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The True Witness



MONTREAL, THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1908

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Note and Comment.

Over 500 Italian boys are attending the classes of the Irish Christian Brothers in Rome.

What is declared to be the original painting by Rubens of the "Descent From the Cross," has been discovered in the cathedral of St. Nicholas in Warsaw.

It is said that the Lieut.-Governor did go to Mass on the Plains disguised as a gentleman. So that he is a Catholic in spite of his infidel company.

Archbishop Howley, of St. Johns, Newfoundland, besides being successful in the government of that diocese, a famous theologian and an administrator, is a botanist, geologist and architect, having designed many of the chapels and churches in his diocese.

The latest number of the "Bulletin" periodically issued by the Generalate of the Friars Minor Conventuals contains a report of the progress of the order, according to which new foundations have been begun in Russia, Denmark and Spain.

The worthy representative of the infidel French Government must be pretty hard of comprehension if he does not see by this time that he should have stayed where rascality is one of the fine arts. Safe home Uncle! Mind the step!

Always entertaining, the Chicago New World has gone a step further in the right direction by changing to newspaper form and with Mr. Charles O'Malley at the helm, we can only expect the best.

We always eagerly look forward to its visit on our exchange table.

The Congregation of Rites met lately under the presidency of Cardinal Cretoni and discussed in a preparatory session, the miracles for the beatification of Joan of Arc. If the miracles have been deemed authentic, the beatification will probably take place next spring.

The medical students of the St. Louis University, conducted by the Jesuit Fathers, secured twenty-two out of thirty-two positions at the St. Louis City hospital in a competitive examination. More than 150 graduates of the best medical schools of the Southwest competed for these coveted places.

What a splendid improvement the new Mother House is to the district of Sherbrooke Street West. A massive stone pile, elegant in its extreme plainness of structure it stands out a most imposing structure and the subject of much favorable comment to the numerous passers by.

Martha Moore Avery, for a number of years one of the leaders of thought among Socialists, recently embraced the Catholic faith and is one of the most active workers in the promotion and development of the new Catholic university which is to be built at Newton, Mass., under the direction of the Jesuit Fathers of Boston College.

Ireland's trade with New York during 1907 shows a marked increase upon that of 1905, the figures of which alone are available for comparison, says the Dublin Freeman's Journal. According to the Consular report, which has just been issued, the imports from Ireland at the port of New York amounted during 1907 to no less than \$14,275,000 an increase of \$1,985,000 over corresponding returns for 1905.

Joel Chandler Harris (Uncle Remus) the noted Southern writer, was baptized into the Catholic Church the day before he died. His wife and children are Catholics. The last article from the pen of the gifted author was a strong defence of the Christian religion. In it he declared that he did not need theological doctrines of Christianity. There might be new fashions in literature, especially in fiction, he said, and new beliefs growing out of new knowledge, but for 2000 years there has been

nothing new about the Christian religion. What it was at the beginning it still remains.

In a recent audience with Pope Pius X., Bishop Kennedy, rector of the American College, Rome, tendered to the Holy Father a copy of Miss Eleanor C. Donnelly's latest volume of poems, *The Secret of the Statue*. His Holiness accepted the offering with gracious interest, and in return presented to Miss Donnelly (through Bishop Kennedy) a rare photograph of himself, whereon was written in Italian by his own hand the following inscription: "To our dear daughter in Jesus Christ, Eleanor C. Donnelly, with most sincere congratulations for her works, as a sign of gratitude, we impart from our heart the Apostolic Benediction."

Sir Antony MacDonnell, for a number of years Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland has been raised to the peerage of England. It is eight years since a Catholic of the United Kingdom received a similar honor, and the recipient then also was an Irishman—Lord O'Brien. The new peer, who is sixty-four and the wearer of many honors and decorations, besides being Privy Councillor of both England and Ireland, retires shortly from the burden of an office which his different circumstances and indifferent health have rendered very heavy.

According to the published census for 1907, the Order of Friars Minor has under its direction 1,460 convents and upwards of 17,000 members, in addition to which the tertiary of the Order number 1,098,840. These figures are apart from the statistics of the Franciscan Capuchins, who have under their rule over 10,000 members divided into 731 convents. The latest number of the "Bulletin" periodically issued by the Generalate of the Friars Minor Conventuals contains a report of the progress of the Order, according to which new foundations have been begun in Russia, Denmark and Spain.

The hymn, "Long live the Pope," composed by the Rev. H. G. Ganss, of Carlsruhe, of which 1,000,000 copies have already been printed, promises to become the universal hymn for the Pope. The original English words are already translated into Latin, Greek, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Polish, Hungarian, Bohemian, Sioux and Chipewya. Translations are also under way into Aztec, Eskimo, Russian, Gaelic, Syrian, Tenana, modern Greek, Croatian, Lithuanian and Armenian. A presentation copy containing the hymn in all tongues spoken in the United States and Spanish America will be presented to the Pope next October, before whom the composition was sung by 200 American pilgrims a short ago.

Archbishop Begin Thanks His Excellency.

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE, Quebec, June 26, 1908.
Your Excellency:—
Now that our glorious celebration has so successfully terminated, I deem it my duty to express to Your Excellency my most sincere thanks for the great honor of your presence at the University, the unveiling of the monument to Moneigneur de Laval, and the solemnizing of our national feast.

The annals of our history will proudly record the fact that the statue of the founder of the Church in Canada was unveiled by the worthy representative of His Majesty the King of England at the time most gloriously reigning. In the name of the Church of Quebec and of my colleagues in the Canadian hierarchy I beg to thank you for such a marked honor paid to the memory of my illustrious predecessor in this venerable See.

The eulogious words spoken by Your Excellency in behalf of the saintly de Laval, your tribute of praise and admiration to the heroism of our missionaries and martyrs, your liberal appreciation of the good work performed by the Church in Canada, of the many qualities and virtues of the French Canadian subjects of His Majesty, have met and will meet with a grateful acknowledgment in the hearts and minds of the members of my flock and of all their brethren in the faith.

Need I remark that such liberal and generous proceedings are well calculated to strengthen the bonds of loyalty and attachment to the crown, and that the future will prove, as the past has already done, that our people are not unmindful of the justice dealt unto them, of the

Quebec Tercentenary.

The closing scene has been enacted of the celebration known far and near as the Tercentenary of Quebec, and at four o'clock yesterday morning, the monstrous war-dogs of the Atlantic Squadron, steamed down the St. Lawrence escorting the Prince of Wales on board the *Indomitable*, and grim and spectre-like did their outlines appear in the early morning fog. For days old Quebec had echoed with the booming of their guns; but in the stillness of the dawn they were passing out to sea and those who were early astir saw the last of the splendid British fleet. Every item of the program had been carried out with precision, and everything had been done for the comfort and entertainment of the countless thousands who had gathered at Quebec. The pageants were well worth going hundreds of miles to see, and Mr. Lascelles is to be congratulated upon the marvellous result.

On Sunday last perhaps the grandest pageant of the whole series, if we may use the term, was seen when solemn high Mass was celebrated on the Plains of Abraham. The day was a perfect one, and thousands assembled on the grand stand. To the lover of the picturesque the scene was most interesting. The clergy in their different robes of office, the Archbishops and bishops in their purple, the assisting clergy in their sombre black cassocks and white surplices, and acolytes in red cassocks.

The choir, which was formed of 200 exceptionally capable local singers, rendered the choral part in finished style. A temporary altar had been erected opposite the grand stand. It was covered with scarlet and yellow cloth, and surmounted by flags of the nations represented at the fete. The Royal box was given over to the Duke of Norfolk, who attended with a number of invited guests. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Lady Laurier, Lord Lovatt, Sir George Garneau, Mayor of Quebec, Hon. Adolphe Turgeon, Sir Charles Fitzpatrick and Lady Fitzpatrick, Hon. R. Lemieux, Sir Lomer Gouin, Hon. T. C. Casgrain, and Mr. J. Pope, C.M.G. were among those noticed in the Royal box.

Archbishop Begin pontificated and a number of the Papal zouaves formed the guard of honor. While the Credo was being sung many eyes were turned to the river to see the "Don de Dieu." Champlain's craft, being towed by a fussy little modern tug, the old-fashioned boat was cast off opposite the Plains and when anchor was dropped, the white flag of France appeared at the masthead.

During the progress of the procession the R.C.G.A. band played the "Priest's March," from Tamnhauser, and also assisted in the musical portion of the service, which was rendered in a splendid manner, by a large and well balanced choir. The Mass rendered was that composed by Laurent de Rilles and at the offertory the band played a selection. At the conclusion of the Mass the choir sang *Domine Saluum*, which was followed by the Te Deum, God Bless the Prince of Wales and God Save the King, which were heartily sung.

PRINCE OF WALES GUEST OF SEMINARY OF QUEBEC.

On Monday last the Prince of Wales may be said to have had the most

pleasant experience of his trip. Laying aside all marks of royalty he with a distinguished party went down to the summer home of the clergy of Seminary of Quebec at St. Joachim. On arriving at St. Joachim the Prince and his party were met there by Mgr. J.-L.K. Lafontaine, rector of Laval, Archbishop Begin and other Church dignitaries including Mgr. Sbarretti, the Papal delegate, and the whole party were driven in automobiles to the ancient chateau, a distance of four miles through some of the most picturesque scenery in this province.

AT ST. JOACHIM.

On arriving at the Chateau lunch was served on the lawn, under stately old pine trees. Mgr. Mathieu presided at the table of honor and with him at the table were His Royal Highness, His Excellency Earl Grey, Mgr. Sbarretti, Archbishop Begin, the Duke of Norfolk, Lord Strathcona, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Lady Grey.

Amongst other guests were Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, Sir Lomer Gouin, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, Lord Lascelles, Lord Lovatt, Sir J. G. Garneau and others.

There was only one toast after luncheon, that of "The King" and after this was honored the party were shown over the spacious grounds every foot of which is rich in traditions of the earliest days of New France. Later the party were shown over the Chateau, which is perhaps the best sample of the early French style of architecture in the province, and they then all signed the visitor's register, led by the Prince.

A very pretty incident marked this visit. His Royal Highness mingled freely with the people of that village, and the school children gathered round like a swarm of bees, cheering him, and showing in the most unaffected way their delight at seeing him. When the children were clustering thickly round the smiling and chatting Prince, the Duke of Norfolk insisted on them all, together with some of the habitants, forming themselves into a group to be photographed. Having arranged the group to his satisfaction, His Grace himself stepped into it, and a photograph of the heir to the British Throne, the Premier Duke of England, Mgr. Sbarretti, Mgr. Begin, Lord Strathcona, and the school children of St. Joachim was taken. The Duke promised that a copy should be sent to everyone present.

The Prince of Wales presented a fine photograph of himself in a silver frame to the Quebec Seminary, at Chateau Bellevue, Petit Cap.

On the return trip at the Prince's request the party stopped at Ste. Anne de Beauport where all points of interest were shown to them, and on along the road halts were made at the different parishes, the parish priests being introduced to the Prince.

Several of the very old habitants were presented, one old lady having reached the century mark. The country folk had put up some very tasteful decorations, and the spontaneous demonstrations all along the route testified to the popularity of the Royal guest.

Monuments of Early Irish Art.

Many causes combine to render the history of the primitive Church in Ireland in a manner as interesting as that of some itself. The ancient Irish were an excessively martial people—proud of their military renown—more civilized than most nations of Europe at that period—deeply attached to the poetic ceremonies and observances of their national religion. Yet this proud, warlike people, whose arms had defied the Roman power, whose legions had carried their standard triumphant to the very foot of the Alps, were meekly led captive before the Cross, and bowed in humble submission to the strange doctrine of its followers.

This fact being contrary to the ordinary laws of social transition and progress, and the sufferings endured by the Apostles and Fathers of the Church in other countries, make us turn back with pride to the generous toleration of the pagan princes in Ireland, in suffering the Apostles of Christianity to preach their doctrines amongst them, and to their pious zeal with which the people abandoned a religion that flattered their passions and fascinated their senses, for a religion of penance, mortification, and self-denial.

It is a proud, a glorious reflection, to think that Ireland is the only country in all Europe where Catholicity was not sown in the blood of martyrs, and where it has survived unheard of persecutions, the rack, the gibbet, spoliation, and all but extermination. The growth of Christianity was as wonderful as its introduction, for, in less than a century after the coming of St. Patrick, by the labors and persevering industry of its disciples, and the pious zeal of its followers, the land became covered with churches and monasteries, which were filled with devout worshippers; eminent schools and seminaries flourished, which soon became the resort of the students of Europe, and which supplied the Continent with learned professors.

THE ABBEY OF KELLS FOUNDED 550.

The town of Kells, in the barony of Kells, County Meath, is of remote antiquity and for centuries was of considerable importance. Its ancient name was *Kellis*, and it is one of the most memorable places in early and mediæval Irish history. Mention of it is made as early as 32 B. C. Kells is chiefly distinguished for the celebrated and magnificent abbey founded in the year 550 by the famous St. Columbkille, who had obtained a grant of land for the purpose from Dermot, son of Fergus Kervail, King of Ireland. Notwithstanding its repeated disasters by conflagration and the ravages of the Danes, it was the head of a small surrounding diocese which, subsequently merged itself into that of Meath.

In the year 949 the Danes plundered the abbey and the town of Kells and carried upward of three thousand persons into captivity, besides gold, silver, raiment and various wealth, and goods of every description. In 967 they again assaulted the town, but were driven off with great slaughter by O'Neill the Great, king of Ireland. In 1152 the famous synod of Kells was held under the presidency of Cardinal Paparo, at which three thousand ecclesiastics attended. The abbey was destroyed six times by fire, but was afterwards rebuilt in a style of greater magnificence, partly by the bounty of the princes of Ireland, but chiefly by the revenues which were attached to it.

The Abbey of Kells possessed the most splendid library of any monastery in the kingdom, having been celebrated for its manuscripts, among which was St. Columbkille's book of the four Gospels, adorned with gold and precious stones. This book, and the library of Trinity College, Dublin, is described as "unquestionably the most elaborately executed manuscript of early art now in existence." It contains the four Gospels in Latin, with the introductions of St. Jerome, also chapters copied into it while in the abbey, which prove, says the great Irish scholar O'Donovan, that "the ancient Irish committed their covenant in their own language before the Anglo-Norman invasion." Ireland," says another writer, "may be justly proud of the Book of Kells."

THE BOOK OF KELLS AN UNRIVALLED WORK OF ART.

For beauty and splendor of execution the Book of Kells is not surpassed by that of any age. Artists have in vain attempted to copy its illuminations and charmingly harmonious, says the artist author, Henry O'Neil, "what can they be to have lasted so many hundreds of years? The instruments, how exquisite neat they made? Who made them? How steady and practiced must have been the hands by which the lines were drawn! There is in one of these illuminations a composition of a series of lines forming an intricate pattern; these lines are so fine that they are invisible to the naked eye. Had these Irish artists of old lenses to aid them, so that they with their won-

derful dexterity, might execute what we nowadays require strong magnifiers to discover?"

The last abbot of this splendid monastery was Rev. Richard Plunkett, who in 1539 was forced to surrender the abbey and its immense possessions to the British plunderers sent over to Ireland to "sweep poetry out of the land" by that reformer, Henry VIII. "Such a surrender," says Cobbett, "in his history of the Reformation, 'being precisely of the nature of those voluntary surrenders, which men make of their purses when the robber's pistol is at their temple or his blood-stained knife at their throat.'"

No vestige of the ancient abbey of church exists, the British policy at all times being to destroy or let go to ruin those places which they had stripped of everything of any value. A round tower about 100 feet high stands by the cemetery of Kells and near it some sculptured crosses and a small arched stone-roofed building, known as St. Columbkille's oratory; the great cross, the top of which is broken off, stands in the marketplace, a splendid relic of massive elegance. The remains of the building known as St. Columbkille's oratory are thus described by Father Walsh in his Ecclesiastical History of Ireland:

ST. COLUMBA'S HOUSE.

"At Kells's is still to be seen St. Columba's house, situated outside the boundary wall of the cemetery on the north side; in its ground plan it presents a simple oblong form measuring externally twenty-three feet nine inches in length and twenty-one in breadth, the walls being three feet ten inches in thickness. It is roofed with stone, and measures in height from its base to vortex of the gable 38 feet. The lower part of the building is arched semi-circularly with stone, and has at the east end a small semi-circular headed window about fifteen feet from the ground. At the south side is a second window with a triangular head about the same height from the ground, and measuring one foot nine inches in height. These windows have a considerable splay on the inside. The apartment placed between the arched floor and the slanting roof is six feet in height, and appears to have been originally divided into three compartments of unequal size, of which the largest is lighted by a small aperture at the east end. In this chamber there is a flat stone six feet long and one thick, called St. Columba's penitential bed."

Rev. John B. Kiernan, P.P. of St. Michael's, Thirty Years a Priest

The coming 25th of August will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the first Mass in St. Patrick's Church of the Rev. John P. Kiernan, who had been ordained the day before at the Grand Seminary. Among the numerous recollections that crowd the memory of this event, there is one which should cause us to pause and think, viz., how many of the priests present on that occasion are still living? In an interview kindly granted to the True Witness, Father Kiernan made reference to this point, with a perceptible tinge of sadness. "The only priest who assisted at my first Mass and who is still living is the Rev. M. Callaghan, late pastor of St. Patrick's." In looking back over the past thirty years, what a multitude of families have inhabited the various districts in which he has ministered, and how different the conditions of the present day compared with the struggles and hardships of by-gone times.

In honor of the pastor's anniversary, therefore, the people of St. Michael's have decided to celebrate it with all the pomp and ceremony that the occasion calls for. Besides the religious celebration there will be held a garden party, the profits of which, at the jubilarian's request, will be entirely devoted to the benefit of the school. No greater pleasure, no more esteemed appreciation of his worth can be furnished Father Kiernan on this occasion of his pearl jubilee than that of contributing, by his presence at this garden party, to enhance the occasion and stamp it with his fondest regards in every way possible for those who knew Father Kiernan are well aware that his school work is one of the objects nearest and dearest to his heart. An energetic worker, always thinking of the good to be done, never shirking a duty, Father Kiernan deserves well of his parishioners and they do appreciate his earnest zeal and disinterestedness in their behalf and for the glory of God. May he be spared to see all the good works of his parish flourish, and may God's blessing rest upon his labors.

CATHOLIC SAILORS' CONCERT.

This week, the concert was given by the Minstrel Troupe of the S.S. Virginia. Many novel and amusing features were presented, consisting of songs, recitations, dialogues and other acts of a like nature clearly pointing out that, although far from home and friends, yet the spare-time of the sailor does not hang idly upon his hands.

Much credit is due to those who took part and we hope that their last evening's work will serve to stimulate them to many such presentations in future.

Father Holland Birthday Fund.

We are receiving subscription for the Father Holland Birthday Fund. We trust our subscribers and readers generally will act generously. The St. Joseph's Home for working boys is a most worthy object. It meant hard work for Father Holland to start it and keep it going. Give him a helping hand to wipe off the debt. Any donation no matter how small will be gratefully acknowledged.

regard shown to their institutions, their language and their laws, and, in this respect likewise, they are faithful to their motto "Je me souviens."

Once more I beg to thank Your Excellency, and I remain, with the most profound respect,
Your devoted humble servant,
(Sgd.) L. N. ARCH. OF QUEBEC.

Religious Ceremony of Labor Day.

The special religious demonstration connection with the celebration of Labor Day, inaugurated by Archbishop Bruchesi a few years ago, will

take place as usual in the churches of Notre Dame and St. Patrick, on Sunday evening Sept. 6.

A new feature will be introduced this year, at the request of the female section of the St. Jean Baptiste Society, known under the name of National Federation. The number of women employed in offices, shops and factories is now very large, and the Archbishop has decided that they should also have their own religious demonstration in connection with Labor Day. The special service for them will be held in the church of Notre Dame on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 13, at 4 o'clock.