

The True Witness

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE,
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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1896

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

The year 1896 is drawing to a close. In the brief space of twenty-four hours more it will be numbered with its predecessors in the irrevocable past.

In the retrospect which such an occasion naturally suggests, much that is of local interest to Irish Catholics has occurred. Consoling progress has been made by them in many directions, particularly in matters connected with their faith.

Elsewhere in this issue many of these events which have taken place during the course of the twelve months are dealt with by "Our Observer" in a concise and interesting manner.

Special mention may be made of the movement which has been set on foot during the past twelve months with the object of gathering the Irish Catholics of Montreal into one strong and united organization, whose mission would be to advance the religious and social interests of its members in the way in which only a large, comprehensive and united association can efficaciously advance them. It is to be sincerely hoped that the project will take definite and tangible shape during the coming year.

The scope and mission of such an organization would include such matters as the securing to the Irish Catholics of Montreal the share of representation in public bodies to which their numbers and position entitle them. Sincerely and heartily do we wish "A HAPPY NEW YEAR" to all.

AN IRISH-CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL.

Elsewhere we publish an important article on an important subject—namely, that of the foundation and endowment of an Irish-Catholic High School in Montreal.

While we do not agree with all that "Scrutator" says, we are heartily in favor of the establishment of such a high-class educational institution as he doubtless has in mind—not a high school in the ordinary sense of the term, but a sort of Irish Catholic college which would be the centre and focus of culture for the Irish Catholics of the province.

"Scrutator" does not deal justly with some of the wealthy Irish-Catholics of Montreal. They are not all so selfish as he would imply. There are amongst them some to whom no appeal for funds for the support of a worthy Irish-Catholic object is made in vain. For years they have given generously to all such projects, often without being solicited. The trouble, however, is that these benevolent spirits are few; and that consequently they are called upon to contribute more than their share. There are others who are equally well endowed with this world's goods and who yet decline to loosen their purse-strings to the call of charity and patriotism and faith.

We do not despair of seeing in the near future one or two or more generous and public-spirited Irish Catholics of Montreal come forward and link his name and their names to the glory of their faith, their race and their Province by establishing an Irish Catholic High School in this city of the character which we have indicated. They would find that the money which they would thus expend would be a small price for the renown it would bring to their Province and themselves.

To such a central Irish Catholic educational institute could be affiliated many of the present schools of the Province—those, under the direction of the

Christian Brothers, especially. A system of examinations could be organized in these schools for the purpose of enabling bright pupils to obtain substantial scholarships, carrying with them facilities for imbuing the culture imparted in the High School.

The result of the establishment of such a system of scholarships would be to give to youths of small means but of high character and talents, in all parts of the Province, a splendid opportunity not now within their reach, and to stimulate them to the gratification of their honorable ambition by developing their talents, to their own individual advancement, to the prosperity of the communities in which they live, and to the general good of the country.

How very valuable this result would be to those engaged in the higher instruction of our youth can readily realize. In many parts of our Province there are gifted youths whose lack of means debar them from obtaining an advanced education. With our Irish Catholic people great talents and small means go frequently together. Quickness of thought, "mother wit," keenness of perception, fertility in expedients, closeness of attention, willingness to save and to sacrifice, and all the other qualities that are so frequently fostered in poverty, naturally develop intellectual strength.

To unlock the door of this great treasure-house of intellect, with its immense possibilities for the future of our people in this Province, an Irish Catholic High School would furnish the key.

THE GLOBE AT ITS OLD GAME.

The Toronto Globe, which, together with the Daily Witness of this city, has for many years been a bitter and fanatical enemy of Catholic schools, indulges in a characteristic sneer at an appeal which the Catholic Record has made for funds to enable the Catholics of Manitoba to maintain their separate schools.

"The support of separate schools is an expensive business to the Catholic ratepayer," it proceeds. "The Catholics of Ontario, to whom the appeal is made, are ill able to bear any share of the burden."

This hypocritical concern for the burdened Catholic ratepayer is altogether too thin to pass for the genuine article. Before it could lay any claim to sincerity in this connection the Globe would have to make a formal recantation of all the anti-Catholic doctrines which it has been propounding since the days of George Brown. Let the Globe spare its sympathy for the Catholic taxpayer who supports Catholic schools besides supporting, against his will, the Godless schools established by the State. It is the Catholic taxpayer's business, and not that of the Globe. Catholics do not look upon the question of religion as a matter of dollars and cents, as the materialistic Globe does. They do not, like the Globe, regard mere worldly success as the sole end and aim of human endeavor and human life. They take higher and nobler ground.

"If the Catholics of Manitoba close of their own free will, or in obedience to the Bishop, to maintain a separate system of their own, is it fair," asks the Globe, "to say that the double burden is due to the exercise of the authority of the State?" Of course it is fair to say so. If the State had not suppressed Catholic schools, and forced the Catholic ratepayers to support the Godless "National" schools, Catholics would not have to bear the double burden. That is so plain that all who have not the anti-Catholic jaundice in their eyes that the Globe has can easily see it.

"This double charge," the Globe goes on to declare, "will be a perpetual one, so far as anyone now can see." Here the jaundiced vision comes in again. Because the Globe can only see it in that light, it does not at all follow that others cannot see it differently. This double charge will not be a perpetual one. Catholics will not be perpetually in a minority either in Manitoba or in Canada as a whole.

The day is not far distant when Catholics will be in a majority in the Dominion; and when that day comes the Globe and all the other sectaries who now mock and scoff at the oppressed Catholic minority, and gloat over its impotence, will be obliged to adopt a very different tone.

MR. DAVID'S PAMPHLET CONDEMNED.

The extraordinary and, it is not too much to say, the presumptuous pamphlet published recently by Mr. L. O. David, our City Clerk, entitled "Les Clergés Canadiens: Sa Mission, son Œuvre," to which we have already alluded at some length, has been condemned by the Congregation of the Index, at Rome, to whom it had been submitted. That it would meet with this merited and authoritative condemnation was a foregone conclusion with every loyal Catholic who read it. The spectacle of a layman, daily engrossed in the arduous work by which he earns his own livelihood and that of his family, taking it upon himself to criti-

cise and even to instruct the Episcopate of this province, would be indelible if the subject were not so solemn as it is.

It is satisfactory to note that Mr. David has yielded prompt submission to the decision of the Congregation of the Index. In a public letter he says: "I submit to the judgment, and withdraw my brochure from all the newspapers where it has been on sale." It would have been an act of merit on his part if he had, in a similarly public manner, expressed regret at having written it.

SADLY MISSED.

For at least two centuries and a half the tradition of midnight Mass on Christmas Eve has not failed in this province. Some of the early celebrations were conducted under peculiarly affecting circumstances in what was then nothing more than a wilderness mission exposed to dreadful perils. Such perils have long been things of the past, but others have taken their place. Life is full of uncertainties. Sickness and loss and casualties are constantly threatening and death is never far off.

What we prize most is ravished from our gaze ever while we are in the fullness of enjoyment. The friends we knew and loved a few years ago are seen no more in their accustomed places in the domestic circle or in God's house.

Death is no respecter of persons: sickness and affliction come to all alike, and the most beloved, the precious, the most exalted have no immunity.

This thought was present to the minds of many who attended midnight Mass in the Cathedral on Christmas Eve.

The absence of His Grace was felt by all and the anthem of joyous praise in honor of the Blessed Mother and her Divine Son fell short of its wonted exaltation. The great act of worship was, of course, the same as ever. But those crowded beneath the dome could not banish the consciousness that their chief Pastor lay on a bed of suffering not far away.

Only a feeling, it may be said, and a feeling without justification in God's presence, and yet a natural feeling, testifying to the esteem and affection with which our revered Archbishop is regarded by his flock, and especially by the congregation of his Cathedral. May His Grace have the unfailing comfort promised to all faithful shepherds of Christ's great flock!

OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

More than once during the last year we have had the pleasure of thanking the contributors to our columns for their kind and effective help. The **TRUE WITNESS** is grateful for such supporters and more than grateful.

We regard this participation of our young men and women in journalism as one of the most encouraging signs of our day. It shows that our people are fully alive to the value of the best culture of our time, that they know how to prize the advantages of the best education, that they not only read but are select in their reading and ponder over what they read, and, what is of very real importance, that they do not hide their gain in knowledge and thought under the bushel of selfish pride, but take pleasure in sharing what is most precious in their acquirements with others less favorably situated.

Nor is there any phase of human life and action in which the saying that it is more blessed to give than to receive is more true than in the distribution in this way of intellectual gains. Every time that the reader and thinker commit their thoughts or gathered knowledge to writing, they are strengthening their own grasp on their possessions while at the same time they are giving others the advantage of it. Nor is that the sole gain of writing for the press. Sometimes it is not the knowledge laboriously acquired in years gone by that is thus imparted, but its harvest of fresh thought, or facts gathered by personal observation which have an interest for all, or the offspring of a cultured and chastened imagination in poetry or fiction.

Apart from any reference to future pecuniary profit, it is a most useful exercise for the fancy, the judgment and the taste to be able to mature the style in a friendly paper where one's contributions are welcomed and thought well of.

All honor to those who have already accepted our invitation, and accepted our gratitude as their only formal reward. As we are trying to show, that is really the least of their rewards, as they must feel the more the longer they help us. Besides the need of improvement and greater facility in writing effectively that comes from practice, there is the greater reward of having a consciousness of helping others, and "though we say it who ought not," of furthering a good cause. But are there not many more gifted young Irish men and women who are ambitious to help us in this way?

We are inclined to believe that there are. Can we not induce them, whether

their homes are in city or in country, to come forward and make the trial? Lack of leisure need not be an obstacle. A quarter of an hour a week will be enough to give us some inkling of information that many of our readers will prize.

Do any of them lack confidence in themselves? Let them launch forth in *medias res*, and it will not be lacking long. We are, of course, addressing those who have a gift for writing and a love of it, and we are sure that there are many such among the Irish constituents of our Canadian communities who only need to make the effort to succeed. Let us hope, then, that the coming year will yield a harvest of correspondents not unworthy to take rank with, or at least to follow the lead of, those brave pioneers who have already won such favor with our readers and ourselves.

1896—IRELAND'S RECORD.

The year just closing, not uneventful for the world at large, has been in some respects memorable for the Irish race. In the chances and changes of Imperial policies, Ireland, of course, has a share, and, if war had resulted from the Venezuelan question, the Irish of the Old World and their kinsfolk of the New World, both in Canada and the United States, would have had ample cause for concern.

It is not, however, with such contingencies that we would deal in the brief retrospect which the near dawn of another year suggests, but rather with events of peculiar interest for the Irish people everywhere. All Irishmen have a stake in the Home Rule movement, and during the year 1896 that movement has had a development of peculiar importance.

The Convention of the Irish race that met in Dublin last September is all the more significant owing to the circumstances in which it originated. It is evidence surely of the providential guidance of human affairs, and especially of the divine favor to Ireland and her cause that out of the very dissensions and factiousness of a few should have developed the grandest union of Irish communities all over the globe that patriotic aspiration has yet had the satisfaction of witnessing.

It may be remembered that in February last Mr. Justin McCarthy, chiefly on the ground of weak health, felt himself obliged to resign the chairmanship of the Irish Parliamentary Party, that represents the Home Rule majority in the British House of Commons. Mr. Thomas Sexton, who received the unanimous vote as his successor, not only promptly declined the honor, but also resigned his seat in the Commons. Mr. John Dillon being then pro sed, received a vote of 38 members, 21 voting against him under the lead of Mr. Timothy Healy. The immediate result of this division in the vote was deplorable and such as to arouse sincere regret, not unmingled with indignation, in the breasts of Irishmen in Canada.

Instead of taking advantage of Mr. McCarthy's resignation to effect a reconciliation of the Parnellite and anti-Parnellite wings of the party, the latter now found itself practically split into two factions. Consequently, Irishmen over the sea had the sorrow to know that the cause of Home Rule in the fortunes of which they were intensely interested was represented in the House of Commons by three factions under three leaders, Messrs. Dillon, Healy and Redmond.

As the year advanced matters did not improve, and rumors of all kinds began to circulate, which were more and more disquieting, until at last it became evident that some definite step must be taken to overcome the spirit of division. His Grace Archbishop Walsh gave the keynote to the solution of the problem, and, as our readers have not forgotten, Irishmen in Canada as elsewhere entered heartily into his Grace's plans. Although many of those who had been elected as delegates found it unable to spare the time for the journey, there was no lack of public spirit, as was evidenced by the gathering in the Irish metropolis of some 2,000 representatives of all that is most creditable in Irish piety, learning, enterprise and patriotism. All the communities that constitute Greater Ireland were represented in the Convention, over which His Lordship the Bishop of Raphoe presided.

The speeches, including the address of the Right Rev. Chairman and the Canadian delegation, were in the best tone of patriotic conciliation, and, after every effort had been made to induce the dissentients to return to their allegiance, it was resolved that the majority should predominate. As it was clearly proven that the minority had no *locus standi* in reason on their own previous professions, no other conclusion was possible.

Before the year 1896 had ended, the claim for a just measure of State support to the voluntary schools had begun to give rise to widespread discussion in the English press. It was inevitable that the Government should take the matter

up, and on the 31st of March Sir John E. Gorst introduced the new school bill, the fate of which our readers will remember.

Its withdrawal under the pressure of circumstances, due, in part at least, to bad management on the Government leaders part, will not, however, be allowed to disappoint the hopes of Catholics who confidently looked forward to redress. A bill still more favorable to their cause has been promised and the coming year will see the needed reform carried out.

If in England there has been a delay, in Canada there has been a denial of justice to Catholics. We have already written strongly on the refusal of the present Government to do justice to the Catholics of Manitoba, even in despite of the judgment of the highest tribunal in the Empire. This year will be sadly memorable for a violation of good faith, which is not the less to be condemned because those immediately affected are only a handful of people, compared with the Catholic population of the Dominion. Nor can the latter receive the so-called settlement as the end of the controversy.

The new Irish Land Act is among the most significant of the economic changes that the year has brought to our people at home. Notwithstanding the enforced elimination of some of its most desirable provisions, the measure, as it became law on the 13th of August, will certainly make it easier than it has yet been for Irish tenants to become freeholders.

The release of Dr. Gallagher, and of Messrs. Devaney, Daly and Whitehead, was unhappily rendered almost nugatory by the wretched condition, mental and bodily, to which their long and harsh imprisonment had reduced the unfortunate men.

The arrest of Patrick J. Tynan soon after, in Boulogne, caused some sensation and the raking up of much irrelevant gossip, but it ended in a *finis* which did not reflect credit on the English detective force.

The revelations of the Financial Relations Commission have shed a flood of light on some of the questions touching Ireland's condition that have perplexed the statesmen and publicists of three generations. Again and again has the complaint been made that Ireland was subjected to a strain of taxation far in excess of her capacity. Even it was met by the reply that, compared with England, Ireland was undertaxed. The Commission has elicited the fact that for half a century she has been severely over-taxed—the excess in the present year being not far from \$15,000,000 annually. Under such a burden is it any wonder that Ireland did not always thrive. Nay, is it not rather surprising that her progress has attained its actual rate, and that at this moment there are in many places welcome signs of prosperity?

May we not hope that, by and by, when the heavy hand of wrong has ceased to press her down, her native buoyancy will give free play to all the forces of national life and the prayer so often prayed will find full answer at last—**GOD SAVE IRELAND!**

DECLINE OF "NATIONAL" SCHOOLS.

To those who, in glancing over the year that is now rapidly drawing to its close, derive pleasure from the reflection that "national" or "public" schools take rank amongst the things which have given evidence of progress, statistics obtained from official sources in the United States will bring a large measure of disappointment.

The system of Catholic parochial schools amongst our republican neighbors, who are probably supposed to attach considerable importance to their "national" or "public" schools, has, as these authentic figures prove, become a dominant educational factor with them. The number of children at present attending the Catholic parochial schools in the fourteen ecclesiastical provinces of the United States is as follows:—

New York province.....	205,234
Cincinnati province.....	156,445
Boston province.....	122,235
Philadelphia province.....	107,328
Chicago province.....	77,980
Milwaukee province.....	54,728
St. Louis province.....	43,450
New Orleans province.....	41,144
Baltimore province.....	31,288
San Francisco province.....	29,480
Dubuque province.....	27,959
St. Paul province.....	27,777
Oregon City province.....	12,174
Sante Fe province.....	8,925
Total.....	946,101

To these may be added the children in the industrial schools and the children in our orphan asylums. There are about

58 industrial and reform schools	7,000
18 homes for destitute and wayward children.....	7,022
242 orphan asylums.....	82,778
Total.....	46,800
Adding to these	
Children in parochial schools...	946,101
Students in Catholic colleges, etc.....	21,795
Girls in academies, etc.....	44,670

We have the grand total of 1,059,866. These statistics are for the year 1895. When those for 1896 are published it

will doubtless be found that the number of children who are receiving education in parochial Catholic schools is at least 1,250,000. When the Catholic parochial schools are so largely attended, it follows that the so-called "national" schools are on the decline.

These figures constitute an eloquent tribute to the noble self-sacrifice of American Catholics, who, in addition to paying taxes for the maintenance of the "national" schools, maintain their own schools in a condition of high efficiency.

THE OLD CATHOLIC SCHISM DYING.

The "Old Catholic" schism in Germany, which sprang into existence of the Ecumenical Council at the Vatican, is fast dying out. It never attained to any considerable proportions, although Prince Bismarck did his best to keep it alive and prominent. The death of Dr. Dollinger was a blow from which it has never rallied; and many of the leading schismatics are now on their way back to the true fold.

We would remind our friends who are members of the various Irish national, benefit and literary associations, that they should make it their duty to look after the interests of the **TRUE WITNESS** in regard to the insertion of advertisements, which appear in secular papers, for the meetings and other business of the organizations with which they are associated.

The difference between the relations of Catholics to their Bishops and of Protestants to theirs is well illustrated by the Star's comments on the condemnation of L'Electeur by the Bishops of the ecclesiastical province of Quebec. It says:

"For the Protestants the ecclesiastical authority was settled long ago. The only effect of a collective mandement signed by all their bishops and clergy condemning a newspaper would be to advertise the paper and increase its circulation."

The principle of authority is the basis of Catholic doctrine.

Says the Canadian Gazette, London, Eng.:—

"An optimistic British Columbian says that Province will have over a million of population within the next decade. The mere suggestion that the Pacific slope will have more people than the three Maritime Provinces shows (says the Globe) what a tremendous change in the balance of political power would result from the rapid settlement of the west. As matters stand, and allowing for reasonable growth only, the readjustment of representation following upon the next census will probably give the country west of Lake Superior almost a seventh of the representation in the House of Commons, or double its present proportion, which is somewhat less than one-thirteenth. The far west of Ontario may also be counted upon for a considerable increase."

But if, as is quite possible, the majority of those new westerners be Catholics, what a different aspect the Manitoba school question will wear from that which now distinguishes it!

ST. PATRICK'S ACADEMY.

THE PROGRESS OF THE KINDERGARTEN CLASS AND CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENTS.

The Kindergarten class which was inaugurated at St. Patrick's Academy some time ago, has made wonderful progress considering the brief period it has been in operation.

At a recent series of Christmas entertainments held under the patronage of Rev. Father Quinlivan, pastor of St. Patrick's, and the priests of the parish, this fact was made strikingly manifest. The charming little tots who comprise the Kindergarten class occupied a prominent place in the various beautiful tableaux presented, and otherwise served to enhance the merit of the performances in a degree which reflected the highest credit upon those directing their studies.

ST. GABRIEL CHOIR GLEE CLUB.

A meeting of the above club was held on Sunday, the 27th inst., at which the following officers were elected: Hon. president, Rev. Fathers O'Meara and Heffernan; president, Mr. H. Lennon; vice-president, Mr. M. Bronstetter; secretary, Jas. Connor; treasurer, E. Wilson. Committee—P. Shea, J. Deegan, Wm. Cox. Mr. John S. Shea, the popular leader of the choir, was elected by acclamation to the position of musical director. The Club starts out with a membership of about 30, and judging from the enthusiasm displayed, will in a short time be in a position to compare favorably with any in the city.

UNITED STATES IMMIGRANTS.

During the fiscal year 1895-96, 343,627 immigrants arrived in the United States, being 84,708 over the preceding year. Of these, 2,799 were returned for falling below the standard with respect to the world's goods.

A motherhouse of Poor Clares, the fifth in the United States, will be founded shortly at Evansville, Ind. A convent is already projected and will be completed and ready for occupancy in June, 1897.

Savants and experts are continually employed discovering a remedy for the restoration of hair to its natural color. They want an article that will preserve the scalp, pure and clean, and remove that destroyer—dandruff. It is now acknowledged that Luby's Parisian Hair Renewer answers the purpose marvelously. Sold by all druggists, price 50 cts. the bottle. Try this unflinching remedy.