

REV. FATHER STRUBBE, C.S.S.R.

LEAVES FOR BELGIUM ON A VACATION.

A Farewell Greeting from St. Ann's Parish—The Address Presented and the Reverend Father's Touching Reply.

A large number of St. Ann's parishioners and other friends of the Reverend Father Strubbe, assembled in St. Ann's Hall, on Sunday afternoon, the occasion being the presentation of an address and purse to the Reverend Father, on the eve of his departure for his native town of Bruges, Belgium.

Mr. M. Casey opened the proceedings in a few well-chosen words, and Mr. Jos. Johnston read the address, which was as follows:—

To the Reverend E. Strubbe, C.S.S.R.:

REVEREND AND DEAR FATHER,—With feelings of mingled joy and sadness we assemble here to-day to bid you adieu for a while, and, from the bottom of our hearts, we thank God that it is not "forever." In the noon-day of your strength and manhood; in the midst of your labors in our behalf, and while urged on by your great heart to toil for our welfare, you were stricken down, and as you lay on your bed of pain, struggling with a nearly fatal illness, a mighty wail arose from our hearts, and with souls stirred as they had never been before we cried to Heaven to spare our true friend, our adviser and comforter, our beloved Soggarth Aaron! God in his mercy heard our cry and your life was saved, and were we possessed of silver tongues we could not fully express our thanks to Him for His answer to our prayer. You recovered, but, alas! even now your former strength is not with you, and, acting upon urgent medical advice, you seek in another clime, less rigorous than ours, a return of that vigorous health with which God had so long blessed you.

Never before have we publicly given voice to the feelings of gratitude and love which we bear you, for well do we know that you would keep from your left hand the knowledge of good performed by the right, but on this, the eve of your departure for your native land, we could not repress our feelings, or hide the emotions that fill our hearts, and even if we could we would not!

Since your advent among us your gifted mind has ever been given to the devising of plans whose object was our moral and physical betterment; and, for the successful issue of which you made free use of your wonderful energy, powers of organization and concentration, with the result that you have earned a title, than which there is none nobler or greater—that of a devoted priest.

Your thousand acts of kindness are known throughout the parish and farther, for gratitude wears not a silent tongue. Your uplifting and encouraging influence has been felt by us all, old and young, while your eloquent tongue, whether in the delivery of a powerful Lenten sermon, or breathing sweet and consoling words at the bed-side of a fleeting human soul, has ever reached our hearts and shewn us, in vivid colors, the beauty and grandeur of our religion.

Our parish, as a whole, has shared in the benefits flowing from your zeal for the good of all; but the young men therein owe you even a greater debt of gratitude than do the older members. Your coming among us was, to them, as the bright, warm beams of the morning sun are to the flowers in summer—brightening their lives and revivifying them with your magnetic influence, until now, the whole parish looks with pride on that organization, so creditable to themselves and to us—the St. Ann's Young Men's Society.

Were this your only achievement, it were enough to earn our undying gratitude, for the buds of to-day will be the flowers of to-morrow, and the love of faith and home, and country, so firmly implanted by you in the hearts of our youths, will carry its fruits to another generation and bring with it peace, and joy, and happiness, and keep afresh the devotion to the good old faith we love so well.

In a few hours you will leave us to cross the ocean, but the parting is not bitter, for you will return, and, with the help of Heaven fully restored to health; and, moreover, we know that every day will bring you nearer to the home of your childhood. We cannot be with you in body, but we will, in spirit. With our minds we will follow your course, and when you step upon your native shore, we will share in the emotions that will stir you; and, when you clasp in your arms your beloved mother, we will partake of that exquisite joy which can be experienced only at the long-deferred meeting of a true mother and a worthy son; then, when the duties of your ministry call you away from the side of your dear mother, tell her that you are returning to those who love you,—to those who fully appreciate your great efforts in their behalf, and who will follow wheresoever you lead.

And now the time is short, the hour of parting draws near, but before you go, we ask you to honor us by accepting our offering, the intrinsic value of which, we know, you will not weigh with the spirit that prompts the giver. One more favor we will ask, and that is, to remember us in your prayers; to bear us in mind while treading the familiar paths of your boyhood's home, so that the link which now binds us may not be severed, even for a time, and, rest assured, we shall not forget our youths' director, our true and faithful friend, our own dear Soggarth Aaron.

Upon rising to reply, the Rev. Father was greeted with cheers, and when the enthusiasm had abated he thanked those present for the kind words they had spoken in their address, and told them that conflicting desires stormed within his bosom at that moment. He was overjoyed at the thought of beholding his dear mother at home, but on the other hand the parting, even for a while, from such dear friends as he saw before him deeply affected him, but he was consoled with the knowledge that in a short time he would again be with them.

The act performed by the members of St. Ann's Young Men's Society, in receiving Holy Communion that morning as a special appeal to heaven for his safety and general welfare, gave him more pleasure than he could express in words, and was surpassed only by that profound act of theirs, namely, their pilgrimage to the Bonsecours Church, some time ago, when he was ill and suffering. They had laid aside all feelings of human respect, and in the cold of a winter's morning, walked to that holy shrine to beseech Our Lady to ask Her Son, the Almighty Master of heaven and earth, to stay the malady which had prostrated him. That one act had more than repaid him for his efforts in their behalf, and he would never forget it. They had asked him to remember them in his absence, and he would. In the tumult and tossing of the sea, his soul would be calm with the sweet memory of the expressions of love he had received from the people of old St. Ann's, and from the bosom of the broad Atlantic a prayer would daily ascend to heaven asking the blessing of God upon those whom he loved so well.

At six o'clock, the hour of departure, the St. Ann's Young Men and many others assembled at the Bonaventure Depot to wish the Rev. Father God-speed. When his car was reached a touching "Farewell" was sung, the train moved out amid hearty cheering, and the priest who had endeared himself to all who knew him was gone. A sigh arose from each heart he had left behind, but the welcome thought in every mind could be expressed in one sentence, and that was, "Tis only for a short time."

A BIRTH-DAY CELEBRATION.

REV. FATHER DONNELLY, OF ST. ANTHONY'S, CONGRATULATED—A HEARTY EXPRESSION OF ADMIRATION.

On the 22nd February, the thirty-third anniversary of Rev. Father Donnelly's birth-day, the numerous friends of St. Anthony's popular pastor met to celebrate with him the day and to extend him their hearty congratulations as well as to express their good wishes for his future. In the morning Father Donnelly visited the academy, and the pupils presented him with addresses and handsome souvenirs. It was a happy evening for both pastor and pupils. At noon the reverend gentleman entertained a number of the clergy, from the different parishes, to lunch at the rectory.

To say that Father Donnelly is one of the most popular and dearly beloved priests of the archdiocese is but simple justice. He was born in St. Ann's parish on the 22nd February, 1861—the anniversary of the birth of the immortal father of American Independence, George Washington. The name of the latter has been trumpeted down the years as the advocate of freedom; but the former has stepped aside from the paths of worldly emolument to devote his life to the emancipation of souls from the servitude of sin and the guidance of men in the great battle for eternal freedom. Father Donnelly, like a host of other leading citizens, commenced his education in his native parish—in the St. Ann's Christian Brothers' school. Thence he went to Ste. Therese, where, in 1872, he entered upon the classical course. In 1880 he graduated, after most brilliant examinations and with well-deserved honors. He immediately began his theological studies in Ste. Therese, which he completed at the Grand Seminary of Montreal. On terminating his theological course the clever young ecclesiastic—who had bounded through all the difficulties of a severe curriculum—was not sufficiently advanced in years to be ordained. Consequently the Archbishop of Montreal took him to act as his private secretary. In March, 1884, however, he was raised to the priesthood, and at once entered upon the grand but responsible duties of his ministry. During five years he was assistant under Rev. Father Leclaire, in St. Anthony's parish; and during those years he gave evidence of good administrative qualities, of an untiring energy, a deep-rooted devotion to the spiritual—and also temporal—needs of the parishioners under his care. In 1891—two years ago—Father Donnelly was appointed pastor of St. Anthony's, and to-day he holds that important position, to the great satisfaction of every one—the hierarchy, the clergy and the large congregation over which he presides.

Although young in years, the pastor

of St. Anthony's seems to have a Solomon-like gift of wisdom and experience far beyond the average in one of his age. He is frankness itself, and to a generous heart he adds sterling sense of justice. In all human probability he has many long years of usefulness ahead of him, and we are assured that it is the prayer and hope of St. Anthony's parish that he may spend them in laboring for the good of its congregation. We also wish to join his many friends in wishing him many happy returns of the 22nd, and we hope that each succeeding year will bring him new marks of appreciation and love from all who reap the benefits of his labors.

ST. PATRICK'S RETREAT.

A GRAND SUCCESS—LARGE ATTENDANCE AND GREAT SATISFACTION FELT.

On Sunday, at four o'clock, the closing exercises of St. Patrick's Retreat for the young men took place. Rev. Father Klauder, C.S.S.R., who has been conducting the mission, has expressed himself highly satisfied with the results. The sermons throughout were most practical and powerful, while the attendance averaged one thousand. Over eleven hundred men approached the Holy Table, and the confessionals were kept busy during the whole week and especially the latter part of it.

On Sunday afternoon it was a grand sight to behold about twelve hundred men, each with a lighted taper in hand, taking part in the solemn ceremony of renewing baptismal vows. The sermon was a touching and impressive one, and the features of the reverend preacher showed clearly that his heart rejoiced in the result of his work, and that he will leave this city with a very high estimate of our young Catholics.

The Church is gradually assuming a fresher and grander appearance. The zeal and energy of Rev. Father Quinlivan, the pastor, is apparent in the external transformations. He evidently wishes to have the appearance of the temple accord with the brightness that has come upon the spirit of the congregation during this retreat. The adjustable stool in each pew is not the least important feature of the new improvements. From the inlaid flooring to the gorgeous gasolier there seems to be an entire change coming over the appearance of St. Patrick's.

The choir is now actively engaged, under the direction of their own professor Fowler, in rehearsing Rossi's celebrated Mass for St. Patrick's Day. It is expected that this year the religious ceremonies on that occasion will be surpassingly attractive.

On his departure for New York the reverend preacher of the retreat received a token of the esteem and gratitude of the members of the congregation, and it is certain that the greatest of all pleasures that he enjoyed was the knowledge that so much good had come of his exertions in the cause of holy religion. The Fathers of St. Patrick's are to be congratulated on the success of this mission, and we hope that the seed sown will take root and fructify, and that for long years to come the blessings thereof may be enjoyed by the young men of the parish.

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL.

ARCHBISHOP FABRE HAS DECIDED TO HAVE IT OPENED ON EASTER DAY.

It has been definitely announced by Archbishop Fabre that the new Cathedral of St. James the Minor is to be dedicated on Easter day, the 25th of March. The interior of the imposing temple is very nearly completed.

The main altar of white marble, is already in position. It is placed nearly underneath the great cupola, and it presents a magnificent appearance in the centre of the large sanctuary, in the light which falls from above. The view of the sanctuary has not been spoiled by any railing or any other device which could detract from the ensemble. On each side are two beautiful open chapels surmounted by the side cupolas. The pews are being placed now.

The decorations of the main body of the church are now completed. They are very neat and elegant. The side chapels are yet unfinished, but they are entirely separate from the church. There also remains some work to be done on the outside of the edifice. Statues, porticos and various ornaments are still needed to give the new cath-

edral grace and life-like appearance, but the Archbishop and his advisers have thought that the people who have contributed to its erection would be happy to have it thrown open to worship at the earliest possible date.

A ST. PATRICK'S CONCERT

ON THE 16TH MARCH IN ST. MARY'S COLLEGE.

On the eve of St. Patrick's Day, the sixteenth March, a grand literary and musical entertainment will be given by the pupils of St. Mary's College, in the academic hall under the Gesu church. It is expected that about one hundred voices will take part in the chorus, under the able direction of Rev. Father Garceau. A most attractive programme is being prepared. Mr. C. R. Devlin, M. P., for Ottawa County, and brother of the Reverend Prefect of the College, will deliver the address of the occasion. A grand treat may be expected. It is needless to comment upon the unfailing attractiveness of all entertainments prepared at the Jesuit College, nor upon the well-known eloquence of the lecturer. Being on the 16th it will not conflict with other celebrations and should be well attended.

AMATEUR ATHLETICS.

THE SHAMROCK AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.

The regular weekly meeting of the directors of the Shamrock Amateur Athletic Association took place last evening.

Mr. T. P. Crowe, vice-president, occupied the chair. The other directors present were Messrs. P. H. Bartley, E. Halley, F. Loye, D. Gallery, F. O. Reilly and P. McKenna. The principal business of the session was a discussion of the plans for the grand stand at the new grounds, St. Lawrence street.

The directors are very anxious to erect the most modern structure not alone in so far as the comfort of its patrons are concerned, but also with a view of keeping order in the playing grounds. It is estimated that the proposed improvements will cost \$10,000.

The new Shamrock grounds, when completed, will be the finest of the kind in Canada.

Recent advices from Colorado bring the pleasing intelligence that Mr. W. J. McKenna, the popular and able president of the Shamrock Lacrosse Club, is rapidly improving in health, and his return may be expected early in the summer, when we hope to see him again renew his splendid work in the cause of physical culture.

C. M. B. A. GRAND COUNCIL OF CANADA.

The regular meeting of Branch 26, C.M.B.A., held Monday evening, was largely attended. President P. Reynolds presided. Considerable business of importance to the association was discussed, in which Brothers T. J. Finn, John H. Feeley, W. A. Corcoran, B. Tansey, Thos. T. Flynn, Edw. Jackson, A. D. McGillis, Robt. Warren, O. Tansey, Jas. J. Costigan, and others took part. The reports of the finance committee and board of trustees were read and approved. Three new members were initiated, five were balloted for and six new applications were read. Mr. John Kennedy was elected assistant secretary, and Mr. Thos. T. Flynn and Mr. L. E. Simoneau were elected to the board of trustees. An important letter from Grand President Fraser was read. The financial reports of the branch showed it to be in a most flourishing condition, and the membership was shown to be rapidly increasing.

REV. BROTHER NOAH.

On Friday last the Hon. J. J. Curran, Solicitor-General, and Miss Curran left for New York on a visit to Mr. Curran's brother, who has been ailing for some time at Manhattan College. In religion he is known as Brother Noah, and as a teacher, a lecturer, a writer and a compiler he has made a grand mark for himself, and is looked upon as one of the most able men in the order of the Christian Brothers. He was a companion and friend of the late Brother Azarias, who was one of the literary lights of America. We trust sincerely that Brother Noah will be soon restored to health and strength, for there is great need of such men in the world to-day.