

A MAGNIFICENT SCENE.

BLESSING OF ST. ANTHONY'S NEW ORGAN.

A Large Concourse—His Grace the Archbishop Presides—An Eloquent Sermon by Father O'Bryne, S.J.—The Music and Imposing Ceremonies.

On Sunday evening, at half-past seven, St. Anthony's beautiful church was filled to the very doors with an eager and happy congregation, gathered to witness the imposing ceremony of the blessing and inauguration of the magnificent new organ. There is something most wonderfully attractive about the ceremonials of our Holy Church, and in her music there is a spirit that elevates beyond expression. To gaze upon that brilliant and impressive picture recalled forcibly to mind the lines that Denis Florence McCarthy so aptly applied on a similar occasion in his grand poem, "The Bellfounder":

"Now they enter and now more divinely
The Saints' painted effigies smile;
Now the acolytes bearing lit tapers
Move solemnly down through the aisle;
Now the thurifer swings the rich censur,
And the white-curling vapor upfloats,
And hangs 'round the deep pealing organ,
And blends with the tremulous notes."

And as those first strains of that splendid instrument rolled forth and filled the vaulted roof of the temple, the musical talent of the organist, Miss M. Donovan, was made manifest. When we consider that the workmen only completed the placing of the instrument on Saturday evening, Miss Donovan had no opportunity of becoming acquainted with the complications of the powerful organ, yet her execution was as perfect as had she spent months in practice. Volumes, as extensive as the sound that flows harmonically from the organ loft, does this fact speak in praise of Miss Donovan's skill. The complications will be better understood by the following description:—

The splendid instrument which now stands in St. Anthony's Church, and from which the swells of sacred music will pour forth to the glory of God and for the edification of the congregation, is the work of Casavant Brothers, of St. Hyacinthe. To give an idea of the strength and exactness of the organ we take the following details from the articles of agreement between the builders and purchasers. There are four "automatic adjustable combination pedals" (double action) below the great organ keyboard and three below the swell. One "full organ pedal" to bring on the whole organ without disturbing the knobs. Tubular pneumatic action to all the stops and couplers. Electro-pneumatic action to both manual and pedal keys, doing away with trackers, elbows, etc. Manuals to be placed in a console distant from the instrument. Electro motor and feeders to be placed in the basement of the church, wind to be conveyed to the organ by wind trunks. A third manual to be placed in view of a chancel organ, if such be required. The following are the dimensions of the different parts of the instrument:

Extent of couplers, C.C. to A. 58 notes.
" pedals, C.C.C to F. 30 "

Great Organ.		
	Feet.	Notes.
1. Double open diapason (seven stopped).....	16	58
2. Open diapason.....	8	58
3. Melodia.....	8	58
4. Keraulophon.....	8	58
5. Dulciana.....	8	58
6. Octave.....	4	58
7. Harmonic flute.....	4	58
8. Twelfth.....	2 1/2	58
9. Fifteenth.....	2	58
10. Mixture.....	3 rks	174
11. Trumpet (harmonic).....	8	58
Swell Organ.		
12. Open Diapason.....	8	58
13. Stopped Diapason.....	8	58
14. Gamba.....	8	58
15. Voix Celeste.....	8	48
16. Principal.....	4	58
17. Harmonic.....	4	58
18. Trumpet.....	8	58
19. Oboe and bassoon.....	8	58
Pedal Organ.		
20. Double open Diapason.....	16	30
21. Bourdon.....	16	30
22. Flute.....	8	30
23. Violoncello.....	8	30
Mechanical Requisites.		
24. Swell to great.		
25. " " super octave.		
26. " " sub octave.		
27. Swell to pedal.		
28. Great.		
29. Tremulant.		
30. Bellows signal.		
31. Eolipse wind indicator.		

In the morning, before the High Mass, Gounod's "March Romaine" and Wagner's "Bridal March" served most splendidly to convey an idea of the

capabilities of the instrument. The Mass rendered was the famous "Messe de Noel," of Fauconier, and at the offertory Melvil's "Regina Coeli" was most charmingly sung. Rev. Father Guibault preached an eloquent Easter sermon, and Rev. Father Donnelly sang the High Mass.

The choir, both in the morning and the evening, was under the direction of Mr. E. F. Casey. For over a decade Mr. Casey held the important place of bass-soloist in St. Patrick's choir, where he won the admiration and deep friendship of all the congregation. Recently he assumed the directorship of the St. Anthony's choir. He is decidedly a musical amateur of first rank, and this was evidenced most strikingly by the manner in which he so successfully conducted the singing on Easter Sunday. The charming effect of the harmonic treat redounds most emphatically to Mr. Casey's credit. The soloists at High Mass were Messrs. J. M. Henault and O. Plamondon, tenors; E. Bissonette, bass, and L. Charlebois, baritone. It is almost superfluous for us to comment on the voices and training of these gentlemen. What lover of grand music and exact singing in Montreal that does not know the voices of these four amateurs? Let it suffice to say that their rendering of the solos on Sunday was equal to their best efforts in the past.

Before giving an account of the evening ceremonies we do not deem it out of

ciently 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 parish-ioners 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.

THE BLESSING OF THE NEW ORGAN.

His Grace Archbishop Fabre presided at the ceremony and performed the blessing of the grand instrument. The



REV. FATHER DONNELLY, P.P., ST. ANTHONY'S.

place to say a special word about the worthy, popular and zealous pastor of St. Anthony's. A few weeks ago, on the occasion of Father Donnelly's birthday, we furnished our readers with a short sketch of his career; we now incorporate a portion of that article, in this report, as it forms part of the important event in question.

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 suffi-

assistant priests were Rev. Father Choquette, of St. Hyacinthe College, and Rev. Father Cilon, of Ste. Therese College. The scene was most brilliant and the procession of clergy and choristers very imposing. At the Benediction Gounod's "Sanctus," Melvil's "Regina Coeli," Gounod's "O Salutaris" and Beethoven's "Tantum Ergo" were rendered in grand style. Mr. J. M. Henault's singing of the "Sanctus" was a gem and the effect was most delicious. After the blessing of the organ, and before the solemn benediction, Rev. Father O'Bryne, S.J., ascended the pulpit and pronounced the sermon appropriate to the occasion.

THE SERMON.

Father O'Bryne possesses the most necessary qualities of an effective pulpit orator. Apart from the logical form of his arguments, the richness of ideas and exactness of expressions, he has a powerful and well modulated voice, a fine and commanding appearance, and an ease that indicates the master of his subject.

The sermon might be divided into two parts, the one referring to the glorious feast of Easter, the other to the special ceremony of the day. In the exordium he spoke of the generosity of the parish-ioners of St. Anthony, which enabled them to build such a splendid instrument, and to add such an ornament and attraction to their church. The reverend preacher spoke of the solemnity added to the occasion by the pres-

ence of His Grace, who presided at the blessing. Amidst his numberless occupations and after the great fatigue of the day, the Archbishop joyfully came to participate in the festive happiness of St. Anthony's and to raise his episcopal hand in blessings upon the parish, the church, the organ and the congregation.

After the darkness and sorrow of the past few days there is a fitness in the light and joy of Easter. It is, indeed, an appropriate ceremony, the inauguration of the organ that will pour forth the strains of harmony in honor of the glorious resurrection.

After unfolding in striking language the story of Easter joy, the arising of Christ from the tomb, the resurrection of the members of the Catholic Church from out the darkness of sin and the grave of God's enmity, Father O'Bryne turned to the immediate subject of the evening—the organ, the blessing, music, and its effects. Throughout the ages the effects of music have ever been the same; it is an influence that plays upon the spirit and imparts thereto a harmony that is at once soothing and elevating. Music softens the heart, casts a glow of peace over the soul, and when united with worship it reaches the depths of our being, assuages our sorrow, tempers our joy, lifts us up from the poor cold material surroundings, and brings us nearer to God. The music of the Church is like a far off echo of those harmonies that reign eternally in the home of angels and the mansions of Divine perfection above. The church is most careful in her choice of music. Nothing profane ever blends with her notes to clash upon the ear or shock the nerves. The music accords with the different occasions; it is solemn, grand, mournful and joyous, each in turn, according as the celebration is one that speaks the sorrowful, the joyful, or the glorious mysteries of our faith. The voice of music is understood by all; it knows no tongue, no race; it is like the prayers and liturgy of the church—universal, varied, always grand, ever sublime, in perfect harmony and preaching the glories of God and His chosen ones to humanity. The organ has been blessed, and it is consecrated to God's service; it will be used to add new zest to the faith of the congregation, and shed a charm around the devotions of the people of St. Anthony's. Concluding with a brilliant and touching peroration, the Reverend Father asked the blessing of His Grace on the congregation.

Easter Sunday, 1898, will ever be a red-letter day in the annals of St. Anthony's parish.

FOR THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

A number of Montreal ladies have been organizing for Easter a bazaar in aid of the completion of the new church under the care of the Reverend Fathers of the Blessed Sacrament.

This church, which is situated on Mount Royal avenue, a few doors east of St. Denis street, was erected last year, and since then services have been held in the basement. From the date of its inauguration, this little chapel has been thronged with pious souls, lovers of the Divine Victim of the Tabernacle, who come from far and near to worship Him in this Sanctuary.

It is hoped this good work will meet with the encouragement it deserves. A throne for Our Lord, a church large enough to accommodate the increasing number of His adorers,—are these not objects worthy of the zeal and devotion of every Catholic heart.

The bazaar was opened on Monday, the 26th inst., and is being held in the upper part of the church which has been prettily decorated for the occasion. Several well known artists have promised to contribute to the musical entertainments which will be given every evening of the continuance of the bazaar.

A HIGH VALUATION.

"If there was only one bottle of Haggard's Yellow Oil in Manitoba I would give one hundred dollars for it," writes Philip H. Brant, of Monteith, Manitoba, after having used it for a severe wound and for frozen fingers, with, as he says, "astonishing good results."

A Crucial Test.—"Well, Henri, how does the watch go that grandpapa gave you?" "O papa, it ought to go very well. I took it to school, and all my playmates have been winding it up."