

The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY
The True Witness Printing & Publishing Co
(LIMITED)
355 St. James Street, Montreal, Canada
P. O. Box 1138.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1897.

THE NEW TARIFF.

The new tariff is to a good many a surprise; to a good many it will be a relief; by some it will be resented as partial and unjust; by the largest number, for whose greatest good it was expected—from the previous professions of ministers—to serve it will be regarded for the most part with indifference until they begin to discover that the promised land of universal cheapness has not yet been conquered. Less protectionist than that to which it succeeds it is still very far from free trade. The most that can be said is that its face is turned in that direction and that it has given some signs of moving towards that distant goal. Its essential feature is its preferentiality, but either this portion of the tariff is very obscure or it leaves to the Controller of Customs powers that Parliament only has a right to exercise. Indirectly the reciprocity of the tariff is policy of retaliation against the United States.

The promised reduction to reciprocating countries of 12 1/2 per cent now and 25 per cent after Dominion Day, 1898, reduces the duties materially. The prospect of such a possible reduction introduces an element of uncertainty with foreign trade that is a serious inconvenience where it does not lead to considerable loss. We are much mistaken if the business public generally, without regard to party, will receive this feature of the tariff with the satisfaction that it seems to have given some of Mr. Laurier's truly loyal followers. Of the main changes, one of general interest is the reduction of the duty on coal oil from six to five cents on the gallon. The duty on coal, out of deference to the Nova Scotia mine owners, is left unchanged. The public, that is, as consumers, will welcome the reduction in the duty on refined sugar, on flour, wheat and some other articles. Neither householders nor housewives will profit much by the reduction in the duty on tweeds and woollens, though it will be far from pleasing to those who had struggled to build up those industries. The increase in the duties on spirits, tobacco, cigarettes, etc., of which on moral grounds we might approve, will be detrimental, if, as Mr. Foster urges, the figures on which he had, after careful enquiry, determined, were the highest attainable without provoking the counteractive evil of smuggling. There are so many points to consider in framing a tariff, so many business interests, so many industrial claims, so many expectations, based on promises more or less distinct, to this or that section of the community—that it is impossible to satisfy all concerned by even the most conscientious, fair minded and painstaking revision.

ST. PATRICK'S LEAGUE.

In our issue of the 21st instant, our readers will have seen the report of the proceedings at the last meeting of the St. Patrick's League, at St. Mary's Hall, Craig street, in this city. The principle on which the League is founded is an excellent one, and it is now in a fair way to becoming thoroughly representative of Irish sentiments and aspirations. Nearly all the societies in the city are already on the list of the organizations that send delegates, and it is expected that ere long there will be no exception whatever. As to the character and aim of the constituent bodies, there is no restriction but one. Political, or rather, party controversy, is forbidden. Otherwise the interests that are represented are most comprehensive—comprising temperance, literature, religion and benevolence. There were sixty delegates present at the last Sunday meeting and

they seemed to be animated, as a whole, by the right spirit. The great and primary object of St. Patrick's League is, in the words of a correspondent, the advancement of the Irish people and the securing of justice for such of them here and elsewhere as may need help against powerful oppressors.

With the earnest movement we are in full sympathy, because it is both right and especially timely. God forbid that Irishmen in Canada should ever grow indifferent to the sufferings of their kinsmen in the old land. But at the same time it ought, in our opinion, to be kept in mind that the trust and most beneficial service that any Irish institution or society can render is that which results from the earnest effort to elevate the Irish people of its own city, district or country, so as to make them more efficient, morally and otherwise, for giving their co-operation to the general cause. Whatever institution, however formed or named, raises the moral and intellectual standard of its people, is doing a service with which it need fear no comparison. Such a service tends to fit the beneficiaries to take a place in the world worthy of their origin and creditable to themselves, and to fear no competition that is honest and open.

There is, however, unhappily, a class of competition with which it will be one of the duties of the League to enter into conflict in defence of the victims, actual or threatened, of its unjust operation. It is no secret that some large corporations have been discriminating against Irish Catholic young women and young men, and the question arises in what way it is best to convince the authors of such bigotry that, in so acting, they are going against their own interests. This is not a matter for mere words. Action will have more effect than declamation and, if only the Irishmen that have it in their power to retaliate are humane and patriotic enough to use that power promptly, the required lesson will be imparted effectively. All who are unjustly treated by oppressors however formidable ought to find in St. Patrick's League a friend worthy of its name. The sons and daughters of Irish parents are the equals of the best in intelligence, in skill, in honesty, in politeness and in morality. It is the duty of all Irishmen, but especially of this representative Irish League, to stand up in their behalf and to interpose between them and the wound that bigotry or prejudice would inflict.

A CORRECTION AND SOMETHING MORE.

An inaccuracy that crept into our notice of the coming jubilee of the Buffalo Catholic Union and Times gives us an opportunity of repeating our congratulations to both the paper and its reverend editor. "It is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Union and Times not that of our ordination," says our contemporary, "which we hope to celebrate early in May. The silver jubilee of our priesthood was over nine years ago." We cordially wish the editor a happy completion of the years necessary to turn the silver into gold and of more beyond them. In congratulating the Catholic Union and Times on the quarter century of vigorous and prosperous life that it has left behind it, we recognize not only the editorial ability and excellent Catholic spirit with which it is conducted, but also its mechanical superiority and creditable general appearance.

A Catholic journal has difficulties to contend with from which the higher class of secular papers are almost always free, and these difficulties are not alleviated or made more tolerable by the consciousness that they are aggravated, if not entirely caused, by the indifference or deliberate hostility of so called Catholics. We are nearing the date of our own golden jubilee, and although it is cause for thankfulness that a Catholic paper, mainly supported by Irish readers, should have surmounted the obstacles in its path for nearly half a century, we cannot help contrasting the position that it might have to-day, if all those in whose interests it is published did their duty towards it, and its actual condition which, however optimistic our desire, we cannot describe as financially flourishing.

We are, of course, quite aware that pecuniary success is not, from the true Christian standpoint, the best thing for any of us. In the best ages of the Church the feverish lust of wealth that taints, if it does not poison, the lives of modern communities, was unknown. The words of the Gospel were taken seriously, and to be very rich was equivalent to being in imminent spiritual peril. Far be it from us to long for such an increase in our worldly goods as would endanger our soul's salvation. But, however moderate his wishes may be in this respect, the conductor of a Catholic journal must often be bitterly convinced that the superabundance of his plutocratic readers would enable him to achieve great and needful reforms in his paper by which thousands would be benefited, the welfare of Catholics would be promoted and the position of the Church in his locality be strengthened. That, at

least, is the hope that he cherishes—a hope without which no Catholic journalist would have engaged in such an enterprise. It is an ambition of which no sincere Catholic has reason to be ashamed nor, if he does his duty, ought even failure to cause him regret for having ventured and lost.

Journalism is one of the moral and intellectual forces of our time and the Church has a right to its best support. And whatever helps Catholic people to remain true to their convictions aids the Church in its incomparable mission. If Catholics would only realize how much they could further the good cause by giving a helping hand to the Catholic paper of their own locality, they would add considerably to the sum of their good works as Catholics. On the other hand, when they deliberately ignore or oppose the journal that has the best claim on their sympathies, they are doing what at any rate their consciences cannot approve of. But there is a more practical argument. They are, if business men, neglecting the means by which they can secure the good will and the custom of their fellow Catholics at home and elsewhere. Protestants find it profitable to spend hundreds of dollars yearly to make known what wares they sell or what professional advantages they possess to their Catholic fellow-citizens. Some of them keep their advertisements permanently on evidence so that their names may be always before the Catholic customers or clientele that they wish to retain or secure. Yet, in the face of this example, many Catholics turn their backs on their own paper; going elsewhere with their advertisements and in other ways refusing help to the organ of their own faith. It is not in any spirit of bitterness and certainly with no intention of striking at individuals that we call attention to this laxness on the part of those who could help the TRUE WITNESS, but for some reason fail to do so. It is purely in self-defence. We feel that we ought to have more Catholic assistance than we receive. We are certain that those who help us receive corresponding advantages. We ask nothing for nothing—only such fair play as we have a right to demand from those in whose behalf our paper is carried on. A great deal of what seems like intentional neglect is probably nothing more than forgetfulness. In that case, it is not too late for amendment, and we know that there is no lack of Catholic spirit amongst us if only it could be reached and awakened.

THE LEAGUE AND ITS ORGAN.

The TRUE WITNESS has a good claim to be regarded as the organ of St. Patrick's League, which most of our readers will acknowledge. It will be to the interest of the League to have full reports of its proceedings regularly published in an Irish Catholic paper that sympathizes with its aims and will assist with whatever influence it may have in carrying them out. The idea of the League was not an unfamiliar one in our columns, even before the League was organized, and we are especially interested in seeing the organization become a success. We feel assured that if proper care be exercised in the selection of delegates, in giving full deliberation to all measures proposed and in avoiding topics likely to cause dissension, the League is destined to prove a very real power for good to the Irish community of Montreal and by example to other Catholic centres in the Dominion.

We observe St. Patrick's League is adopting the practice of several national societies and religious communities, in furnishing secular papers with reports of their proceedings before publishing them in the TRUE WITNESS. In a future issue we will point out the results of such an unwise course.

In reply to an enquirer, who wishes to know the meaning and source of the motto of this journal, "Testis in celo fidelis," we wish to say that it means a "faithful witness in heaven" and that it forms the final clause of the 38th verse of the 88th Psalm.

It is proposed, during the summer months, to hold regular meetings of St. Patrick's League on the 3rd Wednesday evening instead of the 3rd Sunday afternoon of each month.

The Legislators of the various States of the neighboring Union have been paying a great deal of attention to newspapers recently. The latest in this line comes from Illinois, where it is proposed to add the following clause to the libel act:—

"That any newspaper, found guilty of unduly eulogizing any person or persons, thus falsely building up such person or persons a reputation without merit, thereby misleading and deceiving the public shall, after ten days' notice, served in writing upon the publisher or publishers of said newspaper of the false and misleading character of said eulogy, make a retraction or correction of said eulogy, in manner and place as conspicuous as was its original publication; for three succeeding issues of said newspaper."

This act shall not apply to deceased persons, nor be operative against funeral orations nor obituary notices."

OUR PHILADELPHIA LETTER.

Some Lessons of the Celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Archbishop Ryan.

Pronounced by Non-Catholics the Greatest Event for Many Years.

New Books by Catholic Authors to Shortly Appear.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

PHILADELPHIA, April 26, 1897.—It is a fact patent to the people of this section of the globe that Philadelphia has celebrated the silver jubilee of her beloved Archbishop, but the fact may not produce upon everyone the impression that it should. Three or four days of Easter week were given up to the ceremonies fitting the occasion by the Catholics of Philadelphia, and the city was thronged with Catholic visitors of all ranks. Parades, dinners, receptions, entertainments of divers kinds—are they not so described in the daily press that all may read and understand? Such attentions showered upon a great and good man are worthy of notice, but there is another side to the story. What of the honor reflected upon those who took part in the many-sided demonstration? What of the lessons taught the non-Catholic onlooker? Certainly, Philadelphia's name was well supported, for non-Catholics also "hasted to do him honor," gladly and freely in all "brotherly love," but apart from these, there has arisen a different feeling far and wide—and in many a bitterly prejudiced heart—during the last week. The spirit of the occasion,

THE STANCH LOYALTY TO THE FAITH evinced, the fearless and unflinching courage of the many who in spite of pinching care and anxious outlook, of temporal unrest and crowding unbelief and mock ing ignorance, were warmly alive to the interests and fully awake to the dignity of all that concerns the Church and her hierarchy, struck home to the minds and hearts of many careless bystanders. The opening parade of Tuesday morning, when file after file of the boys of the parochial schools swung into line and marched down sunny Broad street with the sturdiness of incipient veterans, caused admiring surprise as to numbers, training, and a general air of bright manliness. These were the sons of men who prove their loyalty to their Faith by the test of the "great American dollar"—men who labor hard for every cent they spend, pay taxes cheerfully to support the government, and educate at their own expense the children God has given them in the schools where they are taught to know His will and serve Him faithfully all the days of life. Such men believe and live up to their belief. This promise of the Catholic future was fully borne out by the parade of Wednesday evening, when the Catholic men of the present furnished the exciting spectacle of

"THE GRANDEST THING OF THE KIND EVER SEEN HERE,"

as it is again and again pronounced by those severe critics and observant censors, the Protestants. But magnificent as was the display, thrilling as was the subdued roar of thousands upon thousands watching and waiting for the oncoming steps of thousands more, splendid as was the flash and glow of transparencies, flickering taper and soaring rockets, all, as it were, in a very atmosphere of music, something deeper and grander appealed to the non-Catholic,—the sense of oneness in the most vital of all interests, their religion. This view of it has taken strong hold on Protestant minds.

The parade of Wednesday night was not altogether Catholic, however. The major portion of it was, of course, true and loyal sons of the Church, but the kindly neighbors to whom the Archbishop has shown himself the genial and generous friend were most glad to honor him with their best. They made it as well the city's tribute to the true citizen who has the good of the public at heart, collectively and individually. Such, too, was the reception at the Academy of Music on Thursday evening, where, "everybody in their best," went to shake the fatherly hand with its splendid episcopal ring. In short, the week's work was a great one as an ovation, an educator, and a proof of the change a short time may bring about. Half a century ago, such a thing would have been an impossible dream. Twenty-five years ago it would have made but a feeble local splutter. To-day

A RESISTLESS TOWER OF GOOD FEELING and happy courage and confidence sweeps before it a thousand sand-hills of inherited prejudices, a host of trifling but irritating misapprehensions, a heart-high barrier of ignorance and indifference. It has undermined the foundations of deliberate malice and active enmity. It has cleared the heavens and the earth of unhealthy and depressing influences. Yet, it dingles and sparkles in the memory with countless never-to-be-forgotten incidents as the placid summer stream lives in our memories of sunshine and blossoms, butterflies and birds' songs. Such an event is not local in character, but concerns the whole Catholic world. Its gala face is nothing to the undercurrent of thought and feeling, nothing to the conclusions that we draw from the comments freely uttered in quiet homes and humdrum streets, where "the people"—like the straw—show the way the current sets. What has wrought this change in fifty years? The teaching, the example, the blameless lives and heroic charity of men like Archbishop Ryan. Passion and prejudice, vanity and ignorance, may combine to sway public opinion for evil at intervals, but the victory in the long run is to the

CAUSE OF JUSTICE AND MERCY AND TRUTH, to the side of the mighty Lord of Lords and King of Kings, for whom and with

whom these men labor and suffer to prevail. There are many shades of doctrine in Philadelphia, many phases of character intensified by a heritage of traditions and opinions, and as many standards of right and wrong. Archbishop Ryan holds a magic key to the difficult approach of each. Knocks at each heart, lifts each latch of defiance, and walks into a welcome as "a man of God" in whom all trust, whose charity is beyond doubt and whose far-seeing wisdom has no thought of self. In quieter spheres and in less extended fields of labor, how many priests are working in the same spirit? And it is that spirit that Philadelphia has honored. It is that spirit, which compels the multitude to come in at the Master's command and in the way He orders, which shall make our future glorious and blessed.

IN THE ARENA OF LITERATURE.

I hear in various quarters of new books that are to come from Catholic heads and hands, and of changes that are to be made in different editorial sanctuaries, all of which promise to do good on all sides. It is an advantage to anyone to get out of the rut into which life naturally settles for each of us. Change and uncertainty are counted as evils, but they have their healthy sharpness, and their bracing sting. Many a man has never known the best he could do because he lacked a touch of either. In spite of the wholesome teaching of the old-fashioned hymn, the most of us would rather "be waited to the skies on flowery beds of ease" than work our way, and it is exactly the same with our earthly souls. We like the paths we know, and exploring is no part of our plan. Thus it is we grow old before our time, and rust out instead of wearing and sharpening with the wear. A good shaking up is no disadvantage. And certain of our magazines need something. If they will exchange for a time, and each take up and modify the features others have and they lack, we shall do well. Well? I mean even better than we do now, for we do well, considering the struggle we have had, the demand we have not only to supply but create.

DISSATISFACTION IN THE RANKS.

Certain of the "Immortelles," it seems, are not at all satisfied with the wreath woven for them by the good Ursulines, and there have been comments less favorable than mine, and not complimentary to my opinion. What did they expect? For what did they provide? The book is intended for a reading book for classes. The selections must necessarily be short, and varied—which they are. Each writer was asked to send what she chose to represent her, and I suppose she did so. Since the complimentary comments have reached me, I have carefully re-read the whole, and I adhere to my first opinion. It is a good thing of its kind, but selections are never satisfactory. They either contain all the good there is in the writer's work or they fail to give a fair idea of it altogether. From these selections I have gathered both the best and the least favorable views of the "Immortelles." As to the portraits—well, the woman who puts her shadow into the hands of the illustrator takes her beauty such as it is in her own hands, and slowly (but surely) murders it. She may not complain of anything she is called upon to face "as others see her." In the course of my researches among newspapers, I have seen in one day ten or twelve different "cuts" of as many different styles and apparently of as many different people, but all doing duty as a portrait of some unlucky "prominent" writer. Therefore, to me (having no personal feeling in the matter) the portrait half tones in the volume are more than half good—they are flattering, as such portraits go, as to resemblance. Yes, I still think the Ursulines did a hard and unsatisfactory work with more than fair success.

SARA TRAINER SMITH.

VICTORIA BRIDGE.

AMERICAN CONTRACTORS IN MONTREAL TENDERING FOR THE WORK.

The Improvement to Include a Double Track and Estimated to Cost Two Millions of Dollars.

There was quite a little gathering of American engineers at the Windsor Hotel on Saturday, all bent upon the same purpose of securing the large contract in connection with the great improvement of double-tracking and otherwise enlarging the Victoria Bridge, which was erected in 1852, and which spans the St. Lawrence between St. Lambert and Point St. Charles. Among others present were Messrs. Bonzano and Clarke, consulting and contracting engineers; Messrs. L. E. Todd, C. W. Bryan, S. P. Mitchell and W. H. Cornell, Wilmington.

Each of these gentlemen represents large firms and each is accompanied by a plan, setting forth the character of the work and the amount for which it can be done. These plans are to be submitted to the manager, Mr. Hays, and the decision will probably be known within a week as to which is successful. It is expected that work will commence upon the widening within a month from the present date. That is the expectation of Mr. Bonzano, of the firm above-mentioned.

"We are all rivals in this business," he said, laughingly. "As far as our firm is concerned, we are no strangers in Canada. We have built most of the bridges between Quebec and Ottawa. In this case the work, of course, will be given to the lowest tenderer. The local executive will have full power to accept the plans and order the work to proceed. This is partly on account of the pressure of time and partly—perhaps chiefly—because the new management has been given larger powers than were conferred before upon the officials on this side."

"What will be the amount involved?" "Well, I should say pretty near two million dollars."

And how long would it take to complete the changes?"

"A little over a year."

"You may expect to see the work commenced in about a month. When the

Victoria bridge was built it was the best of its kind. Now we consider the construction antiquated. But since then there have been wonderful advances. Thirty years ago there was no machinery to produce the combinations we now see. The men of that day worked with the tools and the knowledge at their disposal. And yet they were far-seeing, too, for the double tracking was probably in their minds when they made the plan so strong and broad, as well as the shoring of the ice. The widening can be proceeded with without delay to traffic. You may judge of the magnitude of the work, when I say that the mere flooring of the bridge, when completed, will cost over a hundred thousand dollars. Of course, no details of the work can be given at this stage; but when completed it will be a work of great magnitude, and will be of immense advantage at once to the company and the community."

ST. MARY'S PARISH.

On Tuesday evening last—the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel—the splendid entertainment referred to in our last issue came off, and for fashionable attendance, cultured singing and delightful music, it could not be easily surpassed. The stage and its environs were beautifully decorated by Messrs. J. Traynor and J. Heffernan. The proceedings opened with a choice selection executed in a praiseworthy manner by the St. Peter's Band. After the harmonious strains of the band died away, the Rev. Father O'Donnell in a few well chosen remarks, welcomed the large audience to St. Mary's and thanked them generously, in the name of Rev. Father Shea, for their kind appreciation of the St. Mary's parish publication.

The proceedings opened with a chorus, which was very excellently rendered, by the Ladies' Auxiliary No. 2 Div., A.O.H., Miss A. Perkins acted as accompanist and Misses May Craven and Louisa Quinn, as leaders. Then followed the song, "Watching the Embers," by Mrs. G. H. McLeod; a quartette, "Come, Live Come," by the Arion Male Quartette; a selection of Irish Airs (saxophone and cornet), by Messrs. Beaudry and Johnson; a recitation, by Mr. B. F. D. Dunn, which was received with rounds of applause; a humorous selection by Mr. Geo. Bethune; a charming cantata, by the pupils of Good Counsel Academy, which was much appreciated and loudly endorsed. Little Totie's song, "The Four-Leafed Shamrock," literally brought down the house. To repeated encores she gracefully bowed. Mr. Wilks then gave "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep," in a style that brought forth great applause. Mr. Jno. H. Parker delighted the audience with a baritone solo, and Mr. T. Clifton, in his song, "Mona," was most successful. His singing was certainly that of a cultured vocalist. Prof. W. E. Burgess, (the Ventriloquist) drew forth repeated volleys of laughter, and delighted the audience by his clever performance. The recitation, "Erin's Flag," by Sweet Lulu, was given in such exquisite style as could be expected from one of tender years. The "Exile's Return" was delightfully rendered by Mr. G. H. McLeod. Mrs. L. Durand performed on the cornet and the piano with skillful effect. The Hibernian Knights were received with outbursts of applause and the drill they so perfectly performed was well worthy the high reputation the Knights bear.

Mr. James Wilson accompanied the performers with the ability for which he is famous. Among the audience were the Rev. Fathers Meehan and Kelly, C.S.C., Father P. Brady, Father J. Casey, Father T. Heffernan, Father James Loneragan, Hon. Justice Curran, Hon. Mr. Martineau, M.P.P., Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Davis and a host of other friends of St. Mary's. In all, the entertainment was brilliant and successful.

The Annual Triduum preparatory to the solemnity of the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel will open this evening (Wednesday) at 7.30 o'clock.

Rev. Sister St. Joseph of Nazareth, Superioress of Our Lady of Good Counsel Academy, whose illness has been already announced in one of our previous issues, is still confined to the Infirmary of the Mother House, C. N. D., St. John the Baptist Street.

The auto harp offered by the Rev. Father Shea to the young lady of Good Counsel Academy, who would dispose of the greatest number of tickets for the "Calendar" concert, was won by Miss Annie Phelan, and the silver watch and chain offered for the same purpose, to the boys of St. Mary's Academy, was won by Master Charles Singleton.

Solemn High Mass will be sung next Sunday at 10 o'clock, at which there will be a special sermon delivered by a distinguished preacher. The choir, assisted by full orchestra, will execute "Miserere Mass." In the evening at 7.30 o'clock there will be Grand Musical Vespers and Solemn Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Rev. Abbé Daniel, S.S., well known in the circles of all classes in this city, will celebrate the golden jubilee of his ordination on May 27. François Daniel was born in Couance, France, on Sept. 6, 1820, and is consequently now in his seventy-seventh year. He was ordained a priest on May 27, 1847, and having joined the Sulpician order came to Canada the same year, arriving in Montreal on Oct. 24. He has ever since been connected with the Church of Notre Dame, his principal work being among the different girls' schools throughout the city. It is safe to say that Abbé Daniel has furnished the religious training and instruction to fully one-half the present generation of French-Canadian mothers in this city, many of whom have still recourse to him as their spiritual adviser. He has also always been in charge of the local work for foreign missions, and large sums of money have passed through his hands to go toward the spreading of the gospel. Abbé Daniel is thoroughly well versed in French-Canadian history, and besides several able pamphlets, he published in 1867 a very valuable work on the history of the leading French-Canadian families. Abbé Daniel is still full of life and strength, and the indications are that he will be preserved for many more years, which is the earnest wish of his many friends.