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The True Witness

Commons R. R.
Dec. 1909



Witness

Vol. LIX., No. 14

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 1909

PRICE, FIVE CENTS

ESTABLISHMENT OF CHORAL UNION.

STEPS TAKEN TO ORGANIZE.

Excellent Opportunity For Our English Speaking Catholics.

The True Witness some time ago commented editorially upon the fact that no Irish Catholic Choral Union existed in Montreal and said it appeared strange, considering the amount of musical talent available, that no effort had been made to form one. Following up our remarks, Professor Shea was waited upon in order to interest him in the movement, but his duties being very onerous at the time, it was impossible for him to consider such an undertaking, and whilst he expressed himself as keenly alive to the object, and ever ambitious to see our people on an equal footing with the other nationalities which comprise our great city, he was obliged to leave it in abeyance for the moment.

Now, however, a long cherished hope appears about to be realized, judging from the steps taken a day or two ago, when several gentlemen again waited upon Professor P. J. Shea, with the object of discussing the possibility of forming a choral society.

A meeting was called for Sunday last with the hearty and enthusiastic approval of Rev. Gerald McShane, P.P., D.D., pastor of St. Patrick's Church, and judging from the large number of singers present a very promising and creditable choral union will be in existence in a few days, open to all English-speaking Catholics of the city, and confined to no particular section. A welcome is assured to all.

The object of the Union will be practically two-fold: first to encourage a love for Irish music, also the better class of music which is rarely heard on our concert platforms, and secondly, to promote social intercourse between our young Irish Catholic ladies and gentlemen. An amateur orchestra was also suggested in connection with the society, and already over a dozen applications have been sent in.

This will supply an urgent need and will assist in developing the musical talent of our young English-speaking men and women, for there is no less talent among them to-day than in a century long gone when the soulful, bardic strains roused feelings in the heart, gave light to the eye and rhythm to the dance in the wild Kerry hills or the peaceful wooing quietude of Killarney. To-day the same blood is flowing in the veins of a generation, proud of its ancestry, nor is it slower in its coursing, and for this reason we are not loathe to speak of immeasurable success for the choir itself and the utmost satisfaction for the director, Prof. Shea has had an extensive experience in voice culture, with what success it is quite unnecessary to dilate upon here; and it became possessed of this knowledge that we raise our voice in encouragement, and ask our people to think well of this venture, for it should receive the support of all lovers of good music.

Next week a meeting will be held to elect officers and frame a constitution for the working of the society on a business basis, and to decide upon a name. During the winter rehearsals will be held once a week. Preparatory to the presenting of three concerts, say in November, with a secular program; another close to the solemn paschal time, with such works as Rossini's "Stabat Mater," or perhaps Dubois or Rheinberger's "Seven Last Words on the Cross," and yet again in March, commemorating the annual National festival.

We have any amount of talent, and it will only require a roll call to bring forth the very best the city affords. We feel sure our English-speaking clergy will look upon the movement as a very live issue and that they will encourage their parishioners to take advantage of a most exceptional opportunity.

Professor Shea is rather diffident about taking up this great work, but there is every reason to feel confident that he will duplicate his splendid work at St. Ann's, and the hope is freely expressed that he will be ably seconded by all those who have the advancement, both socially and musically, of our people at heart. All applications for membership can be sent to Professor Shea, 154 Fulford street, Phone Up, 4514, or St. Patrick's Church.

On Sunday morning, Aug. 29, says the Irish Weekly, a magnificent church parade was held in Keady under the auspices of the Keady division of the A.O.H. Notwithstanding the fact that a heavy downpour of rain fell during the morning, the muster was an immense one, and the parade, which was excellently marshalled, proved a brilliant spectacle. The companies of Louth, Down, Monaghan, Tyrone and Armagh were represented in the imposing procession.

PASTORAL LETTER AND CIRCULAR

Of Most Rev. Paul Bruchesi, Archbishop of Montreal, on the Eucharistic Congress of 1910.

Paul Bruchesi, by the grace of God, and of the Apostolic See, Archbishop of Montreal.

To the secular and regular clergy, to the religious communities and to all the faithful of our Diocese, greetings, peace and blessing in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dearly Beloved Brethren, God, who jealously guards His Church, never failed her in her hour of need. At every critical period, when impiety seemed bent upon her ruin, a countering force, sent from on high, arose to paralyze the malignant influence of her enemies. Society to-day reveals to an attentive observer the symptoms of a twofold malady, the pride of reason, on the one hand, rejecting authority and the holy teachings of faith; on the other hand, an unbridled materialism blinding souls to supernatural truths, and dragging them on to the satisfying of sensual cravings.

Directed against these two evils, we find a special providence in the revival of piety and, particularly, in an outburst of devotion towards the Holy Sacrament of our Altars, one of the principal developments of which has been the Eucharistic Congresses, or solemn gatherings of Bishops, Priests and faithful from all parts of the world, to offer in common their public homage to the Hidden God of the Sacred Host.

TWO-FOLD MISSION.

These Congresses are doubly significant and have a two-fold mission to fulfil. First of all, they glorify Jesus Christ dwelling among us, and counteract the arrogant pretentiousness of unbelievers, who would suppress all idea of God, or, at least, ignore Him utterly in social life.

By faith we know that God is present in the Consecrated Host. To give emphasis to this belief, the Congress brings to view the Sacred Species, bearing It in triumph amid the acclamations of the faithful. The most illustrious churchmen, the most honored members of society, men equally distinguished for knowledge and virtue, give their whole attention during the time of these Congresses, to the Holy Eucharist, that by their united efforts, they may devise and bring to a successful issue, every means of glorifying It and extending in every direction Its beneficent influence.

The magnificent display of faith crowning the work of each Congress makes a veritable era of spiritual conquest for Christ, announcing and preparing His reign who has received in heritage all the nations of the earth. Such is the first mission of the Congress, and thus far results, in this respect have far surpassed the hopes of the promoters.

SOCIETY REGENERATED.

Secondly, in pointing to the Eucharist as the source and fountain-head of all Christian life, they work out the regeneration of society, applying to the evils menacing it their sole antidote, the Eucharistic food. Herein, we see the divine inspiration and the opportuneness of these august assemblies.

A turning of souls towards the Tabernacle has been a marked feature of the last quarter of a century. The Eucharistic Sun has gradually dispelled the chilling mists of indifference and developed the germs of evangelical virtues. This luxuriant blossoming of Christian piety in these latter times is, doubtless, largely due to the discussing in these assemblies of the best means of bringing the nations into closer contact with the Eucharist.

The influence of this increase of devotion is felt in every rank of society for, with it, have steadily multiplied works of charity and zeal. It is for this reason that Leo XIII consecrated all the energies of his last glorious years to encourage these Congresses, and to stimulate the zeal of their promoters. In like manner, His Holiness Pius X., from the very beginning of his pontificate spared no pains to further these interests. Four years ago, he expressed his desire to have the Congress held in Rome, for the illustrious Pontiff saw in this institution a sure guarantee of the restoration of all things in Christ.

These solemn annual sessions have thus far taken place in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, England, and even Jerusalem.

TOOK POSSESSION OF HIS OWN.

It was our happiness last year to attend the magnificent Congress held in the capital of the British Empire. Never shall we forget that grand and touching sight, or the enthusiastic evidence of religious conviction called forth from the

devout multitude. When, from the balcony of Westminster Cathedral, Cardinal Vannutelli, the Papal representative, elevated the Sacred Host over the great city of London, it seemed to us that Christ was again taking possession of the kingdom from which He had once been banished; that from His Heart abundant graces of light and faith were falling upon millions of souls; that there upon the ancient Isle of Saints, from the opened heavens, we seemed to hear re-echo the dictum once pronounced on Thabor: "This is my well beloved Son; hear ye Him." Yes, those were incomparable days for England, giving rise in the souls of the happy participants of those demonstrations, to the sweetest hopes for the God of the Eucharist.

Cologne followed London in receiving this august Congress, and although, in regard to it, the foreign despatches have kept a rigid silence, we know that it in no wise ceded to the others in the pomp of the sacred ceremonies, the eloquence of the orators, and the immense throngs of people attending, or, in the piety manifested throughout its duration. In the marvellous Cathedral, a masterpiece of the thirteenth century, devout crowds approached the Holy Table to be fed with the Food of the Strong; theologians and pastors of souls sought with admirable zeal to devise means for still further increasing in the world devotion to the Eucharist, in the streets, decorated as on national gala days, walked in solemn procession princes of the church and numerous prelates all vested in their pontifical robes, thousands of priests, thousands upon thousands of men, women, and children accompanying in homage the Conquering God hidden in the Sacred Species.

CANADA TO BE HONORED.

Now, dearly beloved Brethren, these scenes which have been successively enacted on the banks of the Thames and of the Rhine shall be repeated in our own midst on the banks of the majestic St. Lawrence. So, then, next year, the twenty-first International Eucharistic Congress will be held in Montreal. This signal honor was offered us in London, and, for reasons enumerated below, we felt justified in accepting. We are aware that the idea of such a Congress in Canada had already received the attention of many persons.

Thanks be to God, in our country the public worship of the Holy Eucharist was always in honor, but, for some years past, there has been a noticeable and notable progress in this matter. The Perpetual Adoration practiced with so great solemnity in nearly all our dioceses; the Communion of Reparation; the first Friday of each month; the Holy Hour; the Confraternities of the Blessed Sacrament established in so many parishes; the ever increasing number of Communion—all go to prove that unfettered Canada is a land full of faith-ripe for a Eucharistic Congress.

Flourishing as may be among us these practices of devotion to the Blessed Eucharist, there remains, however, something yet to be accomplished. Has the decree in regard to frequent and daily Communion received that attention which it deserves? How many of the faithful turn a deaf ear to the urgent appeals of their pastors inviting them to the Holy Table! Let us hope that this Congress will disperse hearts more and more to correspond with the express desire of our beloved Pontiff, Pius X., the faithful interpreter of the intentions of Christ.

GREAT COUNTERACTING FORCE

Again, what more powerful check than such a Congress to the subtle seductions of impiety against the faith of our youth. Are not our own people menaced by the dire evils which afflict European society? What a force would the Congress prove to kill the poisonous germs and thus prevent the spread of the contagion. And might it not also be a revelation to souls who are not of the fold, among whom we have every reason to believe, are many seeking unity and authority in the things of God—many, yearning for a divine food of which they know not.

For these reasons, dearly beloved Brethren, we decided to welcome the Congress to our Archepiscopal city. Notwithstanding the heavy burdens and arduous labor it would entail, we felt that we could depend upon the zeal of the Canadian clergy and the piety of our people to assure for the undertaking a complete success. His Lordship, the distinguished Bishop of Vancouver, President of

the Permanent Council, wrote to us as follows: "The Permanent Committee of the Eucharistic Congresses was very desirous that an International Congress should be held in Canada. Thanks to your gracious acceptance, it will soon see its desire realized. Allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude for the generosity with which Your Grace has granted my request, notwithstanding the difficulties attending such an undertaking. The Permanent Committee will do all in its power to aid you. It hopes that this congress will in no way be inferior to the others, but that like its predecessors, it will be a brilliant triumph for the God of the Eucharist."

WORLD WIDE SYMPATHY EVINCED.

The members of the Hierarchy of Canada, of the British Isles and of France have also offered us their encouragement and sympathy. Our venerable Colleagues of the United States as we have been assured by several among them—will be most happy to lend their aid, that this first Congress held on our Continent may be second to none in splendor. Thus, the youthful Church of America will proclaim to the world the vitality of its faith. Finally, the Sovereign Pontiff himself has designated to be represented thereat by a Cardinal Legate. We have, therefore, every reason to predict for this occasion a consoling success.

But, dearly beloved Brethren, we must above all look to God for this success. We must ask it in fervent prayer. Let us spare no effort to be present, more than ever before, at the offices of the Church in honor of the Holy Eucharist—the Holy Mass, the Adoration and the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Let us increase the number of our visits to the Altar. Above all, let us approach the Holy Table more frequently, thus kindling in our souls a more ardent love for the divine Eucharist.

We are confident that all, clergy and laity, will give a helping hand when and how it may be called for, rivalling one another in zeal and initiative to prepare for our Divine Saviour a triumph worthy of His majesty.

CIRCULAR.

For these causes, the holy Name of God being invoked, and with the advice of the Canons of our Cathedral, we have ordained and we ordain the following:

1. Beginning with the first of January, and therefrom to the twelfth of September, 1910, priests will recite at the Mass the collect of the Blessed Sacrament, not omitting the collect for the Sovereign Pontiff.
2. We authorize the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Sunday in the Churches and Chapels of the diocese where it is kept.
3. We recommend to the religious communities of both men and women, to the students of our seminaries and colleges, to the pupils of our boarding schools and academies, and to all the faithful to receive Communion more frequently in accordance with the desire of our Holy Father, also to visit often the Blessed Sacrament, to be more instant in prayer and more abundant in works of charity, offering all, that none of the graces of the Congress may be lost.
4. We especially recommend that the prayer for the propagation of the pious custom of daily Communion, composed and indulgenced by His Holiness Pius X., be recited either at the beginning or at the close of parish catechetical instructions, as also at the daily Mass in religious communities.
- 5.—A triduum in honor of the Blessed Sacrament shall precede the Congress; the date will be announced in due time.
6. The Congress will open on the 7th September and close on the 11th by a solemn procession of the Blessed Sacrament.
7. The program of the labors and the ceremonies of the Congress will be issued later on.

Our present pastoral letter and circular shall be read at the parochial Mass in all churches and chapels wherein public service is held, and in the chapels of religious communities, on the first Sunday after its reception.

Given at Montreal, under our sign and seal and the counter-signature of our Chancellor, the twenty-fifth day of August, one thousand nine hundred and nine.
PAUL, Arch. of Montreal.
By order of His Grace,
EMILE ROY,
Canon Chancellor.

MR. KEARNEY SCORES TRIUMPH.

A BRILLIANT YOUNG TENOR Is Greeted With the Plaudits of an Appreciative Audience.

It is always a pleasing duty to note the progress and success of our compatriots, than whom none is more deserving of congratulation than Mr. W. P. Kearney, LL.B., of the well-known law firm of Messrs. Trihey, Bercovitch & Kearney, who recently scored an immense success at Ogdensburg, N.Y., where he was heard to advantage at a grand concert which formed the closing item of the horse show week there. With such names on the programme as Alice Nielsen, prima donna of the Metropolitan Opera House, and who replaced Sembrich in New York this season, and Monsieur Victor Ocellier, for two years leading baritone at the Metropolitan Opera House, one must infer that the support should be equal to the principals, and in Mr. Kearney there was no disappointment. He possesses a marvellous tenor voice, and excelled himself in his various numbers. It was a severe test, perhaps,



MR. W. P. KEARNEY, LL.B.

for one practically making his debut to be heard with artists such as the above mentioned, but Mr. Kearney was equal to the comparison, and fairly carried the immense audience by storm. Mr. Kearney had been exhibiting his horses at the Ogdensburg show and it was at the request of the president, Mr. W. H. Daniels, that he assisted at the concert. From the first note to the last Mr. Kearney proved himself a favorite, and was obliged to re-sing again and again. The richness of his exceptional tenor voice, his purity of enunciation, his fine presence, called forth such enthusiastic applause as has seldom been witnessed. Mr. Kearney's numbers were "Spirito Gentil," from the Favorite of Donizetti; "Parais à la fenetre," Grehg; "I Think," Hardelot, each receiving its proper interpretation. Truly it was a conquest, for while there was in advance a doubt as to the reception of the young tenor, being heard, as was already said, after Nielsen and Ocellier, yet as his last notes died away and the rapturous applause subsided there was nothing else to be said but that he had outvalued these well known favorites. Mr. Kearney's success is most gratifying to his friends, and they are convinced that the warmth of his reception was no more hearty than was deserved.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Dea, speaking in Remistymon, on the land question, recently, said he heartily approved of the compulsion now before Parliament, and he was satisfied once a just tribunal was set up a speedy settlement would be secured. The more immediate hope lay in the improvement of agriculture and the towns would then prosper. He advocated a thorough system of agricultural education for all farmers, and he suggested the setting up of winter schools of agriculture by the County Committees.

ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME TO ENVOYS.

50,000 CITIZENS GREET THEM. Dublin's Allegiance to the Irish Parliamentary Party is Solid.

To find a parallel for the scene of enthusiasm which attended the arrival of Captain Condon and Mr. O'Callaghan in Dublin, one has to go back to the early years of the Constitutional movement in Irish history, when the National spirit of the capital manifested itself in magnificent assemblages of the citizens. The demonstration, in point both of numbers, and the spirit which animated it was one of the finest and most memorable sights which Dublin has witnessed since the celebrations held in honor of the men of '98. In its representative character, and the remarkable unanimity of feeling which marked it, it was a testimony of the most cogent and irresistible kind that Nationalist Dublin is solid in its allegiance to the Irish Parliamentary Party. From the start of the procession at the Kingsbridge terminus, all along the line of route to the Central Offices of the United Irish League, the streets were not only packed with dense crowds, but windows in every house were filled with numerous groups of spectators, who cheered and waved flags as the carriage containing the visitors passed along.

SOCIETIES MAKE FINE SHOW.

For fully half an hour prior to the train's arrival from Cork streams of people converged towards the Kingsbridge. Weather conditions were disheartening, a thick misty rain falling. Every city Branch of the United Irish League furnished a strong contingent, and all the divisions of the Ancient Order of Hibernians were represented by their officers and a big turnout of members. The Irish National Forerunners were represented by a strong muster. The members of the Old Guard Union made a splendid show, and coming immediately after the Dublin Fire Brigade, which headed the procession, marched in advance of the Mayor's carriage, in which the envoys were seated. P. Gilsean acted as Chief Marshall of the procession. The large concourse not only occupied the approaches to the railway station, the entire width of Victoria quay for a distance of about three hundred yards from the station entrance, but filled the Kingsbridge over to its northern end as well as a large portion of Stevens' Lane.

THE MONSTER PROCESSION.

Immediately on the visitors being recognized, the huge gathering broke out into cheers, which were renewed again and again. The procession was soon in progress, headed by Carriages containing members of the Dublin Fire Brigade. Next came the men of the Old Guard Union, followed by the Mayor's carriage, in which were Captain Condon, Mr. O'Callaghan and Joseph Devlin. Beside them, and for a considerable distance behind, marched a numerous company of torch-bearers. A short distance behind came the carriage in which were the High Sheriff, accompanied by J. P. Nannetti, M. P.

ENTHUSIASM ALL-ALONG.

The route lay through Stevens lane, Thomas street, Cormarck, High street, Christchurch place, Lord Edward street, Dame street, College Green, Westmoreland street, and O'Connell street to the headquarters of the United Irish League. Along the entire line of march the demonstration was touching and inspiring. Nearly every house in Thomas street, James' street and High streets had their windows alive with groups of spectators, extending a cordial greeting to the visitors. The scene when the procession reached O'Connell street was one of almost unparalleled enthusiasm. Great as have been the Nationalist

(Continued on Page 8.)

An Appreciation.

Dear Sir:

I have read in the last number of the "TRUE WITNESS" your article about the Civic Hospital. It was a great pleasure to me. Please receive my best thanks and congratulations.

Very truly yours,
+ PAUL, Arch. of Montreal.