paper the subscriber helps the cause of religion as well as nationality, as it helps to spread Catholic opinion amongst Catholic people. The Catholic paper is indispensable to every home that seeks to preserve the faith. Its fate and fortunes largely depend on the support it receives from the Catholic body. Every subscriber can help by procuring others, and so propagate Catholic news. The paper carries on its wings the best news, the best hopes and aspirations and blessings that light up many a sunless home."

A REVELATION.

A revelation—for so it was to me, and so it will be, I am sure, to many of our English-speaking citizens, who, like myself, are ignorant of the wonderful things accomplished by the nuns in charge of our charitable institutions. Being called upon lately to accompany a party of tourists on a visit to the Grey Nunnery, I was in-

deed greatly surprised to see the various industries in which the Sisters are employed, in the numerous work-rooms through which we were shown. While everything was a revelation to me, what interested me particularly was our visit to the flower department. As I stepped inside the door, I thought for a moment I was in a conservatory, and that the vari-colored blossoms exhibited in the large show-cases were real blooms, and not artificial reproductions. Even "Solomon's bees" would have been deceived, I believe, in this case, for the air was fragrant with the sweet scent of violets, carnations, heliotrope, etc.; each flower being perfumed with its own peculiar odor. Among the potted plants were noticeable a variety of asters and chrysanthemums, also marigolds, true to life.

The nun in charge of this department is a clever little business woman. She received us courteously, and seemed pleased to answer all our questions about her work. She showed us a memorial design in natural flowers, which had been sent her to be waxed for preservation. Having some knowledge of botany, and being a great lover of flowers, I was deeply interested and really astonished to see the perfection these sisters attain in the difficult art of pressing and waxing the most delicate tendrils and stems, as well as the sturdier plants, and the truly artistic skill displayed in arranging the same into the different designs which were brought forth for our inspection. While admiring the beauty of these latter, my attention was drawn to the work going on in an inner department, from which we were separated by a glass partition, through which could be seen several sisters busily engaged making yards and yards of ivy, smilax and other creeping vines, which we were told were orders sent in by clergymen for church decorations. They also make up large quantities of cheaper paper flowers and foliage for trimming windows during the holiday season, and on other festive occasions.

Here, too, were pots of tall, stately Easter lilies, with which "Solomon in all his glory, could not compare," and handsome "Cigars" plants whose bright red berries contrast so prettily with the dark green foliage. "Just the thing for Christmas decorations," said I, referring to the latter.

"Yes," replied the Sister, "they would look reasonable with holly and mistletoe, but just now they are ordered chiefly for dining-rooms, banquet halls, hotels, etc., as they are particularly effective for table decorations."

"If we can ship plants easily?" answered the Sister to a question. "Yes, indeed, we send them to all parts of the Dominion, and even to the United States."

"Well, Madam," said I, as I took my departure, "I had not the faintest idea of the work done here. Really, you sisters are wonderful people."

"Well, you see we are not idle," replied she, smiling. "All must labor here below, and I think one is the better and happier for it. It takes over one hundred thousand dollars annually to run this vast institution, which is cared for upwards of one thousand poor, and the industries of the Sisters is one of the chief sources of revenue."

"Wonderful wonderful!" I could not help repeating. "Really, madam, all this has been to me a revelation."

R. J. SALISBURY.

Holloway's Corn Cure is a specific for the removal of corns and bunions. We have never heard of its failing to remove even the worst kind.

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